



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

→ Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

At its meeting held March 12, 2002, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"Prior to the elections held on March 5, 2002, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk alerted the Board of Supervisors of concerns regarding last minute cancellations of precinct inspectors, as well as the ability to secure poll workers throughout the County. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk cited redistricting as the primary reason that last minute cancellations occurred. On March 5, 2002, my office received numerous calls surrounding serious problems that went beyond the precinct inspectors' issue.

"I therefore recommend that the Board instruct the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to report to the Board on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, with an outline of all the problems that occurred; and report back in three weeks on how to resolve these problems."

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

"The administration of the March 5, 2002 primary election in Los Angeles County left a lot to be desired. Many polling places failed to open on time, with some openings even delayed until the afternoon. A record number of poll workers simply never showed up to staff their assigned polling places, forcing thousands of Los Angeles County voters either to forfeit their franchise or significantly inconvenience themselves to cast a ballot. Even worse, some of the participants in the County employee volunteer poll worker program were among the 'no-shows' on Election Day.

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Syn. 82 (Continued)

"This nearly unprecedented breakdown in the administration of the County's elections can call into question the legitimacy of voting results, and it severely undermines the public's confidence in our democratic process. It is an embarrassment to the County, and an affront to our system of government. This cannot be allowed to happen again.

"I therefore recommend that the Board take the following actions:

1. Report to the Board at the meeting of March 12, 2002 with a complete assessment of the breakdown in the administration of the County's March 5, 2002 primary election and its causes along with recommendations to prevent a recurrence in the November 2002 general election;
2. Provide the Board with a detailed plan of action that will ensure adequate human resources to competently administer the upcoming general election; and
3. Identify the need for any supplemental financial resources that may be required to ensure that result."

Supervisor Antonovich made the following additional statement:

"The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk will be preparing a report outlining a detailed plan of action to prevent the serious problems that occurred on March 5, 2002, from reoccurring during the November 2002, general election. As part of this detailed plan of action, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk should investigate the feasibility of recruiting service clubs throughout the County to 'Adopt-a-Precinct' as part of their community support."

Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, presented a verbal report to the Board regarding the problems that occurred during the March 5, 2002 primary election.

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Syn. 82 (Continued)

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk was instructed to:

1. Report back to the Board within three weeks on how to resolve the problems that occurred during the March 5, 2002 primary election, including a detailed plan of action that will ensure adequate human resources to competently administer the upcoming general election; and identify the need for any supplemental financial resources that may be required to ensure that result; and
2. Investigate the feasibility of creating an "Adopt-A-Precinct" program in Los Angeles County, which would enhance the quality and quantity of workers necessary to operate at polling sites.

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