



# Senate Bill 415

## **Impacts and Implementation**

# Senate Bill 415

- Senate Bill 415 (SB 415) signed by Governor Brown on September 2, 2015
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2018
- Added new election code sections, 14050-14057 which affect cities, school, and community college districts

# Provisions

- New Election Code section 14052 states that community college districts shall not hold an election other than on a statewide election date if a prior election resulted in significant decrease in voter turnout
- Significant decrease = voter turnout for a regularly scheduled district trustee election is at least 25% less than the average voter turnout within the district for the previous four statewide general elections.

# Provisions

- Also permits a District voter to file legal action against the District if there is a violation
- To continue holding an election other than on a statewide election date, Board must adopt a transition plan by January 1, 2018
- This law does not apply to special elections (e.g., to fill a vacancy on the Board, or a ballot measure)

# MPC Trustee Elections

- Currently not consolidated with statewide elections which are held in even-numbered years
- Currently scheduled in November of odd-numbered years
- Next scheduled trustee elections:
  - November 2017 – Trustee Area 1 and 2
  - November 2019 – Trustee Areas 3, 4, and 5

# Monterey County Office of Education

- All school and community college districts in Monterey County currently hold board elections in odd-numbered years
- District's election costs may be reduced. District's cost is based on the number of registered voters and the number of jurisdictions sharing the cost.
- **County Supt. Of Schools Recommendation** – Begin transition to statewide election date in 2018. Adopt Resolution, no later than December 2019

# Significant Decrease in Voter Turnout?

Statewide General Elections Voter Turnout Percentages for Monterey County					4 Year Average	Nov 2015 District Trustee Election	Nov 5 2013 District Trustee Area 2 Election Voter Turnout	Difference of Most Recent vs 4 Year Average
Nov 4 2008	Nov 1 2010	Nov 6 2012	Nov 4 2014	SUB TOTAL				
82.95%	63.32%	75.11%	45.32%	266.70%	66.68%	No Election	31.10%	<b>-35.58%</b>

Statewide General Elections Voter Turnout Percentages for Monterey County					4 Year Average	November 2015 District Trustee Election	Nov 5 2013 District Trustee Area 2 Election Voter Turnout	Difference of Most Recent vs 4 Year Average
Nov 1 2010	Nov 6 2012	Nov 4 2014	Nov 8 2016 (Prelim.)	SUB TOTAL				
63.32%	75.11%	45.32%	39.32%	223.07%	55.77%	No Election	31.10%	<b>-24.67%</b>

# Option 1

- Consolidate MPC Trustee Elections with Statewide Election beginning in 2018

<b>Current Election Date</b>	<b>New Election Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
November 7, 2017	November 6, 2018	Incumbent trustee terms extended by 1 year, to 2018
November 5, 2019	November 3, 2020	Incumbent trustee terms extended by 1 year, to 2020



# Option 2

- Consolidate MPC Trustee Elections with Statewide Election beginning in 2020

<b>Current Election Date</b>	<b>New Election Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
November 7, 2017	November 7, 2017 (no change)	Elected trustee terms would be extended by 1 year, to 2022. <i>Next election date = November 8, 2022</i>
November 5, 2019	November 3, 2020	Incumbent trustee terms extended by 1 year, to 2020. <i>Next election date = November 5, 2024</i>

# Option 3

- Consolidate MPC Trustee Elections with Statewide Election beginning in 2022

<b>Current Election Date</b>	<b>New Election Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
November 7, 2017	November 7, 2017 (no change)	Elected trustee terms extended by 1 year, to 2022. <i>Next election date = November 8, 2022</i>
November 5, 2019	November 5, 2019 (no change)	Current trustee terms extended by 1 year, to 2024. <i>Next election date = November 5, 2024</i>

# Considerations

## **PROS**

- Higher voter participation in trustee elections due to federal and state races on the ballot
- Too many elections (occurring in both even and odd years) may cause voter fatigue

## **CONS**

- Trustee elections are nonpartisan. Mixing local elections with partisan state/federal races may blur this distinction.
- Trustee candidate campaigns will be competing with federal, state, and local races for attention of the voters

# Process for Transition

- Board adopts a resolution changing the election dates
- District submits resolution to the County Board of Supervisors (MCOE will collect and submit)
- Board of Supervisors has 60 days to approve or deny District's request for consolidation with the general election. Board of Supervisors must approve unless it determines the County does not have the ballot style, voting equipment, or computer capacity to handle

# Process for Transition

- Within 30 days after Board of Supervisors approval, the County Registrar of Voters will notify all registered voters of the District by mail of the election change, at District expense.
- The term of incumbent trustees will be extended accordingly.

# Discussion

- Board to provide direction regarding the consolidation of District trustee elections with statewide election dates