

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

(This proposition will appear on the ballot in the following form.)

PROP A

AMENDS CITY CHARTER RELATED TO ELECTIONS.

Shall the Charter be amended to: (1) set a later date for elected officials to be sworn into office; (2) extend the deadlines to call special elections to fill vacancies for Mayor and City Council; and (3) make non-substantive revisions, to provide additional time to comply with state and federal deadlines to certify election results, provide mail ballots to military and overseas voters, and translate ballot materials?

This proposition requires approval by a simple majority (over 50%) of the voters voting on the proposition.

The proposed charter amendment follows the arguments.

OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY

BALLOT TITLE

Amendments to the San Diego City Charter Related to Elections

BALLOT SUMMARY

This proposition would amend the San Diego City Charter to set a later date for elected officials to be sworn into office, extend the deadlines to call special elections to fill vacancies in the offices of Mayor and City Council, and make non-substantive revisions to the Charter, to provide additional time for election officials to comply with state and federal deadlines to certify election results, provide mail ballots to military and overseas voters, and translate ballot materials.

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

This proposition would amend sections of the San Diego Charter related to elections, providing additional time for election officials to comply with state and federal election deadlines.

The Charter requires the Mayor, City Council and City Attorney to be sworn into office "from and after 10 a.m. the first Monday after the first day of December next succeeding the election." This inauguration date has proven problematic, because it may occur before election officials can certify election results. Depending on the specific election year, the term of office may begin from 27 to 34 days following the election. Elections officials have 28 days under state law to certify results. State legislators have proposed extending that time to 30 days.

If this proposition is approved, it would change the inauguration date, providing for 32 to 36 days between the November election and the December inauguration, according to a study by the City Clerk's Office. The amendments would provide that City officials "shall hold office for a term of four years from and after 10 a.m. on the tenth day of December next succeeding their election and until their successors are elected and qualified. If the tenth day of December falls on a weekend or holiday, the term shall begin at 10 a.m. on the next calendar day that is not a weekend or a holiday."

The proposition also would extend the deadline to hold a special run-off election when there is a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Councilmember that must be filled by election. The Charter's deadline to hold special run-off elections has conflicted with laws requiring elections officials to mail ballots to military and overseas voters at least 45 days before an election.

If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote in a special election, the Charter requires a special "run-off" election of the top two vote-getters to be held within 49 days of the special election. This proposition would extend that deadline, allowing the run-off election to be held up to 90 days after the special election, and up to 120 days later if the run-off election can be consolidated with a municipal or statewide election during that time.

The City Council proposed this ballot measure, working with the City's elections official, the City Clerk, and placed the measure on the ballot. If approved, the Charter amendments would become effective after they are chaptered by the California Secretary of State.

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This measure would establish the inauguration date of newly elected Councilmembers and Mayors in San Diego as the December 10th following their elections, and would allow 90 days between primary and run-off elections. Adoption of this measure would have no fiscal impact on the City.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION A

Protect the right to vote for military and American voters living abroad

The City Charter needs to be updated to protect the right to vote by military and overseas voters. The Charter must allow more time for ballots to be mailed out and for votes to be counted and certified by the Registrar of Voters.

Improve the election process

Prop A makes two **simple but important** Charter changes:

- Sets December 10th as the City's inauguration date
- Requires special run-off elections to be held as soon possible within 90 days

The changes are necessitated by state law, which mandates when ballots must be mailed out, and how long the Registrar of Voters has to count and certify primary election results.

The City Charter has fallen out of step with state laws finalizing the vote count in primary elections. Prop A puts the Charter back in step, **protecting the right to vote and improving the election process.**

Mayor Faulconer, the City Council, City Clerk, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and League of Women Voters of San Diego agree that San Diego needs these important Charter changes.

KEVIN FAULCONER
Mayor, City of San Diego

TODD GLORIA
San Diego City Council President

SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
San Diego City Council President Pro Tem

JERRY SANDERS
President & CEO,
San Diego Regional Chamber of
Commerce

DONNA BARTLETT-MAY
Co-President, League of Women
Voters of San Diego

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION A

No Argument against the Proposition was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

PROPOSITION A

Section 10: Elections

Elective officers of the City shall be nominated and elected by all of the electors of the City except that City Council members shall be nominated and elected by the electors of the district for which elective office they are a candidate.

Commencing with the year 1996, the municipal primary elections to the office of Council member for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be held on same date in each election year as the California State primary election, and the general municipal election for these offices shall be held on the same date as the California State general election for that year.

Commencing with the year 2012, the election to the office of Council member for District 9 shall be held on the same date as the election to the office of Council member for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7.

Commencing with the year 1998, the municipal primary elections to the offices of Council member for Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 shall be held on same date in each election year as the California State primary election, and the general municipal election for these offices shall be held on the same date as the California State general election for that year.

Commencing with the next municipal primary and general elections following the redistricting occurring after the 2010 national decennial census, and every four years thereafter, the municipal primary and general elections to the office of Council District 9 shall be held.

Commencing with the year 1984, the elections to the offices of Mayor and City Attorney shall be held every four (4) years. The municipal primary election for the offices of Mayor and City Attorney shall be held on the same date in each election year as the California State primary election, and the general municipal election for these offices shall be held on the same date as the California State general election for that year. All other municipal elections which may be held under this Charter shall be known as special municipal elections.

PROPOSITION A (continued)

All elective officers of the City shall be nominated at the municipal primary election. In the event one candidate receives the majority of votes cast for all candidates for nomination to a particular elective office, the candidate so receiving such majority of votes shall be deemed to be and declared by the Council to be elected to such office. In the event no candidate receives a majority of votes cast as aforesaid, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for a particular elective office at said primary shall be the candidates, and only candidates, for such office and the names of only those two candidates shall be printed upon the ballots to be used at the general municipal election. At the general municipal election held for the purpose of electing Council members other than the Mayor the electors of each Council district shall select from among the candidates chosen at the primary election in that district one candidate for the office of the Council member whose term expires the succeeding December. At the general municipal election held for the purpose of electing any other elective officer there shall be chosen by all of the electors of the whole City from among the candidates chosen at the primary one candidate to succeed any other elective officer whose term expires in December succeeding the election.

After the result of an election for any office is declared, or when an appointment is made, the City Clerk, under his or her hand and official seal, shall issue a certificate therefor, and shall deliver the same immediately to the person elected or appointed, and such person must within ten days after receiving such certificate file his an official bond, if one be required for his office, and take and subscribe to the oath of office required of him by this Charter, which oath must be filed with the City Clerk.

Section 12: The Council

(a) The Council shall be the legislative body of the City and each of its members shall have the right to vote upon all questions before it.

(b) ~~At the municipal primary and general election in 1979, a Mayor shall be chosen by the electors for a term of five (5) years. A Mayor shall thereafter be elected for a term~~

PROPOSITION A (continued)

of four (4) years in the manner prescribed by Section 10 of this Charter. The Mayor shall hold office for the term prescribed from and after 10 a.m. the first Monday after the first day of December next succeeding the election and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(e) At the municipal primary and general elections in 1993, the Council members for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be chosen by the electors for a term of three (3) years. Council members for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall thereafter be elected for a term of four (4) years in the manner prescribed by Section 10 of this Charter. Electors shall choose the council member for District 9 at the next municipal primary and general elections following the redistricting after the 2010 national decennial census. The initial term for the District 9 Council member shall be four (4) years. The Council member for District 9 shall thereafter be elected for a term of four (4) years in the manner prescribed by Section 10 of the Charter.

(d) At the municipal primary and general election in 1995, Council members for Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 shall be chosen by the electors for a term of three (3) years. Council members for Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 shall thereafter be elected for a term of four (4) years in the manner prescribed by Section 10 of this Charter.

(e) (b) Except as provided in this Section, Council members shall hold office for the term of four (4) years from and after 10 a.m. the first Monday after the first on the tenth day of December next succeeding their election and until their successors are elected and qualified. If the tenth day of December falls on a weekend or holiday, the term shall begin at 10 a.m. on the next calendar day that is not a weekend or a holiday.

(f)(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter and commencing with elections held in 1992, no person shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms as a Council member from any particular district. If for any reason a person serves a partial term as Councilmember from a particular district in excess of two (2) years, that partial term shall be considered a full term for purposes of this term limit provision. Persons holding office prior to the November 1992 election shall not have prior or current terms be counted for the purpose of applying this term limit provision to future elections.

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PROPOSITION A (continued)

~~(g)(d)~~ Upon any redistricting pursuant to the provisions of this Charter, incumbent Council members will continue to represent the district in which they reside, unless as a result of such redistricting more than one incumbent Council member resides within any one district, in which case the City Council may determine by lot which Council member shall represent each district. At the next municipal primary and general elections following a redistricting, Council members shall be elected from those districts not represented and from those districts represented by incumbent Council members whose terms expire as of the general election in said year. If as a result of any redistricting more than a simple majority of the City Council as redistricted shall be elected at either the municipal primary or general election next following any such redistricting, the City Council prior to any such election shall designate one or more new districts for which the initial council term shall be two (2) years in order to retain staggered terms for Council members.

~~(h)(e)~~ If a vacancy occurs for any reason in the office of a Council District, the ~~procedures set forth in Charter section 12(h) shall be followed; the following procedures shall apply:~~

(1) If the vacancy occurs for any reason other than a successful recall election, and,

(A) If the vacancy occurs with one (1) year or less remaining in the term, the Council shall appoint a person to fill the vacant seat on the City Council. Any person appointed by the Council to fill a vacant Council District seat shall not be eligible to run for that office for the next succeeding term; or,

(B) If the vacancy occurs with more than one (1) year remaining in the term, the Council shall call a special election to be held within ninety (90) days of the vacancy, unless there is a regular municipal or statewide election scheduled to be held within 180 days of the vacancy. If there is a regular municipal or statewide election scheduled to be held within 180 days of the vacancy, the Council may consolidate the special election with that regular election.

PROPOSITION A (continued)

(i) If one candidate receives the majority of votes cast for all candidates in the special election, the candidate receiving the majority of votes cast shall be deemed to be and declared by the Council to be elected to the vacant office.

(ii) If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast in the special election, a special run-off election shall be held within ~~forty-nine (49)~~ ninety (90) days of the first special election, unless there is a ~~regular~~ municipal or statewide election scheduled to be held within ~~ninety (90)~~ 120 days of the proposed special run-off election date, at which time the City Council may consolidate the special run-off election with that ~~regular~~ election. The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the vacant seat in the first special election shall be the only candidates for the vacant Council seat and the names of only those two (2) candidates shall be printed on the ballot for that seat.

(2) If a vacancy occurs by reason of a successful recall election, the Council shall adopt procedures to fill the vacancy.

Whether a person is appointed or elected to fill a vacant Council District seat, whatever the reason for the vacancy, that person shall serve as that District's Councilmember for the remainder of the unexpired term.

For purposes of this Charter section 12~~(h)~~, a vacancy may result from death, resignation, recall, or unexcused absences as described in Charter section 12~~(i)~~ (f). If a vacancy occurs by reason of a resignation, the date of the vacancy will be the date specified in the written letter of resignation or, if there is no date certain specified in the letter, upon the date of receipt of the letter by the City Clerk.

~~(i)~~(f) It is the duty of the Council members to attend all Council meetings. The Council shall vacate the seat of any Councilmember who is absent from eight (8) consecutive meetings or fifty percent (50%) of any scheduled meetings within a month unless the absence thereof is excused by resolution of the Council.

~~(j)~~(g) Council members shall devote full time to the duties of their office and not engage in any outside employment, trade, business or profession which interferes or conflicts with those duties.

~~(k)~~(h) Council members shall not be eligible during the term for which they were
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PROPOSITION A (continued)

appointed or elected to hold any other office or employment with the City, except as Mayor or City Attorney and as a member of any Board, Commission or Committee thereof, of which they are constituted such a member by general law or by this Charter.

Section 24: Mayor

A Mayor shall be elected for a term of four (4) years in the manner prescribed by Section 10 of this Charter. The Mayor shall hold office for the term prescribed from and after 10 a.m. on the tenth day of December next succeeding the election and until a successor is elected and qualified. If the tenth day of December falls on a weekend or holiday, the term shall begin at 10 a.m. on the next calendar day that is not a weekend or a holiday.

The Mayor shall devote full time to the duties of the office and not engage in any outside employment, trade, business or profession which interferes or conflicts with those duties.

Section 40: City Attorney

~~At the municipal primary and general election in 1977, a City Attorney shall be elected by the people for a term of seven (7) years. A City Attorney shall thereafter be elected for a term of four (4) years in the manner prescribed by Section 10 of this Charter. The City Attorney shall hold office for the term prescribed from and after 10 a.m. on the tenth day of December next succeeding the election and until a successor is elected and qualified. If the tenth day of December falls on a weekend or holiday, the term shall begin at 10 a.m. on the next calendar day that is not a weekend or a holiday.~~

~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter and connecting with elections held in 1992, n~~No person shall serve more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms as City Attorney. If for any reason a person serves a partial term as City Attorney in excess of two (2) years, that partial term shall be considered a full term for purposes of this term limit provision. Persons holding the office of City Attorney prior to the November 1992 election shall not have prior or current terms be counted for the purpose of applying this term limit provision to future elections.

[No change in remaining text.]

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PROPOSITION A (continued)

Section 212: Continuance of Present Officers

All persons holding office at the time the provisions of this Charter or any amendments thereto shall take effect shall continue in office and in the performance of their duties until provisions shall have been made in accordance therewith for the performance of such duties or the discontinuance of such office. ~~The regular Municipal elections shall be held in the odd-numbered years, as in Article II provided.~~ The terms of all elective officers who are in office at the time this Charter or any amendments thereto become effective shall terminate on ~~the first Monday after the first tenth~~ day of December following the holding of such election, except as otherwise provided in this Charter ~~otherwise provided.~~

[No change in remaining text.]

Section 265: The Mayor

(a) through (d) [No change in text.]

(e) If a vacancy occurs in the Office of Mayor for any reason other than a successful recall election, and,

(1) If the vacancy occurs with one year or less remaining in the term, the Council shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

(2) If the vacancy occurs with more than one year remaining in the term, the Council shall call a special election to be held within ninety (90) days of the vacancy, unless there is a regular municipal or statewide election scheduled to be held within 180 days of the vacancy. If there is a regular municipal or statewide election scheduled to be held within 180 days of the vacancy, the Council may consolidate the special election with that regular election.

(A) If one candidate receives the majority of votes cast for all candidates in the special election, the candidate receiving the majority of votes cast shall be deemed to be and declared by the Council to be elected to the Office of Mayor.

(B) If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast in the special election, a special run-off election shall be held within ~~forty-nine~~ ninety (90) days of the first special election, unless there is ~~regular a~~ regular a municipal or statewide election scheduled to be held

PROPOSITION A (continued)

within ~~ninety~~ 120 days of the proposed special run-off election date, at which time the City Council may consolidate the special run-off election with that regular election. The two candidates receiving the highest number ~~City of San Diego City Charter~~ of votes cast for the Office of Mayor in the first special election shall be the only candidates for the Office of the Mayor and the names of only those two candidates shall be printed on the ballot for that seat.

(f) through (j) [No change in text.]

END OF PROPOSITION
