

Clovis City Council election will likely be canceled for third consecutive cycle

By Marc Benjamin

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A volunteer reviews a ballot following the polls closing at Clovis City Hall on Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

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For the third straight election cycle, Clovis voters appear unlikely to go to the polls to elect City Council members in March.

The three incumbents, Harry Armstrong, Jose Flores and Bob Whalen, all took out nomination papers for the March election. But nobody else took out nomination papers at Clovis City Hall or the Fresno County Elections Office.

That will leave City Council members in what's become an increasingly familiar scenario: canceling the March election for lack of candidates.

The municipal election, scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, will put three members on the council for four-year terms.

The nomination period began on Nov. 10, 2014 and closed Friday.

California Elections Code allows the City Council to cancel the election if it's not contested. The City Council must convene a special meeting later this month to consider election cancellation.

The election was canceled in 2011 when the same three candidates ran for office, and again in 2013, when the nominations of council members Lynne Ashbeck and Nathan Magsig went uncontested.

It's expected that the city will save \$160,000 to \$175,000 because the election is canceled. The city has spent about \$10,000 so far on the election, said Assistant City Manager John Holt.

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