



Interoffice Memo

DATE: August 17, 2020

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TO: **MELISSA EICKMAN**
Public Information Manager
Elections Office of the Registrar of Voter

SUBJECT	COUNTY COUNSEL IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS- MEASURE FOR THE ADOPTION OF REVISED CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
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This Measure would adopt a revised San Bernardino County Charter. The revised Charter would be more streamlined, delete obsolete and redundant provisions, modernize the Charter, and require the Board of Supervisors convene a Charter Review Committee every 10 years.

The revised Charter requires that the County maintain a discretionary stockpile of supplies and equipment for a disaster or emergency and that orders issued by the County Public Health Officer to the public at large be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

It will change Supervisor term limits from three consecutive terms to three total terms.

The revised Charter will change the process for the filling of vacancies. Currently, the Board can appoint someone to fill a vacant Supervisor position or other countywide elected office until an election can occur at the next general election. If the Board takes no action within 30 days, the Governor makes the appointment. The revised Charter would allow the Board to make an appointment or call a special election within 60 days of the vacancy. If no action is taken by the Board, a special election is automatically held for the remainder of the term. The revised Charter will allow for mail-only ballot elections to fill these vacancies.

The current Charter sets Supervisor compensation (salary and benefits) at the average of total compensation for Supervisors in Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties. The revised Charter will set the base salary at a level equal to 80% of the salary of a Superior Court Judge and provide that Supervisors receive the same benefits given to County exempt employees (department heads). The revised Charter will provide that any future increases in salary or benefits will only go into effect if approved by the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing. This provision would apply to Supervisors elected after the new Charter is approved.

The revised Charter will change the term starting date for Supervisors from the first Monday of December after the election to the first Monday after the first day of January after the election and provide for the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and Clerk of the Board.

The revised Charter will also provide for the establishment of the following by ordinance: appointment of Chair and Vice Chair; removal of Chair; a redistricting commission that is advisory or independent; the regulation of campaign finance and enforcement procedures; lobbyist transparency; establishment of Boards and Commissions; training of elected officers

and employees; a procedure for review of the County Code on a periodic basis; establishment of a personnel system; and the ability to establish rules of order for meetings.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by a vote of the Board of Supervisors.

A yes vote by a majority of the voters on this Measure will replace the existing Charter with the revised Charter.

A no vote will keep the Charter as it is currently written.

Voters may call the Registrar of Voters' office at (909)387-8300 and request that a copy of the proposed revision to the charter be mailed to them at no cost.

MICHELLE D. BLAKEMORE
County Counsel



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