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# Aptos Cityhood Drive Continues

Even though the election target for Aptos incorporation has been moved back a year to June 1981, the petition drive to get the issue before the Local Agency Formation Commission is continuing.

That drive is about halfway through, according to Glenn Specht, chairwoman of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce incorporation committee. It has been going on for eight weeks now and the committee has another four months to collect the estimated 3,000 signatures of registered voters within the boundaries of the proposed city. Specht hopes to be completed

"sometime before Christmas."

She pointed out that the petition drive is still the committee's number one priority. "We're still working hard to complete it and are concerned that many people feel we're shutting down just because of the year delay to set it for an election. While we acknowledge the delay, we certainly don't want to delay the petition drive and want to get it before LAFC as soon as possible."

The delay came after a time schedule was worked out by new LAFC director Bill Davis. He admitted the incorporation procedure is a lengthy one "with lots of things that can happen along the way to continue it."

After a LAFC public hearing stage that could last 70 days, the Board of Supervisors has 60 more days to hold hearings. An election must be at least 75 days after the final public hearing.

LAFC's involvement could be more lengthy now since Aptos is the first city to apply for incorporation since the passage of Proposition 13, as well as the passage of AB 8 on July 24 by state legislature. The latter concerns how much money a newly-created city would receive from property taxes.

Specht also responded to a recent straw ballot on incorporation conducted by the Seacliff Improvement Association. Of 375 ballots sent to area residents, property owners and members, according to Association president Mervin Garibotto, 146 have been returned.

Fifteen were in favor of incorporation, 28 were undecided and 103 were opposed.

Specht believed there was some "misinformation" in the pro and con statements that were mailed with the ballot. She believes the "misinformation" was due to "lack of knowledge and not out of malice."