

COUNCILMEMBERS PROPOSE TERM LIMITS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS *Four person memorandum issued by Councilmembers Cate, Kersey, Zapf, and Sherman*

San Diego, CA: Earlier this week, Council President Pro-Tem Mark Kersey (District 5), and Councilmembers Lorie Zapf (District 2), Chris Cate (District 6), and Scott Sherman (District 7), issued a four person memorandum which imposes term limits and district specific elections for Board members of the San Diego Unified School District.

Per the City Charter (Article VI, Section 66), San Diego Unified School Board members shall serve for a term of four years and may continue to serve as long as reelection is secured. Additionally, Charter Section 66 states that two school Board member candidates will be chosen during a primary election from one of five districts. Those candidates shall subsequently be elected in a general election by registered voters from the San Diego Unified School District. These election rules are in direct conflict with City, County, and State election processes, all of which place limitations on terms and require district-specific general elections.

In an effort to establish consistency in both the City's Charter and the City's own municipal election rules, Councilmembers Cate, Kersey, Zapf, and Sherman are proposing the following amendments:

- Amend Article VI, Section 66 to include that no person shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms as a San Diego Unified School District Board member from any particular district.
- Amend Article VI, Section 66 to include that in the general election held for the purpose of electing San Diego Unified School District Board members, the electors of each Board District shall select from among the candidates chosen at the primary election in that district, one candidate for the office of San Diego Unified School District Board.

"This proposed ballot measure would simply continue the efforts of the past City Council to bring consistency between the San Diego Unified School District and City, County, and State election rules we use to elect Councilmembers, Supervisors, and State Legislators. Term limits are used throughout local government to ensure leaders are held accountable and adding a district specific general election will avoid confusion to voters who are accustomed to the rule for other local elections," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

Per Section 2.9.2. of the Rules of Council and docket projections, this item will be heard at the March 21, 2017 regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council, to be considered for the 2018 ballot. The Councilmembers are further requesting the City Attorney review the aforementioned provisions and the attached proposed Charter amendments for accuracy and consistency.

View the memorandum here:

https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/170228_proposed_amendments_to_city_charter_article_vi_section_66.pdf