



Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair

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To: Board of County Commissioners

Fm: Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair

Re: Date for Sheriff's replacement election

Dt: October 29, 2009

Next week we will consider a resolution to set the date for the election to fill the final months of the term to which Sheriff Bernie Giusto was first elected in 2006. The resolution filed by the County Attorney at my direction calls for a March 2010 election.

It is likely that the Sheriff vote will be the only issue on the ballot and that conducting the special election will cost more than \$400,000. There is not currently money in the budget to pay for this election and we would need to pass a budget modification.

There is a reasonable argument that we could designate the May 2010 election as the next one that is actually "available" for this vote and save the taxpayers a lot of money. It is also possible that such a decision would be challenged in court.

Further, it is possible that choosing the May date wouldn't actually save any money. If no candidate receives a majority there will need to be a runoff. The runoff for a May election would be a special election in July with almost identical costs to a special election in March.

I think this is a close call. We do not have money to spare this year and I would like to do everything possible to reduce unnecessary expenses. I directed the County Attorney to draft the resolution for a March election but we could choose to amend the resolution next week.

I will certainly be asking the Charter Review Committee to look at this situation and consider proposals that would give the Board more flexibility in the future and explicitly allow for costs to be considered.

This is an important Board decision. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

cc: County Attorney
Sheriff Skipper