The year 2020 is a Leap Year, and since a Leap Day only occurs every four years Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen will be opening his offices for couples who wish to marry on Leap Day, Saturday, February 29. The department’s North and South County branch offices, as well as the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana, will be open for special Saturday hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on February 29. The Clerk-Recorder is expecting to have a record breaking Leap Day due to this rare occurrence.

This year, Leap Day falls on a Saturday which increases the potential for the department to break its leap year record of 73 couples married and 108 licenses issued on that day back in 2016. In 2012, 56 couples married and 81 marriage licenses were issued on February 29. For this year’s special day, the department already has more than 180 appointments booked and demand continues to grow for Leap Day marriage services. Couples are encouraged to make an appointment due to the expected high demand on this special day, however, walk-ins are always welcome. To make an appointment, visit us at OCRecorder.com and use the online appointment system or one can be made by downloading the department’s OC Weddings mobile app.

“This year Leap Day, February 29, falls on a Saturday, so we will try to make it easier for couples by opening on that day,” said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. “I am eagerly looking forward to a record breaking day! I would like to encourage couples to join us and help us make history.”

The origin of Leap Year dates to the calendars of ancient Rome and is meant to coordinate the number of days with the Earth’s rotation. While each calendar year contains 365 days, it actually takes the Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to orbit the sun. So every four years, an extra day is added—Feb. 29—to recalibrate the calendar. With such a long history and scientific importance, it’s no wonder that Leap Day is regarded as a special occasion—even if you’re not getting married!

Another reason to join us on this special day, the department has the lowest costs for a marriage license and a marriage ceremony in the State. In Orange County, couples can obtain a public marriage license for $61 and a confidential marriage license for $66. A civil marriage ceremony can be performed for an additional $28.

To save time, marriage license applications can be completed online at OCRecorder.com and on our OC Weddings mobile app prior to visiting our offices. For more detailed information, call our information line at (714) 834-2500.