



# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S) FOR THE JUNE 2, 2015 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

West Hollywood faces an unusual circumstance with two elections so close to one another. The City Clerk's Office has prepared in advance to make every effort for a smooth transition from the March general election to the June special election. Even with the best preparation, there are some factors (such as a very close election) that may affect certain candidates. We are doing our best to anticipate every contingency. Here are a few FAQs:

Q: If a candidate ran in the March election but was not elected to a Council seat, may he or she run in the June special election?

A: Yes. One wrinkle to be aware of is that a candidate may not submit nomination papers for the June election without first conceding the March election or having the City certify results that eliminate the candidate from possible election in March. Think of it this way: an individual may only be a candidate in one City Council election at a time.

Q: When are the nomination papers due and may a candidate in the March election pull papers in advance?

A: The nomination period for the June 2, 2015 Special Election began on February 9, 2015 and will end on March 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. A candidate in the March election may pull papers at any time during the nomination period. A candidate in the March election may not submit nomination papers for the June election while still a candidate in the March election.

Q: When will the results of the March election be known?

A. The City Clerk's Office has organized the election night proceedings with the intent to count most of the ballots cast in the election. The City Clerk expects unofficial results to be available on election night. Whether those results are sufficient to show the outcome of the election depends entirely on how closely the votes are distributed among the candidates. In all municipal elections, vote-by-mail ballots that were handed in at the polls and any provisional ballots that were cast at the polls are processed (signatures verified to confirm the ballot is from a registered voter) and counted in the days immediately following the election. In addition, a new state law requires the City to count ballots received by mail up to March 6,



if postmarked on or before the election date. While we do not expect many ballots in that category, the City Clerk cannot provide final ballot counts until all ballots are received. The City anticipates that the official results will be certified on March 16, 2015 at the City Council meeting.

Q: What is the plan for providing information to candidates who may be unsuccessful in March and want to run in June?

A. The City Clerk will provide unofficial results election night. The City Clerk will provide an update on the ballot counts on Thursday after the provisional and available vote-by-mail ballots have been verified and counted. The City Clerk will provide final “unofficial results” on Friday. The City Council certifies the “official results” at its March 16, 2015 meeting.

Q: How may a candidate in March run in June if the official election results are not certified until after the March 6 close of the nomination period?

A. State law does not allow the City to extend the nomination period (with the exception that if City Hall is closed on Friday, the period is extended to Monday). No nomination papers may be accepted after the close of the nomination period. Nomination papers must include a statement that the candidate will accept the office if elected. Obviously, if elected in March, a candidate would not run in June. In order to accommodate the unusual sequence of timing, the City will accept the otherwise complete nomination papers of a candidate in the March election that wishes to be nominated for the June election who has conceded the March election by signing the following statement:

CONCESSION STATEMENT:

**General Election Concession to Accompany Special Election  
Nomination Papers at Filing**

By filing nomination papers to qualify as a candidate for the June 2, 2015 Special Election for the office of West Hollywood City Councilmember, I hereby acknowledge that I was a candidate in the March 3, 2015 General Election, the results of which have not been and will not be certified prior to the deadline to file nomination papers for the Special Election. Although the results of the General Election have not yet been certified, it does not reasonably appear that I will be elected. Therefore, I hereby concede that I will not be elected in the General Election and reaffirm that if I am elected in the Special Election, I will accept the office to which I am elected.

- Q: If elected in June to the remainder of Jeffrey Prang's term, when does the term expire and does that term count toward the three term limit?
- A. Ordinarily, a city council term is four years. The June special election is to fill the seat vacated by Jeffrey Prang to which he was elected in March 2013. The person elected in June will complete that term which expires in March 2017. The successful candidate in the June 2015 election will serve for approximately 21 months. West Hollywood Municipal Code limits the number of terms that a person may serve to three, whether the terms are whole or partial. The partial term consisting of the remaining 21 months of the council seat vacated by Jeffrey Prang counts toward the three term limit.