

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE 1

This proposed Charter amendment, if adopted, would amend the Charter related to City elections. Huntington Beach is a Charter City which is authorized by the State Constitution to determine how it conducts City elections. The Charter currently provides that all elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the California Elections Code, so far as they do not conflict with the Charter.

This ballot measure proposes to amend Section 702 of the Charter to provide that in the event of a conflict between the Elections Code and the Charter, the provisions of the Charter shall control and prevail. This ballot measure also proposes to add new Section 705 to the Charter, which would: reaffirm the Charter's authority over the term of the City's elective officers, their length of term and their election cycle; and beginning in 2026, define the qualifications of an Elector in a City election as a United States citizen at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the City on or before the day of an election.

This ballot measure would also authorize, but not require, the City to: verify the eligibility of Electors by voter identification; provide at least 20 ADA compliant voting locations for in-person voting dispersed throughout the City, in addition to any City facility voting locations; and monitor ballot drop boxes located within the City for compliance with all applicable laws.

The adoption of this Measure may result in additional, currently undetermined costs to the City, because the City does not currently perform the described election activities; if the Measure is adopted, and the City chooses to implement the described election activities, it will increase the City's election related costs in an amount that cannot be precisely determined at this time.

A "yes" vote on this measure would add new Section 705 to the Charter, and add the conflict resolution language to current Section 702. A "no" vote on this measure would not add new Section 705, and leave Section 702 in place as it currently exists.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council.

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