POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

San Bernardino County (County) is committed to an impartial and consistent method of identifying local measures on election ballots that avoids voter confusion.

DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

Registrar of Voters (ROV)

DEFINITIONS

A **Local Measure** is any proposal to enact, amend or repeal sections of a charter or ordinance of a local government agency, including the County, cities/towns, school districts, and special districts. A proposal to enact a special local tax, issue local bonds, or to establish a new local government agency would also be presented to voters as a local measure. A local measure may be placed on an election ballot by approval of a local agency's governing body or through the initiative petition process.

POLICY AMPLIFICATION

The method used by ROV to identify local measures on election ballots and the order in which they are submitted to a vote of the voters must be in full compliance with the statutory requirements in California Elections Code and California Code of Regulations.

It is the policy of the County that ROV shall assign single letters to local measures in alphabetical sequence, starting with the letter A, continuing to the letter Z, and then restarting with the letter A again. ROV shall assign double letters to local advisory measures within the alphabetical sequence established for the next election. No letters are skipped.

Once the deadline for local measures to be included in an election has passed, ROV shall conduct a random drawing by groups of jurisdictional type to determine the order in which the letters will be assigned. Pursuant to Elections Code section 13109, as may be amended from time to time, the groups will be drawn in the following order: school districts, County, cities/towns, and special districts.

Generally, the first letter assigned to a local measure in an election will be the next letter in the alphabet following the last letter assigned to a local measure in the prior election. In the case when the number of letters left in the alphabet after the last election is less than the number of local measures to be placed on the ballot in the next election, ROV may restart the sequence with the letter A. In the case when the number of local measures to be placed on the ballot in the next election exceeds 26, ROV shall restart the sequence with the letter A and shall assign double letters to the 27th and subsequent measures starting with AA.

Letters shall not be reserved for local measures.

EXCEPTIONS

ROV may deviate from the Policy if ROV determines, subject to County Counsel review, that an exception to the Policy would be in the interest of minimizing or avoiding voter confusion. Examples of permissible exceptions include, but are not limited to:

- When the local jurisdiction affected by the local measure is shared with a neighboring county, ROV will coordinate the letter assignment with the neighboring county, which may result in a deviation from the normal assignment order.
- When following the Policy would result in the voters being asked to vote for or against a local measure with an identifying letter that was also assigned to a local measure they voted on in an election during the prior 24 months.

- When the assignment of a random letter could result in voter confusion, the ROV may assign a specific letter used by that jurisdiction in a prior election with the same measure content, such as an extension of an existing tax.

LEAD DEPARTMENT
Registrar of Voters

APPROVAL HISTORY
Resolution Adopted June 13, 1988; Item No. 80, Rescinded April 20, 2021
Policy Adopted April 20, 2021 (Item No. 24)
Policy Amended July 9, 2024

REVIEW DATES
July 2029