DATE:       June 27, 2023

TO:         Mayor and Council Members

FROM:       Office of the City Clerk

SUBJECT:    2024 General Municipal Election

RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended that the Mayor and Council Members provide direction to the City Clerk regarding the General Municipal Election of 2024 by selecting one of the following:

1. Hold the General Municipal Election in March 2024 with a Municipal Runoff Election in November 2024; or
2. Hold the General Municipal Election in November 2024 with a Municipal Runoff Election in March 2025.

BACKGROUND:
In June 2018, City voters approved a charter amendment changing the City’s General Municipal Election date for all elective offices to a “statewide election date,” as defined in the California Elections Code, beginning in 2020. Currently, State law defines a statewide election date as follows (Elections Code sections 1001 & 1200-1202):

- An election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an even-numbered year; and
- An election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of an even-numbered year that is not evenly divisible by four (non- Presidential election year), and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each even-numbered year that is evenly divisible by four (Presidential election Year).

The charter amendment does not specify a particular statewide election date so the City Council has the flexibility to call a regular municipal election on any statewide election date as then defined by State law.

Beginning in 2020, the charter amendment changes the City's runoff election date to an “established election date” as defined in the California Elections Code. This change was made so that the City’s runoff elections can be consolidated with County held elections.
DISCUSSION:
The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s Office has reached out to the City Clerk requesting notification on which dates the City of Inglewood would prefer to have its General Municipal and Runoff Elections during the 2024 Election cycle.

Since 2024 is a Presidential Election Year, the City’s options are as follows:

1. Hold a General Municipal Election for March 2024 with possible runoff in November 2024; or
2. Hold a General Municipal Election for November 2024 with possible runoff in March 2025.

Should the City Council choose the March 2024 election date to conduct the General Municipal Election, it is estimated that the cost to conduct the said election would be approximately 1.5 million, with a possible run-off election in November 2024.

Should the City Council choose the November 2024 election to conduct the General Municipal Election, with a possible run-off election in March 2025, it is estimated that the cost to conduct said General Municipal Election would be approximately $800,000. Unfortunately, the City Clerk’s Office is unable to provide an estimated cost for a runoff election should one be needed in March 2025. However, the City Council may consider the estimated cost to conduct the March 2023 runoff election ($615,000), as a reference.

This request is only to provide the City Clerk with direction as to what information should be provided to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder. At a future City Council Meeting closer to the election date, the Mayor and Council Members will be asked to adopt resolutions related to the election.

FINANCIAL/FUNDING ISSUES AND SOURCES:
There is no fiscal impact associated with this specific action. However, upon the City Council’s decision, the City Clerk will ensure that steps are taken to secure sufficient funding in the appropriate budget year to conduct the election(s).

DESCRIPTION OF ANY ATTACHMENTS:
None.

PREPARED BY:
Angela Allen, Deputy City Clerk

COUNCIL PRESENTER:
Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk
DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL: Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: Artie Fields, City Manager