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Subject: Growth Management Initiative Fiscal Impact info

I am awaiting further feedback from the officers of the City Clerks' Association. In the meantime, I thought I would share the reaction of one city clerk (removed the name because I wasn't sure if she wanted me to pass along these comments:

Reading through it, I can tell you it would be a nightmare for us to have to stop work for every person wandering in who wanted to sign the petition, get their identification (argue with those who forget it and swear we know them), verify them on a list provided by the Supervisor of Elections, calling the Supervisor to verify when their name isn't there and they swear they are registered, and have them sign the petition. They would all want an explanation of what exactly they are signing and want to express their opinion. 10% of our electorate in _____ would be probably 1200 or 1300 people who would have to come by and go through that process, because they would not want to drive over to Supervisor's office. And that doesn't even begin to address the cost of holding such a referendum if it was not in conjunction with a regular City election, every two years. It takes between five and fifteen minutes to notarize a document, depending on how fast they are to provide their identification and us to record all of that information in our log; multiply that by 1200 or 1300 people in my city, and for the number of comp plan amendments we do every year.

Our current citizen-initiated petition process has them presenting a petition that they believe has the requisite number of signatures, giving us a check for the amount prescribed by the Supervisor to verify the signatures, and we ship it off to the Supervisor of Elections and it is out of our hands until we know whether or not they had sufficient signatures. We are not responsible for verifying them. It is a fraction of the time involved in comparison to that outlined in paragraph 4. Not to mention that my secretary most likely would not be able to appropriately explain it to them, so it would be my time loss on top of personnel lost to the last amendment!

I hope that gives you a little more information and I will pass along anything else I receive or refer them to you directly.

Regards,

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