

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY SANTA ANA CITY ATTORNEY
MEASURE __

On August 2, 2022, Measure __ was placed on the ballot by the Santa Ana City Council. The Measure proposes to amend several sections of the Santa Ana City Charter.

The primary amendments of the Measure concern new term limits for the offices of Mayor and City Councilmember, and the number of affirmative votes by Councilmembers needed to approve the City's annual budget. Under new Charter Section 401.01, during their lifetimes, individuals would be limited to serving no more than three (3) terms of four (4) years each in the office of Councilmember, and four (4) terms of two (2) years each in the office of Mayor, whether service in either office is consecutive or nonconsecutive. These total limits of twelve (12) years for Councilmembers and eight (8) years for Mayor would apply to anyone elected in or after the 2012 general municipal election. No person who has reached these limits could be appointed or elected to such offices or otherwise be eligible to serve in them.

Currently, under Charter Section 607, the affirmative votes of at least a majority of the members of the City Council are needed to adopt the City's annual budget. Under the proposed amendment to Section 607, the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of the members would be needed to adopt the City's annual budget. This change would be consistent with the Charter's general requirement of a two-thirds vote by the City Council to transfer or appropriate city funds.

The remaining proposed Charter amendments would: expand the application of the City's Code of Ethics to senior City officials, limit modifications to ordinances after their first introduction to typographical errors, streamline the process by which claims against the City are handled, introduce gender neutral language throughout the Charter, switch reference to the "Clerk of the Council" to "City Clerk" throughout the Charter, and make other administrative and minor changes to conform with applicable law and modern conventions.

Measure __ requires simple majority approval of Santa Ana voters to pass. If Measure __ does not pass, the Charter provisions impacted by Measure __ will remain unchanged.

A "YES" vote on the Measure is a vote in favor of the Charter amendments described above.

A "NO" vote on the Measure is a vote against the Charter amendments described above.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure _____. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the City Clerk at (714) 647-6250 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Santa Ana City Attorney