



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT GEORGETTE GÓMEZ
NINTH DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 4, 2019
TO: Honorable Committee Members
FROM: Council President Georgette Gómez, Chair, Rules Committee
SUBJECT: **2019 Rules Committee Priorities**

Thank you to my fellow Rules Committee members for your feedback and priorities. The purpose of this memo is to have a thorough discussion of the 2019 priorities for Rules Committee. I look forward to working with you, the Mayor, the Independent Budget Analyst, City Clerk, City staff and the public to ensure that we have a more inclusive, equitable, transparent, and accountable government.

The Rules Committee is responsible for overseeing matters related to the City Charter, Permanent Rules of Council, open government, elections and ballot measures, annexations, boards and commissions, council-initiated matters, communications, customer service and public outreach.

In ensuring consistency with my recently released Council Work Plan and considering your feedback, I propose the following priorities for the Rules Committee for the upcoming year:

Review and Update the Rules of Council:

It is vital to review the Rules of Council to ensure that they are up to date, effective, and compliant. Among the specific proposed amendments, I am recommending the following:

- **Council Work Plan and Annual Report from the Council President:**

On January 29, 2019, I had the opportunity to introduce a proposed City Council Work Plan that will set the tone for the City Council for the rest of the year. As the legislative body, I believe that the City Council should strive to have goals and priorities that will guide the Council in exercising its duties. Many of us serving in the Council share specific goals and have worked towards tackling some of the most challenging issues our City faces. I am proposing the addition of a section to the San Diego Municipal Code to require the Council President provide a Council Work Plan with priorities for the Council and provide an annual report to the City Council on the priorities and any efforts and accomplishments that were achieved during the year.

- **Adjusting the Timeframe for Committees' Priority Memos:**

The timeframe to submit the Committees' priority memos should be modified to ensure that these priorities are considered and potentially incorporated as part of the Council President's Council Work Plan for the year. Currently, Committee memos are due no later than March 1st. However, the timeframe for their due date may need to be moved up to allow the Council President sufficient time to review and consider the incorporation of these priorities onto the Council Work Plan.

Explore Potential Opportunities to Review and Update the City Charter:

In previous years, there have been efforts to review and update sections of the City Charter. This committee should explore potential opportunities to update the City Charter with the intent to have a more transparent, efficient and accountable government.

Elections and Ballot Measures:

With an early primary election scheduled for March 2020, I am committed to work closely with the City Clerk's office to make any necessary changes to the submission of ballot measures timeframe to ensure there is enough review time for ballot measures for the upcoming primary election. Additionally, I am committed to reviewing ballot measure proposals that align with the priorities presented in the proposed 2019 Council Work Plan. These priorities include: affordable and middle-income housing, housing our unsheltered population, transportation, public safety, infrastructure, economic development and our environment.

Boards and Commissions:

In June 2017, the Office of the City Auditor released an audit report titled, "Performance Audit of the City's Management of its Advisory Boards." The audit report examined the City's ability to effectively and efficiently fill Advisory Board positions, provide adequate resources and evaluated the process to create and review Advisory Boards. Based on the findings of the report, the City Auditor's office made several recommendations to help fill advisory board vacancies in a timely matter and improving the overall efficiency of these boards. I look forward to working with the Mayor's office and the City Auditor's office to make any needed changes to our policies to assist with the implementation efforts.

Customer Service and Public Outreach:

I strongly believe that as a government agency, we should always be striving to have the best customer service to effectively serve and be as transparent and open with our constituency. To accomplish these goals, I am proposing the following:

- **Update on 311 and Get It Done App:**

I would like for this committee to receive updates from the Performance and Analytics Department on the progress of the 311 system as well as the performance and potential expansion opportunities for the Get It Done app. Additionally, I am interested in hearing reports from other City Departments on their customer service standards and explore potential ways in which they might be improved to provide a higher standard of customer service.

- **Public Outreach Standards:**

To ensure a more transparent and efficient government, this Committee should explore the

possibility of City Departments that deal with construction projects having a standard communication process to notify residents of projects in their neighborhood. The committee should explore what is the adequate level of outreach and information that should be provided to residents that will be impacted by City projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my priorities for the upcoming year. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (619) 236-6699.



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 29, 2019
TO: Council President Georgette Gomez, Chair, Rules Committee
FROM: Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry *Barbara Bry*
SUBJECT: Rules Committee Priorities for 2019

I would appreciate the Rules Committee addressing the following issues in 2019.

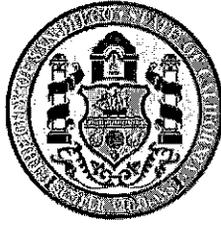
Charter Section 66, Board of Education.

The San Diego Unified School District's 2018 town hall process evidenced support for discussion of the composition of sub-districts and how trustees are elected to represent them. I am asking the School Board what recommendations the District has regarding the future number of sub-districts, how trustees will be elected, etc. I request that the Rules Committee consider suggested changes to Charter Section 66 in preparation for the March 2020 Primary Election.

Charter Section 43.d, Community Review Board on Police Practices.

Anticipating that the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee will consider suggestions regarding the Community Review Board on Police Practices, I request that the Rules Committee to hear updates on that discussion, so it will be prepared to consider any recommendations in a timely manner.

BB/srh



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 24, 2019
TO: Council President Georgette Gómez, Chair, Rules Committee
FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Third Council District 
SUBJECT: Rules Committee Priorities for 2019

In response to your request for priorities for the Rules Committee, I offer the following suggestions as we develop our work plan:

Elections and Ballot Measures: In 2017, the City Council approved amendments to Council Policy 000-21: *Submission of Ballot Proposals* to provide sufficient time for consideration of proposals. The committee must prioritize and have adequate time to fully engage in the process and actively participate in the vetting of potential ballot measures for the upcoming 2020 elections. Additionally, the committee, in partnership with the Offices of the City Attorney, Clerk and Independent Budget Analyst should work to standardize the process and formats by which ballot measures are submitted to Council for review. This will ensure that adequate information is provided and will also enable the Council/Council Committee to provide policy direction and request legal analysis as necessary.

- The committee should begin the process to develop a potential Council-initiated ballot measure for a general increase to the Transit Occupancy Tax to address pressing needs for the city. While there is currently a citizens' proposal which also proposes an increase to the TOT, the Council necessarily had no role or input in developing that measure. Further, the future of the land it proposes to use for its project is unclear, and the will of voters when it eventually appears on the ballot is uncertain. An open and transparent conversation about a Council-initiated general TOT increase can help facilitate a proposal that is shaped with the input of the public and directly reflects the priorities of San Diegans.
- The committee should begin the process to develop a potential Council-initiated ballot measure to approve the issuance of municipal bonds to finance the construction of permanent supportive housing and affordable housing units for veterans, seniors, persons with disabilities, and lower income families with children to reduce homelessness.

Gun Violence Prevention

- The committee should develop a safe storage ordinance similar to those in Los Angeles and other California cities which require handguns be locked up or disabled with a trigger lock at home, and establish violation of storage requirements to be a misdemeanor.
- A Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) allows family members, household members, and law enforcement to work with courts to temporarily remove guns and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a significant risk of harm to themselves or others. The GVRO Program spearheaded by City Attorney Mara Elliott has been successful in obtaining more than 80 restraining orders in Calendar Year 2018. However, all GVROs expire after 12 months. The Committee should explore options that allow the City to petition the Superior Court of San Diego for GVRO renewals, and advance the use of GVROs in the region and in the state.

Customer Service, Open Government, and Public Outreach

- The committee should receive updates from the Performance and Analytics Department regarding progress towards the development of a 311 system as well as the performance, status and expansion opportunities of other customer service applications such as the Get It Done Program.
- The committee should explore opportunities to increase the functionality of the City Council's constituent services database Intranet Quorum (IQ), or a competitor product. Opportunities exist to improve communication and timely resolutions to casework, increase public access, automate service status updates, and more.
- In an effort to provide a more efficient and transparent government, the committee should explore opportunities to make information about City operations and projects more readily available, up-to-date, and useful to members of the public. Specifically, resident notification for city projects affecting neighborhoods and businesses should be uniform across all departments including a city point-of-contact, project scope, duration, etc.

Boards and Commissions

- The committee should continue the work initiated in previous years to:
 - Improve the appointment process, including standardizing staff support and training for boards and commissions;
 - Explore requesting annual work plans and regular reporting requirements, for example quarterly or semiannual reports;
 - Review all the City boards and commissions, including those that are inactive, to ensure they continue to perform their intended functions and service to the City;
 - Assess each board and commission based on its function and benefit to either policy making or City operations;
 - Look into whether some boards and commissions could be consolidated or reorganized to be more effective, including consideration of their size;
 - Explore ways to standardize staff support;
 - Consider training for board and commission members.

Page 3
Rules Committee Priorities for 2019
January 24, 2019

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. If you have any questions please contact my office at (619) 236-6633.

cc:

Lara Gates, Deputy Chief of Staff, Council President Georgette Gómez



**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 2019
TO: Council President Gomez, Chair, Committee on Rules
FROM: Councilmember Chris Cate 
SUBJECT: 2019 Rules Committee Priorities

I appreciate the opportunity to share my goals and priorities for 2019. I look forward to working collaboratively to move toward a more efficient, effective, and transparent City to provide the best quality of life possible for our residents.

Ballot Measure to Maximize the San Diego Sports Arena

Housing continues to be the number one issue in San Diego. Since population growth has outpaced housing development by more than double, the City of San Diego now needs 150,000-200,000 new units by 2028 to meet local demand. The City must explore innovative solutions should we hope to address this crisis. For over 50 years, the Sports Arena has been part of San Diego's cultural fabric. In September 2018, the City Council voted unanimously to paint an updated vision for this property that includes housing, retail, office, and entertainment. Nevertheless, any development plans for this City-owned parcel are permanently constrained by the voter-approved 30-foot height limit. The Rules Committee should begin drafting ballot language to remove the height limit for this site to maximize the vision of the current community plan and ensure the addition of critical housing stock.

Proposed Amendments to City Charter Article VI, Section 66

March 21, 2017, the City Council was presented with an item to amend City Charter Article VI, Section 66 concerning the Board of Education. These amendments would have instituted term limits and district-specific elections for San Diego Unified School Board members, bringing much-needed accountability and voter efficacy to this government body. Nevertheless, the City Council decided explicitly not to include district-specific elections within Measure H in the November 2018 general election. In order to enact true election reform and ensure compliance with the California Voter Rights Act, the Rules Committee should reconsider the question of district-specific elections in both primary and general elections for the San Diego Unified School Board of Education.

Short-Term Vacation Rental Ballot Measure

Over the past four years, the topic of Short-Term Vacation Rentals (STVR) and Home-Sharing has received over 40 hours of public comment from various committee hearings, community group forums, and full City Council meetings. Despite this effort, the City Council has failed to bring clarity, consistency, and certainty to the Short-Term Vacation Rental industry. Though an ordinance was passed in July 2018, it was subsequently rescinded by the Council in October due to a referendum. Over the course of this debate, the

Council has agreed on multiple occasions that the STVR industry should be regulated with a strong enforcement framework and not be banned. Due to the City's inability to act on this topic, the Council should consider a ballot measure to define, regulate, and tax the Short-Term Vacation Rental industry in the City of San Diego.

Consider Additional Local Election Reforms to Increase Voter Participation

As a result of San Diego voters approving Measures K and L in 2016, the City of San Diego has drastically changed its local election process with regard to ballot measures and candidate elections. These reforms were advocated by a constituency that hoped to decrease the influence of money in local political races and increase voter participation through the elimination of an outright winner in municipal primary elections. However, these ballot measures will maintain a June primary election, thus ensuring a longer campaign season that will require continual financial support and solicitation. Furthermore, June primary voters will have the ability to decide the top two vote-getters, continuing the influence over November-only voters who are forced to decide between one of the two pre-determined candidates. This Committee should consider subsequent ballot measures that will address these outstanding issues through: eliminating an unnecessary June primary and instituting Ranked Choice in November general elections. Ranked Choice provides voters the opportunity to rank candidates in order of preference until one secures a majority after the conclusion of multiple voting rounds. This voting model would give San Diegans the ability to choose from a wider selection of candidates in a single general election, thus increasing voter participation and eliminating an unnecessary primary.

Establish a Minimum Standard for Public Outreach and Notification of City Projects

Increasing communication with the public about City construction projects taking place in their communities that have the potential to affect their daily lives is critical to maintaining good relations with the public and ensuring a great quality of life for San Diegans. Currently, each City department has their own standards and methods in which they provide information to the public about upcoming projects. This committee should work with City departments that schedule, execute, and manage construction projects, as well as the Communications Department, to establish uniform communication collateral materials, and a minimum standard of required outreach and communication efforts to the public about projects affecting their neighborhoods.

Explore Existing Standards of Customer Service Within City Departments

The City of San Diego has a duty to provide its residents with a high level of customer service and information availability. It would be prudent for this committee to request information and reports from City staff in departments that actively interact with customers to determine what standards for customer service are currently in place, and how well those standards are being met. Additionally, it would be helpful to receive a report from the Performance and Analytics Department regarding any data collected on customer service to aid this discussion and the effort to provide the highest possible level of customer service to San Diego residents.

CC:jeh