

**Ballot Simplification Committee**  
**FINAL Approved Digest–July 29, 2008**  
**Approved by: Packard, Fraps, Jorgensen**

**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 others in even-numbered years. The City elects the 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 elects the 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. Special elections may be called by the Board of Supervisors, required by an initiative, referendum or recall petition, or required by the State.

The Charter establishes limits of two successive 4-year terms for the Mayor and members of the Board of Supervisors. Any partial term of two or more years counts as a full term.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_ is a Charter Amendment that would shift all City elections except special elections to even-numbered years after the November 2011 election. The result of this would mean shifting elections for Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer to even-numbered years.

Proposition \_\_\_ would allow the persons elected to the offices of City Attorney and Treasurer in 2009 to serve five-year terms. 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 and District Attorney in 2011 would serve five-year terms. 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.

**A “YES” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want to change the Charter to shift all City elections except special elections to even-numbered years after the November 2011 election.

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

word count: 371 [suggested word limit: 300]

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