

LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
Office of Superintendent

**Resolution No. 1617-05**

**Change of Election Day of the Governing Board and Requesting the Board of Supervisors for the County of Lake to Authorize Consolidation with the November Election During Even-Numbered Years**

**ISSUE**

The Board will consider the consolidation of election cycles from odd years to even years.

**PREVIOUS ACTIVITY**

None.

**DISCUSSION**

SB 415, The California Voters Rights Act, which was chaptered on September 1, 2015, will prohibit districts, including school districts and County Offices of Education, from holding elections on non-statewide election dates if previous non-concurrent election dates resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout. The law will be effective on January 1, 2018. See attached handout.

**FISCAL, STAFFING AND FACILITIES ISSUES**

The County Office of Education will be required to reimburse the County of Lake for the cost of notification of all registered voters in Lake County. Based on current voter registration the one time estimated cost of initial notification is \$21,800.

Long term projected election costs could result in a savings, as all district elections will be consolidated to even years, spreading the cost of each election to more agencies.

Higher profile elections should result in increased voter turnout of local district elections.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Lake County Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Resolution No. 1617-05, consolidating the County Board of Education election cycle from odd years to even years extending the current election terms by one year.



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## SB 415 California Voter Participation Rights Act

Brock Falkenberg  
Lake County Superintendent of Schools  
October 24, 2016

### Consolidation of Election Cycles (Odd vs. Even Years)

- SB 415 – California Voters Rights Act
  - Approved by the Governor in 2015, becomes effective on January 1, 2018.
  - Prohibits districts from holding elections on non-state election dates (odd years) if their prior turnout is low:
    - “... a political subdivision shall not hold an election other than on a statewide election date [even years] if holding an election on a nonconcurrent date has previously resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout” [emphasis added].
  - Threshold is turnout that is at least 25% less than the average voter turnout in that district for the prior 4 statewide general elections (get that calculation from your Registrar of Voters).
  - Districts have until 2018 to study their election patterns and make a plan to move if they need to.
  - Districts must adopt a plan to consolidate with state elections (if required) no later than November 8, 2022.



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## What It Means For Districts and Boards

- With the implementation of consolidation plans under SB 415, most boards that are required to move to November of even years will extend the terms of their board members by one year (at each of the two election cycles required to fully implement the change to even years).
- Jurisdictions that have their elections in November will extend terms; those with elections at other times may need to shorten current board terms. This will likely impact charter school districts, who currently have non-consolidated election dates.
- Board members must be willing to serve an additional year on their terms or vacancies will have to be filled.
- Violations (not moving election dates when you are required to) are subject to citizen lawsuits and attorneys' fees.



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## Lake County

- The Lake County Registrar of Voters has advised that all districts will likely fall into this category and will thus be required to move to even year elections.
- Resolutions to move, approved by a district, go to the Lake County Board of Supervisors for approval, which then directs the Registrar of Voters to implement the change.
- Resolutions must be to the Board of Supervisors at least 240 days prior to the scheduled election (March 10, 2017).



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## Recommendations/Outcomes

- I recommend that Lake County School Districts implement this change during the 2017 election cycle.
- Outreach efforts by school districts to educate their communities about the move will be critical to minimize confusion and keep voter interest up.
- Extend current board members one year.
- Higher profile elections should help increase turnout for school district elections (the intent of the law).



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**LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Resolution No. 1617-05**

**Change of Election Day of the Governing Board and Requesting the Board of Supervisors  
for the County of Lake to Authorize Consolidation with the November Election During  
Even-Numbered Years**

**WHEREAS**, §§ 1302, subd. (b) and 10404.5 of the Elections Code permits the Lake County Board of Education to change its election day with the approval of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake;

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent and desire of the Governing Board of the Lake County Board of Education to provide its constituents with the lowest possible cost while promoting the increasingly efficient and effective use of government resources; and

**WHEREAS**, by changing the next governing board election from November, 2017 to November, 2018, the costs of an election would be deferred for an additional calendar year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DECLARED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** That pursuant to Elections Code §§ 1302, subd. (b) and 10404.5, the Governing Board hereby, by this resolution, changes its election from the First Tuesday after the First Monday in November of each odd-numbered year to the First Tuesday after the First Monday in November of each even-numbered year; and, further, that the election shall be consolidated with all other elections held throughout the territory on that day.

**Section 2.** That terms of officeholders shall be extended as necessary, but no more than twelve months.

**Section 3.** That the Registrar of Voters shall cause, at County Office of Education expense, a notice to be mailed to all registered voters in Lake County informing them of the change of election date specified herein and of the resultant changes in terms of the elected officeholders.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall become operative upon approval by all of the above-named Board of Supervisors pursuant to Elections Code §§ 1302, subd. (b) and 10404.5.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 16th day of November, 2016 at the Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Lake County Board of Education.

David Browning:	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____	Absent_____
Mark Cooper:	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____	Absent_____
Patricia Hicks:	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____	Absent_____
Melissa Kinsel:	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____	Absent_____
Madelene Lyon:	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____	Absent_____

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake County Superintendent of Schools