



City of San Diego  
**MARK KERSEY**  
CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

Contact: Gina Jacobs  
(619) 236-6655

**City Council Amends Codes Regarding Recall of Elected Officials**

SAN DIEGO, California (October 28, 2014) --- Today the San Diego City Council unanimously approved amendments to the City municipal code related to the recall of elected officials. The measure is the result of a holistic review of the recall provisions in the San Diego Municipal Code.

Councilman Mark Kersey first brought the issues related to the recall code to light when he discovered one provision that would have been deemed unconstitutional if challenged in court. That provision was repealed in 2013.

“Many of our city codes related to recalls have been contradictory, confusing or infeasible,” said Councilman Mark Kersey. “These additional changes will bring our codes more in line with statewide best practices so the public gets a more reasonable length of time to gather signatures, while still keeping the bar high to prevent abuse of the system.”

The changes to San Diego Municipal Code Related to Recall (Chapter 2, Article 7, Division 27) update the time frame for signature collection and prohibit the recall of an elected official within the final six months of a term.

It also changes the number of required proponents who initiate the recall from one person or organization to a committee of five and requires San Diego residency/voter registration. The current code only required one proponent and that person/organization did not have to be a resident of the City of San Diego or even a registered voter.

The amendment also eliminates the supplemental petition period, where signature gatherers were given 30 additional days after it was determined they didn’t meet the initial required number of signatures. Instead, proponents will be given a total circulation period of 120 days to complete signature gathering.

This item was first heard at the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee where it was unanimously supported.

###