

Estimated Election Costs and Timelines for Ballot Measure

Timelines for an Election

Table 1 shows the timing requirements for a November 2025 Special Election and **Table 2** shows the timing requirements for a November 2026 General Election.

2025 Special Election

The deadlines for a Special Election in an odd-numbered year are determined by California Elections Code section 9222. For a Special Election, the City would contract with the Monterey County Elections Office to conduct the election.

Table 1 - November 2025 Special Election

August 6, 2025	City adopts a Resolution calling for a special municipal election on November 4, 2025, for a street address ballot measure, requests that the Monterey County Elections Office conduct the election. The Resolution would contain the ballot measure language for the voters.
August 7, 2025	The Resolution is sent to the Monterey County Elections Office and County Board of Supervisors for approval. The election will be scheduled for 88-103 days from August 6th.
October 2025	The County will mail out ballots to Carmel-by-the-Sea registered voters.
November 4, 2025	Election day
December 4, 2025	Election results certified by the County

Table 2 – November 2026 General Election (estimated dates)

June 2, 2026	Adopt a Resolution calling for a general municipal election for Mayor, Councilmembers, and ballot measure, and requesting consolidation with the County.
August 9, 2026	Last date to withdraw a ballot measure.
October 2026	County will mail out ballots.
November 3, 2026	Election day
December 3, 2026	Election results certified by the County

Estimated Costs for Elections – County of Monterey Elections Office

November 2025 Special Election Cost

The County of Monterey Elections office estimated the cost of a standalone election in an odd numbered year would be \$16.00-\$24 .00 per registered voter. Carmel-by-the-Sea has approximately 2,500 registered voters, bringing the estimated cost to hold an election in 2025 to the range of \$40,000 - \$60,000.

November 2026 General Election Cost

When the City holds a general election consolidated with a county/statewide election, during an even numbered year without a ballot measure (Mayor and City Council election only), the estimated cost is \$4.00-\$6.00 per registered voter with a total cost in the range of \$10,000 - \$15,000. Adding a ballot measure to the 2026 election is estimated to be an additional \$8,000 - \$ 10,000.