



CITY OF PETALUMA

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Kevin McDonnell
Mayor

Brian Barnacle
Janice Cader-Thompson, *Dist. 1*
Mike Healy
Karen Nau, *Dist. 3*
Dennis Pocekay
John Shribbs, *Dist. 2*
Councilmembers

July 11, 2023

Via U.S. Mail

Robert Pittman
Sonoma County Counsel
575 Administration Drive, Room 105
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Sonoma County Counsel,

It is our understanding that the City of Petaluma ("City") has been involved with one of the seven Petaluma school district's elections for several years. In discussions with the School Board, we were advised that the School District believed the City was mandated to play this role based on the City of Petaluma's Charter. However, upon review of the relevant sections of the City's Charter, such as, but not limited to, sections 4 General and Special Municipal Elections, 14 Board of Education, and 77 Vacancy in the office of School Director, the City, specifically the City Clerk, is not mandated to play a role regarding the holding of School District Elections. To clarify, the City's Charter does not mandate the City to play a role in the School Board's elections. Further, California Education Code section 5000 et seq discusses elections of school district and section 5303 specifically states that the County elections official shall perform the duties incident to the preparations for and holdings of all district elections.

Therefore, pursuant to my discussions with the City Manager and City Clerk, the City of Petaluma will no longer be issuing nomination papers or receiving the Declaration of Candidacy, Ballot Designation Worksheet, Candidate Statement of Qualifications, or Candidate Statement Deposit, as it is not mandated by the City Charter.

Please email or call me at 707-778-4362 if you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Best regards,

Eric W. Danly
City Attorney

cc: Peggy Flynn, City Manager

City Attorney
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone (707) 778-4362

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