

CONTRA COSTA LAFCO

3.12 City Consolidation

Definitions

Consolidation means the uniting or joining of two or more cities (or “towns”) located in the same county into a single new successor city (56030).

Initiation of Proceedings

Proceedings for consolidation can be initiated by petition, or by resolution of an affected local agency or school district.

A petition for consolidation of two or more cities must be signed by not less than 5% of the registered voters in each city (56766).

Current law does not allow LAFCO to initiate the consolidation of cities.

Commission Proceedings

After receiving a consolidation proposal by petition or resolution of application, LAFCO staff conducts an analysis of the proposal. The Commission conducts a hearing to review this analysis and to receive oral and written testimony (56666). The Commission then adopts a resolution approving or disapproving the proposal (56880). As part of the approval process, the Commission may adopt terms and conditions of approval. If the Commission wholly disapproves a proposal, no new proposal involving the same or substantially the same territory shall be initiated for two years after the date of the Commission’s resolution, unless this provision is waived by the Commission.

Any resolution of the Commission ordering a consolidation of cities subject to an election shall do all of the following (57117):

- (a) Provide for the election of officers of the successor city required to be elected.
- (b) State that the voters may express their preference as to the name of the successor city.

Protest Proceedings

An election is required unless terminated by a majority protest (57078). The election shall be held within the territory of each city proposed to be consolidated (57118).

Election

After the election, the Commission shall take one of the following actions (57177.5):

- (a) Adopt a resolution confirming the order of consolidation if, within the territory of each city ordered to be consolidated, a majority of the votes cast favored consolidation; or

- (b) Terminate proceedings if, in one of the cities ordered to be consolidated, the votes cast in favor did not constitute a majority.

In addition, the LAFCO certificate of completion confirming an order of consolidation of cities shall do all of the following:

- (a) Give the name of the new or successor city favored by the electors.
- (b) Declare the persons receiving the highest number of votes for the several offices of the successor city to be elected to those offices.

The expenses incurred in conducting elections for a consolidation of cities shall be paid, unless otherwise provided by agreement between the commission and the proponents, by the successor city or by the local agencies proposed to be consolidated, to be paid by those local agencies in proportion to their respective assessed values, if proceedings are terminated (57150).