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NEW LEGISLATION EFFECTIVE IN 2019 CHANGING THE DATES FOR THE STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY CAN IMPACT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTIONS

The Legislature recently changed the election dates for the statewide direct primary and presidential primary, which could in turn impact school and community college district and county board of education special elections. This change is effective January 1, 2019.

Existing law requires that the statewide direct primary and presidential primary be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June (in each even-numbered year for the statewide direct primary, and in any year evenly divisible by four for the presidential primary).

Senate Bill 568 has moved the dates for those two events to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

Elections Code section 1000 sets out the established election dates, which apply to elections for school and community college districts and county boards of education. When a school district calls for a special election (such as to fill a Board vacancy), the special election must be held on one of the four established election dates. SB 568 eliminates the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of each year as an established election date, and adds the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in each even-numbered year.

If you have any questions concerning this or related issues, do not hesitate to contact our office.

— Grant Herndon

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