

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING (IRV) ELECTION REFORM ACT - MEASURE \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Finance Director's statement on the fiscal impact of this Measure:**

This measure will amend the City of Richmond Charter to assure that elected officers must be elected by majority vote.

This Charter amendment will cause City Council members to be elected by a majority of the vote using an Instant Runoff Voting system ("IRV") also known as ranked choice voting. Under IRV, voters rank the candidates, and if a candidate has more than 50% of the votes, that candidate wins. If no one gets more than 50%, an "instant run-off" is held, in which the candidate in last place is eliminated and the 2nd choice of those voters are counted. Thus, if your first-choice candidate gets eliminated, your vote goes to your next choice. If there is still no candidate with more than 50%, the process is repeated until someone gets a majority (more than 50%) of the votes.

If approved, moving to ranked choice voting will require Richmond to be moved to its own ballot card due to additional ballot instructions and length. Estimated one-time costs of approximately \$150,000, estimated ongoing costs between \$135,000 - \$195,000 per election period based on 60,000 registered voters and estimated ongoing annual costs of \$35,000 for module licensing.

One-time costs include:

- Ranked Choice Voting Module
- Setup/Support

Ongoing costs include:

- Licensing
- Ballot Layout
- Ballot Costs
- Testing Deck
- 1% Manual Tally
- Costs of additional pages in the county's Voter Information Guide (VIG).

Additional costs to consider include:

- Additional outreach materials and education campaigns for voters in Richmond.
- Additional in-person poll worker training for those assigned to work in Richmond.
- Staff time to answer questions from the public and to explain results.

Andrea Miller  
Director of Finance  
City of Richmond