



NEWS RELEASE

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Open seats go unopposed in San Marcos

Local elections canceled and qualified candidates reappointed

San Marcos, CA—Candidate filing for the November 2014 General Municipal election ended Friday, August 8 for the Mayor and two councilmember positions. The three qualified candidates for the November ballot included sitting Mayor Jim Desmond for the open mayor seat and current Councilmembers Chris Orlando and Kristal Jabara for the two open city council seats.

According to the California Elections Code, when there are not more candidates than offices to be elected, three courses of action can be taken by the City Council—1) appoint the office person(s) who have been nominated, 2) appoint to the office any eligible voter if no one has been nominated, and 3) hold the election if either no one or only one person has been nominated. In this case, only items one and three apply.

After discussing both the advantages and disadvantages of the two possible courses of action during a special meeting on August 20, the San Marcos City Council approved cancelling the November 2014 election by a majority 3-2 vote—Mayor Desmond, Vice Mayor Jones and Councilmember Jabara voting in favor with Councilmembers Orlando and Jenkins both voting in opposition.

Subsequently, City Council unanimously appointed qualifying candidate Jim Desmond to the mayoral seat. Desmond abstained from casting a vote during the appointment decision. Qualified candidates Chris Orlando and Kristal Jabara were then unanimously appointed to the vacant city council positions, both of whom abstained from their respective appointment decisions.

By canceling the election, the City of San Marcos expects to save approximately \$30,000 in election costs. The Mayor and Councilmembers are expected to renew their oaths of office during the first scheduled City Council meeting in December, 2014.

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