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Tim Lilligren
Manhattan Beach City Treasurer

Honorable Mayor D'Errico and Councilmembers
1400 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing this to express my opposition to the proposed resolution concerning SB 415, the changes in the City's election dates, as directed by Council at the June 7 meeting. This is not to argue the merits of SB 415, though I think that deserves more publicity and debate than what was given.

As you know from the times you each have served on Council I stay out of council business. However, since I intend to be involved in the March 2017 election, and the proposed changes affect that election, I feel it necessary to state my opinion,

What I have discovered researching SB 415 is that there is no urgency to take action July 19. In fact, a plan of action does not need to be voted on until January 1, 2018 and not implemented until 2022. In addition, I am hearing there is now an attempt to amend the original bill.

At this time I believe it is unwise and inappropriate to take action that results in lengthening our current terms and then necessitating lengthening a future term for a total up to 20 months. Since moving the March 2017 election to November 2017 yields no gains in terms of greater voter participation, it will be similar to the March election. It isn't until the step 2 when the November 2021 election gets moved to either the June or November 2022 that the voter participation increases.

My proposal is this: Wait to learn the results of attempts to amend. If this requirement does not remain then have a community discussion about election changing election dates or leaving as is. If not amended, what more sense and easier to implement is to move the March 2021 election to November 2020 and get the same results in terms of increased voter participation and full compliance with SB 415. It's a simple one step process that gets you to your stated goal 2 years earlier than your proposal. The terms currently beginning 2019 would have a similar change to November 2022.

To lengthen our terms in a complicated 2 step process when a simple 1 step process of shortening our terms is available would invite more speculation that we typical self-serving politicians taking advantage of the new state law to lengthen our time in office. To that, I want no part.

Sincerely,



Tim Lilligren
City Treasurer