The Cost of Runoffs in the Bay Area

Since San Francisco, Berkeley, San Leandro, and Oakland use ranked choice voting (RCV) for local elections, they avoid costs associated with runoffs and primary elections. Total savings range by city size and type of election.

Without RCV, San Francisco and Berkeley would have an additional stand-alone runoff election following a November election. Here are the costs of these elections:

San Francisco

- Citywide: $3,700,000
- District: $340,000

Berkeley

- Citywide: $759,000
- District: $85,627

Without RCV, San Leandro and Oakland would have municipal races on their June primary ballots, in addition to the November general ballot. Here are the estimates for these primary races, based on per voter costs:

San Leandro

- Citywide: $75,000

Oakland

- Citywide: $140,000, $214,000, $256,000
- District: $20,000, $30,000, $32,000
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**Citywide**

- **San Francisco**: $3,700,000
- **Berkeley**: $759,000
- **San Leandro**: $75,000
- **Oakland**: $140,000

**City Council/Board of Supervisors District**

- **San Francisco**: $340,000
- **Berkeley**: $85,637
- **Oakland**: $20,000

**Sources**

1. Letter from Ben Rosenfield, Controller, City and County of San Francisco, to Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, City and County of San Francisco (Jan. 12, 2016) (on file with author).
2. E-mail from Mark Numainville, City Clerk, City of Berkeley, to Pedro Hernandez, Deputy Director, FairVote California (Sep. 27, 2017, 16:05:18 PST) (on file with author).