

ATTACHMENT D

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT BALLOT MATERIAL

CHANGING CITY COUNCIL AND LAUSD ELECTION DATES TO COINCIDE WITH STATEWIDE DATES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

TITLE:

NEW CITY ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES; ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020.

THE ISSUE:

Shall the City Charter be amended to: 1) change the City's primary and general election dates to June and November of even-numbered years beginning in 2020 so that City elections are held on the same dates as Federal and State elections; 2) provide that, in 2015 and 2017 only, candidates be elected for a term of 5½ years to transition to the new election dates; 3) adjust vacancy election schedules and allow temporary appointments to fill vacant offices until an election is held; 4) enable initiative and referendum elections to be scheduled at either the next City or next State election; and 5) allow initiative proponents to withdraw their measure prior to scheduling an election?

THE SITUATION:

Currently, City and State elections are held in different years. The City Charter requires City elections to be held in March and May of odd numbered years. State elections are held in June and November of even numbered years.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would change the City's election dates to the same dates as State elections beginning in 2020. To shift to the new election dates, candidates elected in 2015 and 2017 would serve a term of 5½ years. The measure would make other related changes to election calendars, as described above.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to change the City's election dates to the same dates as State elections beginning in 2020; approve a one-time change to candidate terms to align with these new dates; and approve other related election calendar changes.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to change the City's election dates to the same dates as State elections beginning in 2020; approve a one-time change to candidate terms to align with these new dates; and approve other related election calendar changes.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 22



CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

TITLE:

NEW ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES FOR THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD); ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020.

THE ISSUE:

Shall the City Charter be amended to: 1) change the LAUSD Board of Education's primary and general election dates to June and November of even numbered years beginning in 2020 so that LAUSD elections are held on the same dates as Federal and State elections; 2) provide that, in 2015 and 2017 only, candidates be elected for a term of 5 1/2 years to transition to the new election dates; and 3) adjust vacancy election schedules and allow temporary appointments to fill vacant offices until an election is held?

THE SITUATION:

Currently, LAUSD and State elections are held in different years. The City Charter controls LAUSD candidate elections and requires these elections to be held in March and May of odd numbered years. State elections are held in June and November of even numbered years.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would change the LAUSD's election dates to the same dates as State elections beginning in 2020. To shift to the new election dates, candidates elected in 2015 and 2017 would serve a term of 5 1/2 years. The measure would make other related changes to election calendars, as described above.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to change the LAUSD's election dates to the same dates as State elections beginning in 2020; approve a one-time change to candidate terms to align with these new dates; and approve other related election calendar changes.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to change the LAUSD's election dates to the same dates as State elections beginning in 2020; approve a one-time change to candidate terms to align with these new dates; and approve other related election calendar changes.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 42



1 NEW CITY ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES; ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020. CHARTER AMENDMENT 1.

Shall the City Charter be amended to: 1) change the City's primary and general election dates to June and November of even-numbered years beginning in 2020 so that City elections are held on the same dates as Federal and State elections; 2) provide that, in 2015 and 2017 only, candidates be elected for a term of 5½ years to transition to the new election dates; 3) adjust vacancy election schedules and allow temporary appointments to fill vacant offices until an election is held; 4) enable initiative and referendum elections to be scheduled at either the next City or next State election; and 5) allow initiative proponents to withdraw their measure prior to scheduling an election?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) establishes election dates for City elections. The measure would amend the Charter relative to election dates for primary nominating and general municipal elections, by making permanent, and one-time adjustments, to election schedules, terms of office, and other related changes to align City election laws with the new election dates.

The proposed measure would make the following changes:

- New City Election Dates - the measure would change the primary nominating election to the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years. The general municipal election would be held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. These election days are the same as State elections. Currently, the primary nominating election is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in March, and the general municipal election is held on the third Tuesday in May, of odd-numbered years. Additionally, the start date of office for Elected Officials would change from the first day of July in odd-numbered years, to the second Monday of December in even-numbered years, to conform to the new election dates.
- Effective Date - this measure would take effect in the year 2020 for even-numbered Council Districts, and in the year 2022 for Citywide offices and odd-numbered Council Districts.
- Transition to New Election Dates - in order to align the new start date of office, the measure provides that City Officials elected in 2015 and 2017 would run for a 5 ½ year term. This transition would be a one-time adjustment. All City offices would resume 4 year terms effective 2020 and 2022.
- Vacancy Elections - the measure would provide the City Council with the option of calling a special election to fill a vacancy and to make a temporary appointment to fill the vacant office. Additionally, it would adjust the date until which an appointee would serve, to reflect the new election dates.
- Initiative Elections - the measure provides that the City Council may submit an initiative to the voters at the next regular City election, the next State election, or at a separate election. Also, the measure would allow initiative proponents to



PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

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California Common Cause

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PATRICIA BERMAN
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GEORGE THOMAS
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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

A government of the people and for the people requires participation BY the people. Elections are the great equalizer, allowing everyone's voice to be heard with the same weight without regard to race, age or gender.

Elections are sacred and allow our democracy to function.

Elections are also expensive—costing taxpayers millions of dollars. When we hold elections with very low voter turnout, we are wasting money and placing power directly into the hands of special interests—not the voters.

It's time for change.

It's time to simplify our election process and stop wasting taxpayer dollars.

A YES vote on Charter Amendment 1 will do this.

For as long as anyone can remember, Los Angeles holds elections for local offices like Mayor and City Councilmembers just a few months AFTER we vote for higher profile offices like President and U.S. Senator. Here's the result: In the November 2012 election, turnout was 71%. A few months later, turnout in the 2013 election for Mayor of Los Angeles was only 21%! That means barely one in five voters are making critical, quality of life decisions for the vast majority of Angelenos.

That's simply not democracy at its best!

Charter Amendment 1 will consolidate city elections with federal and state elections, vastly improve voter participation and potentially save millions of dollars that could be better spent on schools, parks, libraries, and fixing our roads to reduce traffic.

"... If switching to on-cycle elections means more people will be involved in choosing their local representatives, then Los Angeles shouldn't hesitate to do it."

– Los Angeles Times (9/18/14)

Join the Los Angeles 2020 Commission, the Elections Reform Commission, Common Cause, neighborhood councils, academics, business groups, and your neighbors in supporting Charter Amendment 1. Vote YES for higher voter turnout. Vote YES for better democracy. Vote YES to save millions in taxpayer dollars.

Vote YES on Charter Amendment 1.

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withdraw their measure before an election on the initiative is scheduled, consistent with State law.

- Referendum Elections - the measure would allow the City Council to schedule an election on a referendum petition at the next regular City election, the next State election, or at a separate election.
- Recall Elections - the measure would require that a recall election be held between 88-125 days of Council action on a certified recall petition, consistent with State law.
- Redistricting Schedule - the measure would require that the redistricting process be completed six months earlier to be effective for the 2022 elections.
- Canvass Period - the measure would allow the City Clerk 28 days to canvass election returns, which would more closely align the Charter with State law.

The Charter requires that City and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) elections be administered together. The accompanying ballot measure, Charter Amendment 2, would make similar changes to the Charter in order to comply with the City's obligations of administering LAUSD elections. Therefore, both measures contain a contingency clause which would make the effectiveness of each measure dependent upon the passage of the other.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MIGUEL A. SANTANA, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

This measure will change municipal and LAUSD election dates so that they occur at the same time as federal and state elections, beginning in 2020. The measure will allow for the consolidation of the federal, state, city, and LAUSD elections. Consolidating elections may be dependent upon the successful implementation of LA County's Voting System Assessment Project. The total fiscal impact of this measure is unknown. The County's fees to conduct consolidated elections may depend upon the number of jurisdictions which elect to have the County conduct their elections on the same date. This measure provides for changes related to vacancies in elected offices, initiatives, and referendums, which may provide potential savings by decreasing the number of special elections required.



REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

The assertion "Charter Amendment 1 ... will save millions in taxpayer dollars" has no demonstrable basis in fact. Charter Amendment 1 does not eliminate the city's elections or reduce their frequency – elections will still be conducted every two years. Only now, taxpayers will be paying L.A. County to run them as a contractor, at an unknown cost.

L.A. Councilmembers pushing to change city election dates cleverly built an extended 5 ½ year office term into the ballot language, instead of allowing you, the voter, to decide the length of term.

"This ... seems like another attempt to treat the symptom instead of the disease, to puff up participation percentages without necessarily boosting civic engagement... it's discouraging to see (city officials) pretend the problem is in the election system, when they should look inward and encourage the public to do the same." - L.A. Daily News editorial (9/24/14)

Vote NO on Charter Amendment 1.

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, District 8
City of Los Angeles

HANS JOHNSON
President
East Area Progressive Democrats

J. MICHAEL CAREY
Retired City Clerk
City of Los Angeles

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ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

Don't let City Council bend the rules so some members can extend their terms.

Charter Amendment 1 gives a free extra 18 months in office to incumbent councilmembers who voted to place it on the ballot. It restricts the ability of city residents to have our election debates focused on neighborhood and local school concerns. It is bad for Los Angeles' political future and lacks accountability and fairness. Even the proposal's supporters acknowledge changing the election date does not solve the problem of declining voting. It only addresses a symptom.

Charter Amendment 1 shifts the city election schedule to even years - buried at the bottom of a crowded ballot after federal, state and county races and propositions. Competing in California's frantic general election environment, local contests would necessarily become exceedingly more expensive in the costlier context of a Presidential or gubernatorial election year. The result: candidates would be even more dependent on special interests to give them money. This would tilt the playing field toward favor-seekers, a corrupting influence over city governance, and expose our precious nonpartisan city elections to the skewed influence of partisan electioneering. Finally, this proposal gives away control of our elections to county government, at an unknown cost.

Real election reform should focus on earlier and expanded civics education, easier and more modernized voting procedures, scheduling elections on a weekend or encouraging a citywide voting holiday, and campaign reform.

Charter Amendment 1 is fake reform. A larger turnout at an even-year Presidential election (even-year gubernatorial elections are notoriously low turnout) does not necessarily translate to increased engagement of city voters with L.A.'s office elections, school elections and local propositions.

Charter Amendment 1 ignores genuine strategies to enable and engage informed voting. It gives officeholders an additional year and a half term without their needing to run. Vote NO on Charter Amendment 1.

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PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

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REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

It's common sense. higher voter participation will hold elected officials accountable to the public. Charter Amendment 1 would bring sunlight to our elections by tripling voter turnout, so that special interests can't operate in the shadows.

Even opponents of Charter Amendment 1 admit this. **In their own ballot argument, they say that Charter Amendment 1 would lead to "A larger turnout."**

We agree.

Opponents claim higher turnout elections would pose "an unknown cost."

That's because there is NO cost.

Every independent analysis says Charter Amendment 1 will *save* money because the city will no longer have to pay the costs for printing, mailing ballot pamphlets, hiring poll workers, and other election-related expenses.

Vote YES to put power back in the hands of the voters, not the special interests.

Vote YES to save taxpayer dollars needed to fund schools, libraries and parks—not more elections.

Vote YES on Charter Amendment 1.

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**PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST
CHARTER AMENDMENT 1**

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2 NEW ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES FOR THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD); ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020. CHARTER AMENDMENT 2.

Shall the City Charter be amended to: 1) change the LAUSD Board of Education's primary and general election dates to June and November of even-numbered years beginning in 2020 so that LAUSD elections are held on the same dates as Federal and State elections; 2) provide that, in 2015 and 2017 only, candidates be elected for a term of 5½ years to transition to the new election dates; and 3) adjust vacancy election schedules and allow temporary appointments to fill vacant offices until an election is held?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) establishes election dates for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) elections. The measure would amend the Charter relative to election dates for primary nominating and general municipal elections for the LAUSD Board of Education, by making permanent, and one-time adjustments, to election schedules, terms of office, and other related changes to align City election laws with the new election dates.

The proposed measure would make the following changes:

- New LAUSD Election Dates - the measure would change the primary nominating election to the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years. The general municipal election would be held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. These election days are the same as State elections. Currently, the primary nominating election is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in March, and the general municipal election is held on the third Tuesday in May, of odd-numbered years. Additionally, the start date of office for Board of Education Officials would change from the first day of July in odd-numbered years, to the second Monday of December in even-numbered years, to conform to the new election dates.
- Effective Date - this measure would take effect in the year 2020 for odd-numbered Board of Education districts, and in the year 2022 for even-numbered Board of Education districts.
- Transition to New Election Dates - in order to align the new start date of office, the measure provides that Board of Education Officials elected in 2015 and 2017 would run for a 5 ½ year term. This transition would be a one-time adjustment. All Board of Education offices would resume 4 year terms effective 2020 and 2022.
- Vacancy Elections - the measure would provide the Board of Education with the option of calling a special election to fill a vacancy and to make a temporary appointment to fill the vacant office. Additionally, it would adjust the date until which an appointee would serve, to reflect the new election dates.
- Recall Elections - the measure would require that a recall election be held between 88-125 days of Council action on a certified recall petition, consistent with State law.
- Redistricting Schedule - the measure would require that the redistricting process be completed six months earlier to be effective for the 2022 elections.



- Canvass Period - the measure would allow the City Clerk 28 days to canvass election returns, which would more closely align the Charter with State law.

The Charter requires that LAUSD and City elections be administered together. The accompanying ballot measure, Charter Amendment 1, would make similar changes to the Charter for City elections. Therefore, both measures contain a contingency clause which would make the effectiveness of each measure dependent upon the passage of the other.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MIGUEL A. SANTANA, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

This measure will change municipal and LAUSD election dates so that they occur at the same time as federal and state elections, beginning in 2020. The measure will allow for the consolidation of the federal, state, city, and LAUSD elections. Consolidating elections may be dependent upon the successful implementation of LA County's Voting System Assessment Project. The total fiscal impact of this measure is unknown. The County's fees to conduct consolidated elections may depend upon the number of jurisdictions which elect to have the County conduct their elections on the same date. This measure provides for changes related to vacancies in elected offices, which may provide potential savings by decreasing the number of special elections required.



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

A government of the people and for the people requires participation BY the people. Elections are the great equalizer, allowing everyone's voice to be heard with the same weight without regard to race, age or gender.

Elections are sacred and allow our democracy to function.

Elections are also expensive—costing taxpayers millions of dollars. When we hold elections with very low voter turnout, we are wasting money and placing power directly into the hands of special interests—not the voters.

It's time for change.

It's time to simplify our election process and stop wasting taxpayer dollars.

A YES vote on Charter Amendment 2 will do this.

For as long as anyone can remember, Los Angeles holds elections for local offices like LAUSD School Boardmembers just a few months AFTER we vote for higher profile offices like President and U.S. Senator. Here's the result: In the November 2012 election, turnout was 71%. A few months later, turnout in the 2013 election for three LAUSD Boardmembers was only 21%! That means barely one in five voters are making critical, quality of life decisions for the vast majority of Angelenos.

That's simply not democracy at its best!

Charter Amendment 2 will consolidate LAUSD elections with federal and state elections, vastly improve voter participation and potentially save LA millions of dollars that could be better spent on schools, parks, libraries, and fixing our roads to reduce traffic.

"... If switching to on-cycle elections means more people will be involved in choosing their local representatives, then Los Angeles shouldn't hesitate to do it."

– Los Angeles Times (9/18/14)

Join the Los Angeles 2020 Commission, the Elections Reform Commission, Common Cause, neighborhood councils, academics, business groups, and your neighbors in supporting Charter Amendment 2. Vote YES for higher voter turnout. Vote YES for better democracy. Vote YES to save millions in taxpayer dollars.

Vote YES on Charter Amendment 2.

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PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

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GEORGE THOMAS
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REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

The assertion "Charter Amendment 2 ... will save millions in taxpayer dollars" has no demonstrable basis in fact. Charter Amendment 2 does not eliminate school board elections or reduce their frequency – elections will still be conducted every two years. Only now, taxpayers will be paying L.A. County to run them as a contractor, at an unknown cost.

L.A. Councilmembers pushing to change school board election dates cleverly built an extended 5 ½ year office term into the ballot language, instead of allowing you, the voter, to decide the length of term.

"This ... seems like another attempt to treat the symptom instead of the disease, to puff up participation percentages without necessarily boosting civic engagement... it's discouraging to see (city officials) pretend the problem is in the election system, when they should look inward and encourage the public to do the same." - L.A. Daily News editorial (9/24/14)

Vote NO on Charter Amendment 2.

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

BERNARD C. PARKS
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NANCY PEARLMAN
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Los Angeles Community College District

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ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

Charter Amendment 2 shifts Los Angeles School Board elections to even years - buried at the bottom of a crowded ballot after federal, state, county and city races and propositions. Competing in California's frantic general election environment, local contests would necessarily become exceedingly more expensive and community-based candidates would have less competitive equality. The result: candidates would be even more dependent on special interests to give them money. Combining local elections with so many other offices would tilt the playing field toward favor-seekers, a corrupting influence over LAUSD governance, and expose our precious nonpartisan school board elections to the skewed influence of partisan electioneering.

Charter Amendment 2 gives incumbent school board members a free extra year and a half in office. It restricts the ability of parents to have election debates focused on local school concerns. It is bad for Los Angeles' educational future and lacks accountability and fairness. Even the proposal's supporters acknowledge changing the election date does not solve the problem of declining voting. It only addresses a symptom.

School board candidates are the most closely tied to community and neighborhood support. This measure would drive up the costs of their candidacies in the much more expensive context of a Presidential or gubernatorial election year, without providing candidates any matching funds. Special interests' strong grip on the machinery of electioneering in partisan federal, state and county campaigns dominates the even-year ballot and would become stronger.

Real election reform should focus on earlier and expanded civics education, easier and more modernized voting procedures, scheduling elections on a weekend, and campaign reform.

Charter Amendment 2 is fake reform. It flies in the face of the very effort to engage voters and increase trust in the democratic process that proponents suggest. Vote NO on Charter Amendment 2.

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PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

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City of Los Angeles

NANCY PEARLMAN
Trustee
Los Angeles Community College District



REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

It's common sense: higher voter participation will hold elected officials accountable to the public. Charter Amendment 2 would bring sunlight to our elections by tripling voter turnout, so that special interests can't operate in the shadows.

Even the chief opponents of Charter Amendment 2 have admitted that the reforms in **Charter Amendment 2 would lead to "A larger turnout."**

We agree.

Opponents claim higher turnout elections would pose "an unknown cost."

That's because there is NO cost.

Every independent analysis says Charter Amendment 2 will save money because the LAUSD will no longer have to pay the costs for printing, mailing ballot pamphlets, hiring poll workers, and other election-related expenses.

Vote YES to put power back in the hands of the voters, not the special interests.

Vote YES to save taxpayer dollars needed to fund schools, libraries and parks—not more elections.

Vote YES on Charter Amendment 2.

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