



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2017

Resolution Changing Odd-Year School Board Elections to Even-Year Elections

The Pacific Grove Unified School District Board voted 5 - 0 at the Special Board Meeting on Wednesday morning, February 15, 2017, to pass Resolution #990 Changing Odd-Year School Board Elections to Even-Year Elections starting in 2018. This new Resolution formally rescinds Resolution #988 which was adopted on December 8, 2016 and established even-numbered election years starting in 2022. The Board was required to take action at this Special Meeting as the Elections Office deadline for the Resolution expires prior to the next Regular Meeting on March 2, 2017.

California legislature recognizes voter participation rates are historically greater during the statewide general elections held in even-numbered years. On September 1, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 415 into law, requiring school districts that hold their board elections in odd-numbered year elections and have experienced “significant decrease in voter turnout,” to adopt a plan to transition to even-numbered year general elections no later than January 1, 2018. (Elec. Code 14052, subd. b.)

Changing the November 7, 2017 election to the November 6, 2018 election means the term of office of incumbent members of the governing board would be extended by one year: terms expiring in 2017 would expire in 2018; terms expiring in 2019 would expire in 2020.

The initial Resolution (#988) extending trustee terms of service through to the 2022 and 2024 election years was passed by the PG School Board so that the general public would have an opportunity to vote for new trustees with that change in mind. However, the District was later alerted by the Monterey County Elections Office that choosing the later election years (2022/2024) would cost the District \$180,000 to \$240,000 as all Monterey County districts, except for PGUSD and one other, extended their 2017 term to 2018. This meant that the cost of an election held in 2017 would be shared by only ourselves and one other district. An election held in 2018 would be shared by not only all the other school districts in Monterey County, but other governmental agencies as well. Rescinding the previous Resolution and adopting the new Resolution extending the 2017 terms to 2018 provides a significant savings to the school district.

As a result, Trustees John Paff, Bill Phillips and John Thibeau terms of service are now extended one year, through the 2018 November election. Trustees Debbie Crandell and Brian Swanson terms of service are similarly extended one year, through the 2020 November election.

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