

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Gabriel Hydrick



July 7, 2019

Honorable Judge Douglas Prouty
Judge of the Superior Court- County of Plumas
520 Main Street, Rm 104
Quincy, CA 95971

Re: Response to the 2018/19 Plumas County Civil Grand Jury Report

Honorable Judge Prouty,

Please consider this a response to the Recommendations as found in the Final Report prepared by the Plumas County Grand Jury regarding the Elections Report.

Recommendation

R2 *The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Elections Division seek, the County Administrator consider recommending, and the Board of Supervisors deliberate and consider approving, funding for the purchase and installation of new voting system equipment and software in order to comply with AP 19:020.*

Response

R2 The County Administrator agrees with the finding and recommendation. The County Clerk/Recorder, Kathy Williams, notified the Board of Supervisors early in the calendar year (2019) of the need to fund new elections equipment. The Board of Supervisors set aside over \$200,000 to match state funds for the new elections equipment. Since that time, Kathy has been in touch with the County Administrator whereby she has provided updates. These updates included, three (3) election systems options, their respective costs accompanied with pros and cons to each system, and the Elections Division's recommended option as well as the anticipated final cost. The Elections Division will bring this back to the full Board of Supervisors in the near future; it is anticipated the Board of Supervisors will support the Elections Division's recommendation. The County Administrator would also like to take the opportunity to publicly recognize the efforts County Clerk/Recorder Department's in finding and securing the best elections equipment for the best price. Because of this Department's efforts, to date, it is anticipated the County will save upwards of \$50,000 of the budgeted amount for the elections equipment. The Department's efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Recommendation

R3 *The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the County Administrator inquire into why the vacant position in the County Clerk's Office remains infilled and that findings be reported to the County Board of Supervisors for consideration of further action.*

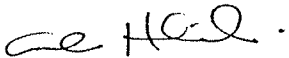
Response

R3 The County Administrator agrees with the finding and recommendation. During the last week of June (2019) the County Clerk/Recorder and the County Administrator met to discuss staffing concerns of the County Clerk/Recorder Department. During this meeting, historical challenges and proposed solutions were presented and discussed. Another meeting was set to meet with the County Clerk/Recorder and the County Administrator and the Director of Human Resources in a week from today, July 12, where staffing and funding concerns will be addressed. In short, the challenge that faces the County Clerk/Recorder Department is systemic and is common among all County departments.

The County faces exponentially increasing financial challenges coupled with some outdated job descriptions, fees and low wages. The County is aware of these challenges and has been diligently working to find solutions for all departments, including the County Clerk/Recorder Department (which encompasses the Elections Division). To date, three (3) conceptual solutions specific to this finding have been introduced between the County Clerk/Recorder and the County Administrator. These, and other options, will be explored. Options will be brought before the Board of Supervisors at the Budget Committee and before the entire Board of Supervisors afterwards for their deliberation and determination.

The County Administrator is grateful for the service of the Grand Jury members and for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations of the 2019 Civil Grand Jury report. The County Administrator, Board of Supervisors, and staff are determined to meet the demand for services related to elections and all other services throughout the County of Plumas. We are committed to and delight in being wise stewards of the public's expectations and monies. The County Administrator is happy to address further questions and inquiries regarding the Civil Grand Jury's report.

Kind regards,



Gabriel Hydrick
County Administrator

Cc:
Plumas County Board of Supervisors
County Clerk/Recorder, Kathy Williams
2019 Plumas County Civil Grand Jury Foreperson, Howard Johnson