

**Ballot Simplification Committee  
DRAFT for Consideration  
Tuesday, July 29, 2008**

**City Elections in Even-Numbered Years**

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The Charter provides for the election of some City officers in odd-numbered years and other City officers in even-numbered years. The City holds general elections for Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer in odd-numbered years. Persons elected to these offices serve four-year terms. The City last held an election for Mayor, Sheriff and District Attorney in 2007. The next election for these three offices will be in 2011. The City last held an election for City Attorney and Treasurer in 2005. The next election for these two offices will be in 2009.

The City holds general elections for Assessor-Recorder, Public Defender, Board of Supervisors members, School Board members, and Community College Board members in even-numbered years. Election of offices to the State or

Federal Government also occur in even-numbered years under State and Federal law.

The Charter requires the City to hold special elections under certain circumstances. For instance, special elections may be required by an initiative, referendum, or recall petition, called for by the Board of Supervisors, or otherwise required by the State.

The Charter establishes term limits for the Mayor and Board of Supervisors members and "rounds up" any partial term of two or more years to count as a full term.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_\_ is a Charter Amendment that would eliminate general City elections in odd-numbered years by shifting elections for Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer to even-numbered years, after the November 2011 election.

To transition to this new system, Proposition \_\_\_\_ would allow the persons elected to the offices of City Attorney and Treasurer in 2009 to serve a five-year term.

The City would next hold an election for these offices in 2014. After 2014, the City would hold elections for these offices every four years.

The persons elected to the offices of Mayor, Sheriff or District Attorney in 2011 would serve a five-year term. The City would next hold an election for these offices in 2016. After 2016, the City would hold elections for these offices every four years.

After 2011, the City would only hold regularly scheduled elections in even-numbered years. Special elections could still be held in odd-numbered years.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ also would clarify current law on "rounding up" term limits for Board of Supervisors members. The proposition states that a term of more than

two years will count as a full term for term limit purposes, regardless of whether the supervisor were appointed, elected or both to the partial term.

**A “YES” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want to change the Charter to eliminate elections for City offices in odd-numbered years.

**A “NO” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote “no,” you do not want to make this change to the Charter.

word count: 446 [suggested word limit: 300]