



# **Pasadena Charter Study Task Force**

# **FINAL REPORT**

*Approved on May 23, 2024*

**Executive Summary ..... i**

**Introduction ..... 1**

    Scope of Work..... 1

    City Charters..... 2

    Task Force Meetings and Objectives ..... 4

**City Council Vacancies ..... 5**

    Background ..... 5

    Task Force Deliberations on City Council Vacancies..... 5

    Recommended Charter Language on Council Vacancies ..... 7

**Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore ..... 9**

    Background ..... 9

    Task Force Deliberations on the Vice Mayor ..... 10

    Recommended Charter Language on the Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore ..... 10

**Term Limits for the Mayor and Council ..... 12**

    Background ..... 12

    Task Force Deliberations on Term Limits..... 12

    Recommended Charter Language on Term Limits ..... 14

**Timing of Mayoral Elections..... 15**

    Background ..... 15

    Task Force Deliberations on the Timing of Mayoral Elections ..... 15

    Task Force Recommendation on Timing of Mayoral Elections ..... 16

**Campaign Contribution Limits..... 17**

    Background ..... 17

    Task Force Deliberations on Campaign Contribution Limits ..... 17

    Task Force Decision on Campaign Contribution Limits ..... 19

**Council Compensation ..... 20**

    Background ..... 20

    Task Force Deliberations on Compensation ..... 21

Task Force Recommendations on Compensation ..... 21

**Recommendations of the Charter Study Task Force ..... 24**

    Filling a Council District Vacancy..... 24

    Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore..... 24

    Term Limits for the Mayor and Council ..... 25

    Timing of the Mayor’s Election..... 25

    Campaign Contribution Limits ..... 25

    Mayor/Council Compensation..... 26

**Redline Version of Recommended Charter Language ..... 27**

**Clean Copy of Recommended Charter Language ..... 33**

**Minutes of the Task Force Meetings ..... 39**

**Consultant and City Staff Reports to the Task Force ..... 40**

**Task Force Membership – Biographies/Applications ..... 41**

## Executive Summary

### THE PASADENA CITY CHARTER

The City Charter establishes the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of the City of Pasadena. The Charter is, in effect, the City's constitution, carrying the force and effect of law and defining the framework within which the City operates. It also establishes the relationship between the City's government and its residents. The Charter addresses such issues as elections, terms of office, and the City's governance structure. Establishing or amending the Charter requires a municipal election, and any changes to the Charter require a majority of votes cast by registered voters within the City. Pasadena's City Charter was originally adopted in 1901 and has been amended by the voters 55 times since its adoption, most recently on March 5, 2024.

### THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

In Fall 2023, the City Council convened a Charter Study Task Force comprised of City residents representing the seven Council districts and the Mayor, as well as At Large City representatives. The Council directed the Task Force to examine and make recommendations to the Council on the following topics:

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections (Charter Sections 403 and 404)
- Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (Charter Sections 401 and 407)
- Term Limits for the Mayor and City Council
- Campaign Contribution Limits
- Timing of Mayoral Election (Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- City Council Compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)

The City Council assigned the City Clerk, City Attorney, and City Manager to support the work of the Task Force and approved a contract with Baker Tilly, LLP's Public Sector Advisory Group to provide technical support and expertise in the areas of charter study. Baker Tilly was also hired to assist in the development of the Task Force's final report.

The Task Force held 10 public meetings between December 2023 and May 2024, thoroughly analyzing, deliberating, and considering input on all matters within its Council-directed scope. The Task Force made eight recommendations requiring amendments to the Charter and several recommendations that can be implemented without amending the Charter. The Task Force's recommendations are summarized below in order of priority as determined by the Task Force.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### Council Vacancy Appointments

The Task Force recommends the following changes to the vacancy appointment process for members of the City Council elected by District:

1. Council appointment within 75 days for Council District vacancies occurring with less than two years remaining on the unexpired term. Add a six-month residency requirement for any individual seeking appointment to a Council District vacancy, and add "death" as a cause of vacancy.
2. Special election for Council District vacancies occurring with more than two years remaining on the unexpired term, or if the Council fails to make an appointment within 75 days (in lieu of "chosen by lot").

### Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore

The Task Force recommends the following changes to the process for filling Mayoral vacancies and selecting a Vice Mayor:

3. Mayor Pro Tempore selected from amongst the Council to serve if a vacancy occurs in the Mayor's seat. Mayor Pro Tempore assumes the duties of Mayor until seat is filled at the next general municipal election.
4. Vice Mayor elected annually from amongst the Council at the organizational meeting in December, and serves a one-year term. Vice Mayor exercises the duties of the Mayor during the Mayor's absence.

### Term Limits

The Task Force recommends establishing term limits as follows:

5. Councilmember can serve no more than three consecutive terms as Councilmember. At least a four-year hiatus is required from the seat, and then the member may serve two additional terms. Total term limit is no more than five terms in Council District seats. Elected partial terms of two years or more count towards the term limit. Term limits are applicable to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2025.
6. Mayor can serve no more than three consecutive terms. At least a four-year hiatus is required from the Mayor's seat, and then the member may serve two additional terms as Mayor. Total term limit is no more than five terms in the Mayor's seat. Elected partial terms of two years or more count towards the term limit. Term limits are applicable to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The vote to recommend establishing Term Limits for Mayor and City Council was five members in favor, three members in opposition, and two members absent (see Page 12 of this report and the CSTF Minutes from the February 7 and March 14, 2024 meetings for additional detail).

### Timing of Mayoral Election

7. The Task Force recommends no changes to the timing of the Mayoral election.

### Campaign Contribution Limits

8. The Task Force recommends establishing campaign contribution limits by ordinance: \$1,000 per person/entity, per election for Council District races, and \$2,500 per person/entity, per election for Mayor races. Recommendation is contingent on City Attorney's Office establishing a framework for enforcement.<sup>2</sup>
9. The Task Force also recommends amending the Charter, if an ordinance is adopted, to restrict changes to the ordinance to occur no more frequently than once every two election cycles, after enactment or amendment.

### Council Compensation

10. The Task Force recommends the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee as soon as possible, and recommends amending the Charter to require that the Council Compensation Committee convene no less than once every five years.

### Additional Task Force Recommendations Not Requiring Charter Amendments

11. **Vacancy:** Council to establish by ordinance the details and process for Council District vacancy appointments, including a process for robust public outreach and engagement.
12. **Vice Mayor:** Vice Mayor selection process to consider seniority and the benefit of rotation of the role of Vice Mayor.
13. **Term Limits:** Council to adopt a formal onboarding process for new Councilmembers and implement a Council-driven public information process to encourage individuals to run for public office.
14. **Council Compensation:** Council Compensation Committee to discuss the issue of "family care" as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), consider CPI increases for certain Council office benefits, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency.

## CONCLUSION

The Task Force's Charter amendment recommendations are presented to the City Council for consideration for placement on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot, or at a subsequent election as determined by the Council. The additional recommendations not requiring Charter amendments are presented to the City Council for consideration for implementation at the appropriate time, and as determined by the Council.

---

<sup>2</sup> The vote to recommend establishing Campaign Contribution Limits for Mayor and City Council was seven members in favor, two members in opposition, and one member absent (see Page 17 of this report and the CSTF Minutes from the March 28, April 25, and May 9, 2024 meeting for additional detail).

## Introduction

### *Scope of Work*

Following a series of discussions held in September, October, and November 2023, the Mayor and City Council convened a Charter Study Task Force comprised of residents of the City representing the seven Council districts, Mayor, and two At Large City representatives. The Task Force examined and made recommendations on the following topics:

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections (Charter Sections 403 and 404)
- Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (Charter Sections 401 and 407)
- Term Limits for the Mayor and City Council
- Campaign Contribution Limits
- Timing of Mayoral Election (Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- City Council Compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)

The topics assigned to the Task Force focus on substantive governance issues related to the City Council. The Task Force's charge is to study and fully examine each topic, and provide recommendations on whether or not to amend the City Charter in each instance. In addition, recommendations by the Task Force are made in priority order. This will assist the City Council as it considers the more pressing ballot questions/issues to submit to voters as part of the upcoming November 5, 2024 General Municipal Election.

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the Task Force and includes one section for each subject. The Task Force is proposing amended Charter language on Council Vacancies, the Vice Mayor position, the creation of a Mayor Pro Tempore position, Term Limits, Council Compensation Committee, and Campaign Contribution Limits. In addition, the Task Force provides policy recommendations related to assigned topics that do not necessarily warrant Charter amendments. With regard to the Timing of the Mayoral Election, the Task Force discussed the matter fully but recommended no changes.

The report also includes an overview of ranked choice voting (RCV). Although RCV was not within the assigned scope of the Task Force, ranked choice voting is included because members of the Task Force and several members of the public who submitted written comments and/or testified in-person or virtually at Task Force meetings raised the subject.

The following exhibits are included in an Appendix to this report: (1) redline and clean versions of proposed Charter language; (2) Task Force meeting minutes; (3) Consultant and City staff reports, including written comments from members of the public; and (4) Task Force member applications.

## ***City Charters***

The California Constitution authorizes the adoption of a city charter and provides that the provisions contained in such a charter have the force and effect of state law. Specifically, the “home rule” provision affirmatively grants charter cities supremacy over “municipal affairs” while the state of California retains authority over statewide matters. A City Charter is often referred to as a city’s constitution. The primary advantage of a charter is that it affords greater authority, control, and flexibility over city governance issues than the provisions provided by state law for general law cities. Amongst other topics, a charter city can address elections, terms of office, compensation, and the municipality’s governance structure.

Today, Pasadena is one of 121 cities in California with its own Charter. The remaining 361 cities operate as general law cities under the general laws of California.

The Pasadena City Charter was originally adopted in 1901 and has been amended 55 times by Pasadena voters. Establishing or amending a city’s charter requires a municipal election, and any proposed amendment must be approved by a majority of votes cast by registered voters within the city. The most recent amendments to the Pasadena City Charter occurred on March 5, 2024, when Pasadena voters approved Charter Amendment Measures R, S, and T, which are technical in nature.



## Charter Study Task Force and Support Team

<b>Pasadena City Charter Study Task Force Members</b>	
Ken Chawkins, Chair	District 6
Marcus Hatcher, Vice Chair	District 3
Vince Farhat	Mayor
Lena Louise Kennedy	District 1
Margaret McAustin	District 2
Liberty McCoy	District 5
Paul Novak	District 4
Diana Carbajal Mejia	At Large
Raul Salinas	At Large
Andy Wilson	District 7

Note: The redacted application of each Task Force member is included in the Appendix.

### City Officials

The City Council assigned City Clerk Mark Jomsky to provide primary staff support to the Task Force, including preparation and posting of Task Force agendas and minutes, coordinating the meeting schedule and technical support, and creating and maintaining a dedicated Task Force webpage to ensure all information is posted online and publicly accessible. The City Clerk and City Clerk staff also performed research, authored reports, and presented historical and contextual information as part of the Task Force's deliberative process.

City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Bagneris and her staff attended all meetings to provide legal advice, prepare and present responses for information, and participated in Task Force discussions, as necessary. Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager, was also present at all Task Force meetings representing the City Manager's Office and assisted in the preparation of reports, as well as researched and drafted City Charter language to capture recommended changes agreed on by the Task Force.

### Baker Tilly LLP

The City of Pasadena engaged Baker Tilly LLP to advise the Task Force and support City staff. The team included Jay Trevino, Project Director, Shauna Clark, Special Advisor, and Al Zelinka, Director, all from Baker Tilly's Public Sector Advisory group. [Public Sector Advisory](#). Baker Tilly prepared the work plan and attended all Task Force meetings. They wrote statistical and analytical reports, assisted in the development of the final report, as well as providing administrative support to the Task Force.

## ***Task Force Meetings and Objectives***

The Task Force held an organizational meeting on December 9, 2023, at which time Ken Chawkins was elected Chair, and Marcus Hatcher was elected Vice Chair. City Clerk Jomsky presented the scope of work and proposed timeline. City Attorney Bagneris gave presentations on the Brown Act, as well as an overview of the powers of Charter cities. Baker Tilly presented a draft work plan as consultant support to the Task Force.

In addition to the January 20, 2024 meeting, the Task Force held two meetings per month thereafter; on February 7 and 22, March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25, and May 9 and 23 (meeting minutes and video recordings are posted online and available for public review). Each of these Task Force meetings focused on the assigned topics, with each topic undergoing at least two meeting rounds of framing of the issue, allowing for requests and responses for additional information and research, providing opportunities for public comment, and deliberation. The Charter Study Task Force considered the impetus behind assigned topics, studied the experiences of other cities, and sought out best practices in municipal governance.

The Task Force emphasized public participation, perspective, and discourse from all members of the community. Task Force members carefully reviewed and considered correspondence submitted through the City Clerk's Office and listened to in-person and virtual public comments made at Task Force meetings. While the majority of Task Force meetings took place in the Pasadena City Hall Council Chamber, the Task Force did conduct two meetings in the community. On April 11, 2024, the Task Force held a meeting at Robinson Park Recreation Center, and on May 9, 2024, the Task Force held a meeting at H&H Jivalagian Youth Center.

During deliberations, if members concluded that changing the Charter might not be the best approach to an assigned topic, the body discussed and considered alternative approaches, including through policy approvals by the City Council, such as codified ordinances in the Pasadena Municipal Code. Overall, the Task Force sought to recommend Charter changes that addressed particular problems in an impactful but reasonable manner.

## City Council Vacancies

### **Vacancy appointment process for members of the City Council and options for amending the Charter to call for a special election to fill a vacancy**

#### ***Background***

In June 2022, the Honorable John Kennedy was re-elected to his third term as the District 3 Councilmember. Sadly, he passed away in July 2022 before his second term ended. In September and December 2022, the City Council appointed Justin Jones to complete Councilmember Kennedy's second term and first two years of his third term. During and after the appointment process, community members and members of the City Council raised questions and concerns about the appointment process and the inability of District residents to vote on an elected representative to fill the unexpired term.

Currently, City Council vacancies are defined in Charter Section 403 and filled pursuant to Charter Section 404. These sections assign authority to the remaining members of the City Council to appoint a successor within 75 days of the vacancy occurring. If an appointment is not made within the required timeframe, the replacement is then chosen by lot. Whether selected by appointment or by lot, the person holds office for the remainder of the unexpired term until the next City general election.

#### ***Task Force Deliberations on City Council Vacancies***

Task Force members discussed Charter Sections 403 and 404 on January 20; February 7; and February 22, 2024. They also reviewed state codes and compared the charters and municipal codes of nine comparable cities. Although triggered by different timing or circumstances, every general law city and the nine comparison cities have a mechanism for appointing a qualified voter to a vacant Council seat. In general, special elections only occur if the Council fails to appoint.

On February 22, 2024, City Clerk Jomsky gave an in-depth presentation on the costs, timing, and methods for conducting special elections to fill vacancies on the City Council.

The Task Force considered and discussed:

- Advantages and disadvantages of filling vacancies by appointment
- Whether the 75-day appointment period was too long

- The need to include “death” as a cause of vacancy in Section 403 of the Charter
- The appropriate length of time for the Mayor and Council to fill a vacancy before an election is triggered
- Calling a special election in lieu of making an appointment
- Define the appointment process by ordinance, or other document, to clearly articulate to the community the steps to be followed by Council leading up to a vacancy appointment
- The need for public outreach during the appointment process
- Residency requirements for Council vacancy applicants
- The concept of ranked choice voting
- Appointment followed by election if the appointment is not made within the official period (currently 75 days)
- A process that allows the district or city residents to call an election by petition
- Concerns that filling appointments by special election would leave the district without representation for up to a year
- Appointing an interim or caretaker to serve the district until the outcome of a special election
- The Charter provision that requires the Council to draw lots in the event they deadlock on an appointment

The Task Force considered cost and timing issues associated with conducting special stand-alone elections to replace the current appointment process to fill vacancies on the City Council. Using the recent District 3 vacancy as a case-study on cost, City staff provided information on estimated costs for an on-cycle special election in comparison with a special stand-alone election:

- Estimated cost for District 3 consolidated election on March 5, 2024 (on-cycle) is \$58,929 (LA County Election Cost Estimator)
- Estimated cost for District 3 stand-alone election on March 4, 2025 (off-cycle) is \$892,000 (Estimate Letter prepared by Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters )

City staff also presented information on the estimated cost for conducting a citywide stand-alone election to fill a vacancy in the Mayor's seat, with conservative estimates exceeding \$5 million per election.

Lastly, the Task Force discussed timing issues in calling special stand-alone elections with less than two years remaining on an unexpired term. Staff presented possible timelines for a properly noticed special stand-alone election that might take as long as 120 to 180 days from the time a vacancy occurs. Consideration of these factors helped to inform the Task Force's

recommendations regarding the appropriateness of appointing replacements or choosing to call special elections when vacancies occur.

### ***Recommended Charter Language on Council Vacancies***

After considering and discussing Council Vacancies over three meetings, the Task Force recommended the following changes to the Charter:

#### **Recommendation 1**

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall, within 75 days after such occurrence, appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District; the appointee shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district where the vacancy occurred for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy. The City Council shall adopt an ordinance to codify the appointment process to fill vacancies for Council District seats, which includes public notice and public input.

#### **Recommendation 2**

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if there is less than two years remaining on the unexpired term and the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the vacancy occurring, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204. Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

Relevant motions from the February 22, 2024, meeting:

A motion to recommend amending the Charter to require the City Council to make an appointment to fill a vacancy in a Council District seat if two years or less remain on an unexpired term, and call an election if two years or more remain on an unexpired term, was supported by the Task Force, but not unanimously, with six members voting in favor, one member in opposition, and three members absent.

A motion to recommend amending the Charter to maintain the 75-day period for the City Council vacancy appointment process, eliminate the Charter provision that stipulates a vacancy will be filled by lot (should the Council fail to timely appoint a person to fill the vacancy), and to add "death" as a cause of vacancy, was unanimously supported by the Task Force, with seven members voting in favor, and three members absent.

A motion to recommend the calling of a special election if the Council fails to timely appoint a person to fill the vacancy, was supported by the Task Force, but not unanimously, with four members voting in favor, three members opposing, and three members absent.

A motion to recommend a residency requirement of six months for those individuals seeking to be appointed to the City Council to fill a vacant unexpired term be added to the Charter, was unanimously supported by the Task Force, with seven members voting in favor, and three members absent.

## Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore

### Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (Charter Sections 401 and 407)

#### ***Background***

City Charter Section 407 currently states, "At its organizational meeting, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence or disability." Prior to 2018, the Council's Organizational meeting occurred annually on the first Monday in May. At the time, it was the Council's practice that the Vice Mayor serve two one-year terms. Then, as part of a Charter Amendment in 2018 to align the timing of City elections with statewide election dates, the timing of the Council's Organizational meeting was changed to occur in December on the fifth Monday following the November statewide election date held in even years. With the Council's Organizational meeting now rescheduled to occur once every two years, and the Vice Mayor selection prescribed to occur at the Organizational meeting, the process to select the Vice Mayor changed from annually in May to every two years in December. Additionally, and unchanged from prior practice, it is the Council's tradition (though not required) to select the most senior member of the Council who had not yet previously served as Vice Mayor, to be the next Vice Mayor. A consequence of this tradition is that long-standing members of the Council may not serve more than once as Vice Mayor.

Both the issue of the two-year appointment of Vice Mayor (as a by-product of the City's switch to even-year election dates) and the practice of selecting a member who has not yet served as Vice Mayor was the impetus behind the City Council assigning the topic for Task Force review.

In other cities in California, a Mayor Pro Tempore or Vice Mayor position exists to preside over meetings when the Mayor is absent. When a vacancy occurs in the Mayor's position, in most cities, the Council selects the successor from among its members.

Currently, Pasadena City Charter Section 404 states, in part, that in case of a Mayoral vacancy, the Vice Mayor shall, "...assume the duties of the office of the Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next regular general election..." This aspect of the Vice Mayor's role and duties contained in the current Charter was discussed and considered by the Task Force as part of its assigned scope of work to provide a recommendation on how the

Council can deliberatively select a member of the Council to assume the duties of the Mayor during a vacancy.

### ***Task Force Deliberations on the Vice Mayor***

The Task Force considered and discussed:

- The process for choosing a Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore in other cities, including by rotation, which in the City of Glendale occurs monthly
- Selecting an interim Mayor from among the remaining members of the Council if a vacancy occurs
- The need for quick selection when filling a Mayoral vacancy
- The process for selecting the Vice Mayor that had previously occurred annually and now occurs once every two years
- Determining a basis for appointing the Vice Mayor, including pros and cons for selecting based on seniority or rotational order
- Choosing from among the remaining members of the City Council to assume the duties of the Mayor until the next election
- Creating a Mayor Pro Tempore position, to be selected from among the remaining members of the City Council, to assume the duties of Mayor in the event of a vacancy as an alternative to the Vice Mayor automatically assuming the Mayor's duties
- Requiring five affirmative votes to select the Mayor Pro Tempore position

### ***Recommended Charter Language on the Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore***

The Task Force voted to recommend by Charter Amendment the creation of a Mayor Pro Tempore position in the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Mayor, and changing the timing and length of term for the selection of a Vice Mayor to occur annually in December and for a term of one year:

#### **Recommendation 3**

##### **Section 407 – The Mayor Pro Tempore**

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the remaining Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tempore who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general election. The assumption of the duties of the Mayor Pro Tempore shall not require that the Mayor Pro Tempore relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district.



A motion to recommend amending the Charter to create a Mayor Pro Tempore position, to be selected by the City Council from the remaining members, and to assume the duties of the Mayor in the event of a vacancy until filled at the next general municipal election, was unanimously supported by the Task Force, with none absent.

**Recommendation 4**

Section 408. – The Vice Mayor

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall serve for one year and exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence.

A motion to recommend amending the Charter to change the timing of the Vice Mayor selection to occur annually in December, with the Vice Mayor to serve for a term of one year, was supported unanimously by the Task Force, with none absent.

The Task Force also unanimously recommended that when selecting the Vice Mayor, the Council consider seniority and allow for rotational participation, though neither factor need be a requirement.

## Term Limits for the Mayor and Council

### Term Limits for the Mayor and Council

#### ***Background***

Charter Section 401 establishes four-year terms for the Mayor and the Council. There are no limits in the Charter to the number of terms an individual may serve as Mayor or Councilmember. As of 2018, 123 of California's 482 cities (26%) and nine of the state's fifty-eight counties (16%) had term limits for elected governing officials. Charter cities accounted for fifty-five of the 123 cities (45%) with adopted term limits. There was a rapid uptick in the number of cities with term limits between 2018 and 2022 when voters in another 27 cities enacted them. Today, approximately 148 of California's 482 cities (31%) have term limits, and the remaining 334 cities (69%) do not have term limits.

#### ***Task Force Deliberations on Term Limits***

The Task Force discussed term limits on February 7 and March 14, 2024. On February 7, 2024, Baker Tilly reported on the nine comparison cities and found that Glendale, Long Beach, and Santa Monica have term limits set at three terms. Anaheim, Santa Barbara, and Torrance limit their elected officials to two terms. Both Anaheim and Torrance allow Councilmembers who have exhausted all terms to take a hiatus of two years and four years (respectively), and then run again.

During their deliberations, Task Force members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of term limits including the tradeoff between more opportunity for new voices and perspectives and the election of new members resulting in a loss of experienced and well-liked elected officials. Members also considered and discussed:

- The framework for term limits, including the number of terms, the number of years, or a combination of both
- Positives and negatives of barring an elected official from running for re-election once terms have been exhausted (i.e., lifetime bans), or permitting a hiatus (of a specified time) away from the elected office to reset the term-limit clock
- Whether term limits should be the same for the Mayor as for the Council District seats
- Whether a partial term of less than two years should count as a full term

- The timing of when term limits would commence, which state law requires to be prospective only
- An onboarding program for new Mayors and members of the Council
- Outreach to attract more people to run for public office in Pasadena

On February 7, 2024, the Task Force asked Baker Tilly to identify officials in California cities with term limits, and to coordinate a dialogue with the Task Force at a meeting so that Task Force members and community participants might learn about the experiences of other cities with term limits, especially before and after the change to term limits.

On March 14, 2024, Dr. Julian Gold, Mayor of Beverly Hills, and Michael MacDonald, City Clerk of Ventura, spoke via Zoom about the advent of term limits in their respective cities and answered questions from the Task Force. Dr. Gold reported that he was instrumental in putting term limits on the Beverly Hills ballot in 2022, noting that voters approved the Beverly Hills measure by 82%. In both cities, there were Council Members who had been re-elected several times, and that this fact was part of the impetus to consider adopting term limits.

Mr. MacDonald stated his support for term limits but noted a specific problem in Ventura. The most senior members of the City Council had been in office for only three years. Term limits adopted in 2016 had created a high rate of turnover on the Council and resulted in a lack of experienced Council Members remaining to lead the City and mentor newer elected officials. Dr. Gold, however, noted that many former Council Members in Beverly Hills are available, and do in fact mentor and train newly elected Council Members.

Shauna Clark of Baker Tilly and City Clerk Jomsky reported on responses to surveys and other data collected from approximately 35 cities. Ms. Clark explained that impacts are difficult to determine because term limits in many municipalities are either too new or had been in place for so long that the initial perspectives on impacts were not available. She did note that based on reports provided by some cities, term limits brought more candidates into local elections.

A point of emphasis made during deliberations by the Task Force focused on state law provisions, which require that term limits apply prospectively. If adopted in November 2024, the effective date for term limits in Pasadena would be January 1, 2025, and would therefore apply to members of the Pasadena City Council elected in November 2026 and 2028.

## ***Recommended Charter Language on Term Limits***

On March 14, the Task Force voted to recommend by Charter Amendment limits of three terms for members of the Council, including the Mayor. Following a four-year hiatus, a termed-out Councilmember or Mayor would be allowed to run again for two additional terms. After a total of five terms, the elected official would not be permitted to seek the office previously held again.

### **Recommendation 5**

No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve two additional terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall count towards a full term for purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

### **Recommendation 6**

No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve two additional terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Mayor. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall count towards a full term for the purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

The motion to recommend amending the Charter to establish term limits (as detailed above) was supported by the Task Force, but not unanimously, with five members voting in favor, three in opposition, and two absent.

In addition to the recommended Charter Amendments, the Task Force unanimously recommended that the City Council adopt policies to formalize a Council-driven public information process to encourage and inform community members to consider running for office, as well as a well-designed onboarding process for new Councilmembers. The onboarding process should utilize resources and programs offered by municipal organizations such as the League of California Cities.

## Timing of Mayoral Elections

### Timing of Mayoral Elections

#### ***Background***

As directed by the City Council, the Task Force examined the timing of Mayoral elections in relation to issues of fairness and equity for members of the Council seeking to run for the Mayor's seat. Currently, four Councilmembers (Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6) are on the same electoral cycle as the Mayor. Since their election timing aligns with the Mayor's race, those four Councilmembers must decide between seeking re-election to their Council seat and running for Mayor (candidates are prohibited from appearing twice on the same ballot, and so cannot run for two different elected positions at the same election). The three Councilmembers in Districts 3, 5, and 7 are provided, what some characterize as a "free ride," in that they are not required to make the same decision. Since these three seats run on an opposite schedule to the Mayor's seat, each Councilmember can run for Mayor and still retain their Council District seat if unsuccessful.

While changing the terms or election dates for Mayor might create opportunities for all Pasadena Councilmembers to seek the Mayor's seat without having to choose between that and re-election, any of the solutions discussed by the Task Force had various drawbacks and downsides.

#### ***Task Force Deliberations on the Timing of Mayoral Elections***

The Task Force considered the timing of Mayoral elections on February 22 and April 11, 2024. One potential option considered and discussed in February was to change the length of the Mayor's term from four years to either two-year or six-year terms. Members of the Task Force expressed concerns with issues related to two-year and six-year terms for Mayor. Another potential option considered and discussed in February was to move the Mayor's election "off cycle" from the Council elections and occur in odd years rather than even years.

On April 11, 2024, as requested by the Task Force, Baker Tilly and the City Clerk reported on the costs, consequences, and challenges of holding the Mayor's election off cycle. Of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, only Redondo Beach and Whittier<sup>3</sup> hold elections that are not coordinated with

---

<sup>3</sup> The City of Vernon was not included because it holds elections every year.

county, statewide and federal elections. These cities had invested in the equipment needed to conduct an election, including voting equipment, computers, staff resources, consultants, and software for tallying the vote. Whittier apparently is now considering a change to their municipal election dates to coincide with statewide dates, citing low voter turnout in City elections (when compared with statewide election date turnout rates).

Another potential option considered and discussed by the Task Force related to a suggestion to conduct the Mayor's election to coincide on Gubernatorial primary and general elections, and all other Council District elections held as plurality elections on Gubernatorial and Presidential November general election dates (highest vote wins, with no run-off). This option would allow Councilmembers to compete for the Mayor's seat in the primary election and still have the option to run for re-election in the general election (unless the Councilmember was involved in a run-off for the Mayor's seat). City Clerk Jomsky presented a PowerPoint presentation on the details of such an option, as well as adding another variation to include an off-cycle runoff election for any Council District seat to occur eight weeks after certification of the general municipal election.

Ultimately, the Task Force did not support any of the aforementioned potential options as a way to resolve the fairness issue and decided to recommend no changes to the Timing of the Mayor's Election.

### ***Task Force Recommendation on Timing of Mayoral Elections***

#### **Recommendation 7**

No changes be made to the Charter provisions on the timing of the Mayoral election cycle.

A motion to recommend to the City Council that no changes be made to the Charter regarding the timing of the Mayoral election cycle was unanimously supported by the Task Force, with two members absent.

## Campaign Contribution Limits

### Campaign Contribution Limits

#### ***Background***

Campaign Contribution Limits (CCLs) set limits to the amount of money a candidate can receive from a single source during an election. California Assembly Bill (AB) 571, became effective on January 1, 2021, and requires cities and counties to adopt local contribution limits or default to the state limits, currently \$5,500. Prior to January 1, 2021, Pasadena and many cities in California had no contribution limits.

Contribution limits were discussed by the Council and the Legislative Policy Committee when AB 571 was first signed into law. While initially, the Council sought to maintain the status quo of no limits, following discussion and public input, the Council decided to take no action, and default to AB 571 statewide campaign contribution limits. At the time of setting the scope and charge of the Task Force, the Council asked the Task Force to review this issue and provide a recommendation on contribution limits.

#### ***Task Force Deliberations on Campaign Contribution Limits***

The Task Force discussed campaign contribution limits on March 28, April 25, and May 9, 2024.<sup>4</sup> The Task Force received written and oral public comments in support of and opposition to campaign contribution limits.

As part of this discussion, the Task Force examined the potential nexus between lower limits, and the diversion of donations to, and increase of activity by, Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs). The Task Force asked Baker Tilly and City staff to research whether a causal connection existed between lower limits and independent expenditures. The Task Force also considered the impact of independent expenditures on anti-corruption measures.

#### **Independent Expenditures**

An independent expenditure entails funding a communication expressly advocating for or against a clearly identified candidate, without coordination with said candidate. Unlike direct campaign contributions, independent expenditures are viewed as political speech, and enjoy some First Amendment protections, and therefore, face no financial limitations on contributions or expenditures.

IECs play a significant role in electoral processes, operating outside the purview of candidates' campaigns. IECs spend money on behalf of, but not at the behest of candidates. Under the

---

<sup>4</sup> See the meeting minutes for additional detail on the Task Force's discussion and public comment on this issue, as well as the staff reports for written correspondence received.

1976 Supreme Court decision Valeo v. Buckley, governments cannot curtail or require more disclosure of independent expenditures without running afoul of the First Amendment.

On April 25, 2024, City Clerk Mark Jomsky presented data on independent expenditure activities reported in the cities of Anaheim, Burbank, Irvine, Pasadena, and Santa Ana. Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly, presented data gathered from Burbank and the California Secretary of State's Office reporting on independent expenditures in statewide elections. The data showed a rise in independent expenditures since AB 571 became effective, but the sample size was too small to prove a causal connection to AB 571.

Ultimately, a direct causal relationship between lower limits was not conclusively proven. However, in certain scenarios, with the right issues and circumstances present, independent expenditures clearly provides an alternative pathway for money to play a role in local campaigns and affect local election results.

### **Anti-corruption Measures and Transparency**

At the request of the Task Force, the City Attorney provided information on the newly enacted state law known as the Levine Act, which prohibits parties of a proceeding before the elected body from contributing more than \$250 to an elected official's campaign during the pendency of a proceeding before that elected body. The Levine Act also restricts Councilmembers, and their respective agents, from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions above \$250 for the twelve months prior to a proceeding. Contributions from unions are statutorily exempt from the Levine Act and the City's Taxpayer Protection Act.

Task Force members also considered and discussed the impacts of the Levine Act and Pasadena's Article XVII "Taxpayer Protection Act" (TPA) as both relate to campaign contributions.

### **Shifting Campaign Contribution Limit Enforcement to the City**

The Task Force discussed potential consequences and costs in the City adopting contribution limits different from the limits set by AB 571. Under the rules of AB 571, any local entity that follows state default contribution limits can refer enforcement matters to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). If the local entity adopts different limits than the state default campaign contribution limits, then enforcement falls to the local entity. Following is an excerpt from the FPPC's posted FAQ on AB 571 regulations:

"If a city or county imposes contribution limits, is the Commission responsible for enforcing those limits?"

No. The Commission will not regulate the administration or enforcement of the penalties. Cities or counties with existing limits or that adopt their own limits are not subject to the state limit and may impose their own penalties for violations."



If the City adopts local campaign contribution limits, City staff would investigate and enforce the campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act. The Task Force discussed and raised concerns regarding the potential politicized nature and estimated costs surrounding enforcement of campaign contribution limits. In response to a request for cost estimates for City Attorney/City Prosecutor enforcement of campaign contribution limits, City staff cited the potential impact at \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually, at a minimum.

### ***Task Force Decision on Campaign Contribution Limits***

On May 9, following public input and thorough discussion, the Task Force voted to recommend campaign contribution limits be set by ordinance.

#### **Recommendation 8**

It is recommended that the City Council set by ordinance campaign contribution limits in the amount of \$2,500 per person/entity, per election for the Mayor's race; and \$1,000 per person/entity, per election for each Council District race. This recommendation is subject to the City Attorney's Office establishing a framework for enforcement equivalent to or exceeding the enforcement provided by the FPPC.

A motion to recommend the City Council establish by ordinance campaign contribution limits (as detailed above) was supported by the Task Force, but not unanimously, with seven members voting in favor, two in opposition, and one absent.

#### **Recommendation 9**

It is recommended that the City Charter be amended to include a provision, "If the City Council adopts an ordinance implementing campaign contribution limits different than state limits, the ordinance may be amended no earlier than following the 2<sup>nd</sup> election cycle after its enactment or amendment.

A motion to recommend a Charter provision be added (in the event an ordinance implementing campaign contribution limits is adopted) was unanimously supported by the Task Force, with nine members voting in favor, zero in opposition, and one absent.

## Council Compensation

### **Consider City Council compensation broadly, as well as dedicated to childcare and elder care allowances**

#### ***Background***

On March 14 and March 28, 2024, the Task Force examined Charter provisions on compensation for the Mayor and Council, including childcare and eldercare (which was later recommended to be termed by the Task Force as "Family Care").

Compensation as defined in Charter Section 405 and the Pasadena Municipal Code includes:

- Salaries, (sometimes called wages or stipends)
- Health and Welfare Benefits (Health and dental insurance, life insurance)
- General Office expenses (telecommunications, internet, childcare)
- One-time office expenses for the purchase of a computer and mobile phone
- Out-of-pocket, reimbursable expenses which might include mileage or travel

#### **State Law on Council Compensation**

Article XI § 5 (b) of the State of California Constitution empowers charter cities to determine the level of compensation for elected officials. At present in Pasadena, the Mayor's monthly stipend is \$2,794 plus benefits, and the monthly stipend for Councilmembers is \$1,830 plus benefits. The stipend amount is increased on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year by the Consumer Price Index percentage (as calculated pursuant to the Pasadena Municipal Code), but not to exceed 5%.

Compensation in general law cities complies with California government code provisions, linking compensation to population. Traditionally, compensation for general law cities was set at a minimal amount. However, as a result of the adoption of Senate Bill 329 in 2023, base salary compensation increased for these elected officials. For similarly sized general law cities as Pasadena, Councilmembers in cities with a population over 75,000 and up to and including 150,000 can currently receive \$1,900 per month.

#### **Charter Section 405 and Municipal Code Sections 2.05.210 and 2.05.220**

The City of Pasadena's method for setting salaries and benefits for the Mayor and City Council is set forth in City Charter Section 405, and the implementation of salaries and benefits is detailed in the Pasadena Municipal Code.

- Charter Section 405 – Formation of a compensation committee that makes recommendations on salaries and benefits (hereinafter "Council Compensation Committee")
- Municipal Code Section 2.05.210 – Incorporates recommendations from the Compensation Committee on stipends (salaries)
- Municipal Code Section 2.05.220 – Provisions on benefits and reimbursement

## ***Task Force Deliberations on Compensation***

The Task Force considered and discussed:

- Time commitments of the Mayor and Council, recognizing the workload that averages twenty hours per week for a Councilmember and more for the Mayor
- Acknowledging the current strong City Manager/City Council form of government that recognizes the presence of professional full-time staff and diminishes the need for full-time salaried elected leaders
- The support currently provided by full-time, City-employed District Liaisons and the Liaison to the Mayor (also sometimes referred to as "Field Representatives")
- Salary and benefit comparisons with other cities, and if other cities employee equivalent staff support (District Liaisons)
- The salary setting process, including the appointment of a Council Compensation Committee
- The fact that a Council Compensation Committee has not convened since 2000
- The advantages and disadvantages of changing the method for establishing salaries and benefits
- Recommending that the Council appoint a Council Compensation Committee as soon as possible
- Keeping compensation low enough to avoid a full-time Mayor or Council, but high enough to promote diversity on the City Council (so that service on the City Council is not prohibitive due to financial constraints)

The Task Force discussed whether the Council Compensation Committee should be convened or whether the process should be changed. The City Attorney explained that per the Charter, Council Compensation Committee convened during a calendar year must disband after October 1 of each year.

## ***Task Force Recommendations on Compensation***

The Task Force adopted the following recommendations by unanimous vote:

### **Recommendation 10**

(a) That the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee as soon as possible, while also considering the October 1 provision contained in the City Charter, and to do so on a more regular basis;

(b) That the Council Compensation Committee consider replacing the term childcare with "family care" to incorporate a broader category of eligible reimbursements, and include Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases for certain benefits, not including stipends or health and welfare benefits, to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and

(c) Direct City staff to provide the Council Compensation Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes from March 14 and March 28 Task Force meetings as background information.

**Recommendation 11**

The Task Force recommended by Charter Amendment that the Council Compensation Committee be required to meet not less than once every five years.

A motion to amend the Charter to require the City Council to convene the Council Compensation Committee not less than once every five years was unanimously supported by the Task Force, with nine members voting in favor, zero against, and one absent.

## Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is not included in the Task Force's assigned topics, nor was there a recommendation made by the Task Force on this issue. RCV did receive some attention by the Task Force in response to public comment and input and requested follow-up information from City staff to better understand the issue. In short, RCV allows voters to select—or “rank”—candidates for office in order of preference. If no one candidate receives 50% of the first-choice votes, the last place candidate is eliminated, and their second-place votes are reallocated among the remaining candidates. The process repeats itself until a winner is selected. Proponents say that RCV increases the civility of elections (opponents are less likely to attack one another if attempting to garner 2nd and 3rd ranked votes from voters), reduces election costs, and produces results in a single election (no runoff necessary).

RCV is currently not an option provided by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. It also requires a separate voting system, hardware, software, and an extensive voter education campaign to implement. As happens in Alameda County, voters receive two ballots during statewide elections: the normal County ballot for federal, state, and local ballot measures, and the City RCV ballot.

The Task Force determined that the topic of RCV requires additional research and information, likely as its own charter study topic. If the City Council decided to pursue RCV, at a minimum, the Task Force would need authority from the City Council to continue this work, as well as additional time and resources to properly understand the positives and negatives associated with a change to RCV election format.

## Recommendations of the Charter Study Task Force

### ***Filling a Council District Vacancy***

#### **Recommendation 1                      Appointment to Fill Council District Vacancy**

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall, within 75 days after such occurrence, appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District; the appointee shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district where the vacancy occurred for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy. The City Council shall adopt an ordinance to codify the appointment process to fill vacancies for Council District seats, which includes public notice and public input.

#### **Recommendation 2                      Special Election to Fill Council District Vacancy**

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if there is less than two years remaining on the unexpired term and the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the vacancy occurring, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204. Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

### ***Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore***

#### **Recommendation 3                      Mayor Pro Tempore**

Section 407 – The Mayor Pro Tempore

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the remaining Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tempore who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general election. The assumption of the duties of the Mayor Pro Tempore shall not

require that the Mayor Pro Tempore relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district.

**Recommendation 4                      Vice Mayor**

Section 408. – The Vice Mayor

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall serve for one year and exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence.

***Term Limits for the Mayor and Council***

**Recommendation 5                      Council Term Limits**

No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve two additional terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall count towards a full term for purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

**Recommendation 6                      Mayor Term Limits**

No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve two additional terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Mayor. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall count towards a full term for the purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

***Timing of the Mayor's Election***

**Recommendation 7                      Timing of Mayor's Election**

No changes be made to the Charter provisions on the timing of the Mayoral election cycle.

***Campaign Contribution Limits***

**Recommendation 8                      Campaign Contribution Limits (Ordinance)**

It is recommended that the City Council set by ordinance campaign contribution limits in the amount of \$2,500 per person/entity, per election for the Mayor's race; and \$1,000 per person/entity, per election for each Council District race. This recommendation is subject to the City Attorney's Office establishing a framework for enforcement equivalent to or exceeding the enforcement provided by the FPPC.

**Recommendation 9 Campaign Contribution Limits (Charter Amendment)**

It is recommended that the City Charter be amended to include a provision, "If the City Council adopts an ordinance implementing campaign contribution limits different than state limits, the ordinance may be amended no earlier than following the 2<sup>nd</sup> election cycle after its enactment or amendment.

***Mayor/Council Compensation***

**Recommendation 10 Mayor/Council Compensation**

(a) That the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee as soon as possible, while also considering the October 1 provision contained in the City Charter, and to do so on a more regular basis;

(b) That the Council Compensation Committee consider replacing the term childcare with "family care" to incorporate a broader category of eligible reimbursements, and include Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases for certain benefits, not including stipends or health and welfare benefits, to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and

(c) Direct City staff to provide the Council Compensation Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes from March 14 and March 28 Task Force meetings as background information.

**Recommendation 11 Mayor/Council Compensation (Charter Amendment)**

The Task Force recommended by Charter Amendment that the Council Compensation Committee be required to meet not less than once every five years.



## Redline Version of Recommended Charter Language

### ARTICLE IV - THE CITY COUNCIL

#### Section 401. - NUMBER AND TERM

- A. There shall be a City Council consisting of a Mayor and seven Councilmembers. The seven Councilmembers shall be nominated and elected by district as provided in this Charter. Except as provided in subsection B, the term of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be four years.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, to transition to new election dates starting in 2018, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected in 2015 shall expire in December 2020 and the terms of office of Councilmembers elected in the year 2017 shall expire in December 2022.
- C. Beginning in the year 2020, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 shall commence in the year 2020 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2020, and the terms of office of the Councilmembers elected from Districts 3, 5, and 7 shall commence in the year 2022 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2022. The terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall commence at the time of the City's organizational meeting held on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election and until their respective successors are elected and have duly qualified.
- D. No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve an additional two terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall be considered a full term for purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that begin after January 1, 2025.
- E. No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve an additional two terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Mayor. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall be considered a full term for purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

(Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.) Section 402. - ELIGIBILITY.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a qualified elector of the City. Each Councilmember shall be a resident of the district from which the Member is elected or appointed.

(Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

Section 403. - VACANCY DEFINED.

If the Mayor shall cease to be a resident of the City or if any Councilmember shall cease to be a resident of the district, respectively, from which elected or appointed, or if either the Mayor or any Councilmember shall be absent without permission of the City Council from all regular City Council meetings within a period of 60 consecutive days from the last regular meeting attended, shall resign, shall be adjudged legally incompetent, shall be deceased, or shall be otherwise barred from holding office by reason of state or federal law, that office shall thereupon be declared vacant by a majority vote of the City Council.

(Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.)

Section 404. - VACANCY—APPOINTMENT OR SPECIAL ELECTION.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, ~~Vice Mayor shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election~~ the remaining members of the Council shall, after such occurrence, elect a Mayor Pro Tempore from amongst the remaining members of the City Council. The ~~Vice Mayor~~ Pro Tempore shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election. The assumption of the duties of the ~~Vice Mayor~~ Pro Tempore shall not require that the ~~Vice Mayor~~ Pro Tempore relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district. ~~If a vacancy occurs among any other members of the City Council, the remaining members shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented district who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. If the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy, the replacement shall be chosen by lot.~~

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy occurring. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies for Council District offices.

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such vacancy, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

(Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 405. - COMPENSATION.

Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City Council authorizing the formation of a Committee on City Councilmembers' Compensation ("the Committee"), each member of the City Council shall nominate one person to the Committee, subject to the approval of the City Council. The duties of the Committee shall be to study, take public input, and make recommendations regarding the compensation paid to members of the City Council and benefits to which the members of the City Council are entitled including, but not limited to, insurance, expense allowances and reimbursement. The Council Compensation Committee shall be convened not less than once every five years.

Each member of the Committee shall be an elector of the City. In making their nominations, City Councilmembers shall consider persons recommended by representatives of the fields of higher education, labor, business, and organizations reflecting the diversity of the City. No person shall be eligible for membership on the Committee who is, or within five years prior to his or her appointment was, an officer or employee of the City; or who has, within five years prior to his or her appointment, had any personal or business-related contractual relation with the City.

The nominee of the Mayor shall act as temporary chair of the Committee, with the power to fix the time and place of the Committee's first meeting. At such meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair and shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to conduct its business. The provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Committee. Records of the Committee shall be maintained as public records as provided by State law. The Committee shall gather such information as it deems necessary to complete its duties, and prior to making its recommendation, shall hold at least one duly noticed public hearing for the purpose of seeking public input. The City Manager shall provide office space,

staff assistance and supplies for the work of the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses pursuant to City ordinance.

Not later than October 1 of the year the Committee is appointed, the Committee shall submit to the City Council a report adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee recommending either that no change be made in the compensation paid to members of the City Council, or that change, either an increase or a decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If such report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee's recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The Committee shall cease to exist thirty (30) days after its report is submitted to the City Council.

The City Council may take no action on the recommendation, or it may, by ordinance, adjust the compensation paid to members of the City Council by an amount not to exceed the recommendations of the Committee. No action which increases the compensation of the City Council in excess of the level recommended by the Committee may be taken without a vote of the people. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to a recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote and shall be subject to referendum as provided in this Charter. Once compensation has been initially established as provided in this section, no increase in the annual compensation shall be greater than five percent for each calendar year following the operative date of the most recent change for the compensation. No more than one ordinance establishing the compensation of City Council members may be adopted in any two-calendar year period. Any compensation and benefits fixed as a result of this Section shall constitute full compensation for the services of the City Council member and the maximum benefits provided to the City Council member by the City.

Until such time as the City Council adopts an ordinance as provided herein, Councilmembers shall continue to receive the compensation in effect as of the effective date of the Section.

(Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective May 4, 1981.)

#### Section 406. - THE MAYOR.

The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the City at large for a term of four years, except as provided in Section 401 (B). The Mayor shall be a voting member of the City Council and shall preside at meetings of the City Council. The Mayor shall act as chief executive of the City in performing all acts required to be performed under the laws of the State of California and this Charter. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, by the Courts for the purpose of serving civil process and by the Governor of the State for military purposes. The Mayor shall have a voice and vote in all proceedings of the City Council and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with his or her office.

(Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 407 – THE MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tem who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor.

Section 4087. - THE VICE MAYOR.

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election held in November of even years, and the fifth Monday following the first Tuesday after a Monday in November in odd years, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence ~~or disability~~.

(Sec. 407 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 407 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 4098. - POWERS VESTED IN THE CITY COUNCIL.

All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council subject to the provisions of this Charter and to the Constitution of the State of California. The City Council is empowered to carry into effect the provisions of this Charter, to execute the powers vested in the City, and to perform all duties and obligations imposed upon the City by State law.

(Sec. 408 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 4109. - OFFICERS APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council shall appoint and may remove the City Manager, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, and City Clerk.

The City Prosecutor shall prosecute misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of the law of the State and ordinances of the City.

(Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 4110. - ORGANIZATION OF CITY OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

The City Council shall, by ordinance, provide for the organization of all city operations and activities into functional units and may modify and change the organization from time to time. This organization shall be accomplished through the creation and establishment, by ordinance, of city departments, offices and agencies, advisory boards, commissions, and committees. In establishing departments, offices, agencies, boards, commissions and committees, the Council

shall provide for the functions, powers, and duties of each such department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee created.

The City Council may, by ordinance, abolish, consolidate, modify, or separate any department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee, and may assign, reassign, or modify any functions, powers, or duties.

(Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

Section 41~~2~~<sup>1</sup>. - PROHIBITIONS.

- (A) Neither the Mayor nor any City Council member shall be eligible to hold any paid office created by the City Council while a member thereof and until one year after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.
- (B) Except for purposes of inquiry, the Mayor, the City Council, and its members shall deal with the administrative service under the City Manager solely through the City Manager, and neither the Mayor, the City Council nor its members shall attempt to influence or to direct any subordinates of the City Manager.

(Sec. 412 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 41~~3~~<sup>2</sup>. - OFFICIAL BONDS.

The City Council may, by ordinance, require any city officer or employee to give and execute to the City an official bonds for the faithful performance of official duties. The Premium therefor shall be paid by the City.

(Sec. 413 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 414. - CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.

If the City Council adopts an ordinance implementing campaign contribution limits different than state default limits, the campaign contribution limit ordinance may be amended no earlier than following the 2nd election cycle after its enactment or amendment.

## Clean Copy of Recommended Charter Language

### ARTICLE IV - THE CITY COUNCIL

#### Section 401. - NUMBER AND TERM

- A. There shall be a City Council consisting of a Mayor and seven Councilmembers. The seven Councilmembers shall be nominated and elected by district as provided in this Charter. Except as provided in subsection B, the term of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be four years.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, to transition to new election dates starting in 2018, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected in 2015 shall expire in December 2020 and the terms of office of Councilmembers elected in the year 2017 shall expire in December 2022.
- C. Beginning in the year 2020, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 shall commence in the year 2020 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2020, and the terms of office of the Councilmembers elected from Districts 3, 5, and 7 shall commence in the year 2022 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2022. The terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall commence at the time of the City's organizational meeting held on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election and until their respective successors are elected and have duly qualified.
- D. No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve an additional two terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall be considered a full term for purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that begin after January 1, 2025.
- E. No person may serve more than three consecutive terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve an additional two terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five terms in the office of Mayor. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall be considered a full term for purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

(Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.)

#### Section 402. - ELIGIBILITY.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a qualified elector of the City. Each Councilmember shall be a resident of the district from which the Member is elected or appointed.

(Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

Section 403. - VACANCY DEFINED.

If the Mayor shall cease to be a resident of the City or if any Councilmember shall cease to be a resident of the district, respectively, from which elected or appointed, or if either the Mayor or any Councilmember shall be absent without permission of the City Council from all regular City Council meetings within a period of 60 consecutive days from the last regular meeting attended, shall resign, shall be adjudged legally incompetent, shall be deceased, or shall be otherwise barred from holding office by reason of state or federal law, that office shall thereupon be declared vacant by a majority vote of the City Council.

(Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.)

Section 404. - VACANCY—APPOINTMENT OR SPECIAL ELECTION.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the remaining members of the Council shall, after such occurrence, elect a Mayor Pro Tempore from amongst the remaining members of the City Council. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election. The assumption of the duties of the Mayor Pro Tempore shall not require that the Mayor Pro Tempore relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district.

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy occurring. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies for Council District offices.

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such vacancy, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state



election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

(Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 405. - COMPENSATION.

Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City Council authorizing the formation of a Committee on City Councilmembers' Compensation ("the Committee"), each member of the City Council shall nominate one person to the Committee, subject to the approval of the City Council. The duties of the Committee shall be to study, take public input, and make recommendations regarding the compensation paid to members of the City Council and benefits to which the members of the City Council are entitled including, but not limited to, insurance, expense allowances and reimbursement. The Council Compensation Committee shall be convened not less than once every five years.

Each member of the Committee shall be an elector of the City. In making their nominations, City Councilmembers shall consider persons recommended by representatives of the fields of higher education, labor, business, and organizations reflecting the diversity of the City. No person shall be eligible for membership on the Committee who is, or within five years prior to his or her appointment was, an officer or employee of the City; or who has, within five years prior to his or her appointment, had any personal or business-related contractual relation with the City.

The nominee of the Mayor shall act as temporary chair of the Committee, with the power to fix the time and place of the Committee's first meeting. At such meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair and shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to conduct its business. The provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Committee. Records of the Committee shall be maintained as public records as provided by State law. The Committee shall gather such information as it deems necessary to complete its duties, and prior to making its recommendation, shall hold at least one duly noticed public hearing for the purpose of seeking public input. The City Manager shall provide office space, staff assistance and supplies for the work of the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses pursuant to City ordinance.

Not later than October 1 of the year the Committee is appointed, the Committee shall submit to the City Council a report adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee recommending either that no change be made in the compensation paid to members of the City

Council, or that change, either an increase or a decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If such report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee's recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The Committee shall cease to exist thirty (30) days after its report is submitted to the City Council.

The City Council may take no action on the recommendation, or it may, by ordinance, adjust the compensation paid to members of the City Council by an amount not to exceed the recommendations of the Committee. No action which increases the compensation of the City Council in excess of the level recommended by the Committee may be taken without a vote of the people. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to a recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote and shall be subject to referendum as provided in this Charter. Once compensation has been initially established as provided in this section, no increase in the annual compensation shall be greater than five percent for each calendar year following the operative date of the most recent change for the compensation. No more than one ordinance establishing the compensation of City Council members may be adopted in any two-calendar year period. Any compensation and benefits fixed as a result of this Section shall constitute full compensation for the services of the City Council member and the maximum benefits provided to the City Council member by the City.

Until such time as the City Council adopts an ordinance as provided herein, Councilmembers shall continue to receive the compensation in effect as of the effective date of the Section.

(Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective May 4, 1981.)

#### Section 406. - THE MAYOR.

The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the City at large for a term of four years, except as provided in Section 401 (B). The Mayor shall be a voting member of the City Council and shall preside at meetings of the City Council. The Mayor shall act as chief executive of the City in performing all acts required to be performed under the laws of the State of California and this Charter. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, by the Courts for the purpose of serving civil process and by the Governor of the State for military purposes. The Mayor shall have a voice and vote in all proceedings of the City Council and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with his or her office.

(Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 407 – THE MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tem who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor.

Section 408. - THE VICE MAYOR.

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election held in November of even years, and the fifth Monday following the first Tuesday after a Monday in November in odd years, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence.

(Sec. 407 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 407 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 409. - POWERS VESTED IN THE CITY COUNCIL.

All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council subject to the provisions of this Charter and to the Constitution of the State of California. The City Council is empowered to carry into effect the provisions of this Charter, to execute the powers vested in the City, and to perform all duties and obligations imposed upon the City by State law.

(Sec. 408 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 410. - OFFICERS APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council shall appoint and may remove the City Manager, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, and City Clerk.

The City Prosecutor shall prosecute misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of the law of the State and ordinances of the City.

(Sec. 409 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 411. - ORGANIZATION OF CITY OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

The City Council shall, by ordinance, provide for the organization of all city operations and activities into functional units and may modify and change the organization from time to time. This organization shall be accomplished through the creation and establishment, by ordinance, of city departments, offices and agencies, advisory boards, commissions, and committees. In establishing departments, offices, agencies, boards, commissions and committees, the Council shall provide for the functions, powers, and duties of each such department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee created.

The City Council may, by ordinance, abolish, consolidate, modify, or separate any department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee, and may assign, reassign, or modify any functions, powers, or duties.

(Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

Section 412. - PROHIBITIONS.

- (A) Neither the Mayor nor any City Council member shall be eligible to hold any paid office created by the City Council while a member thereof and until one year after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.
- (B) Except for purposes of inquiry, the Mayor, the City Council, and its members shall deal with the administrative service under the City Manager solely through the City Manager, and neither the Mayor, the City Council nor its members shall attempt to influence or to direct any subordinates of the City Manager.

(Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 413. - OFFICIAL BONDS.

The City Council may, by ordinance, require any city officer or employee to give and execute to the City an official bonds for the faithful performance of official duties. The Premium therefor shall be paid by the City.

(Sec. 412 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 414. - CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.

If the City Council adopts an ordinance implementing campaign contribution limits different than state default limits, the campaign contribution limit ordinance may be amended no earlier than following the 2nd election cycle after its enactment or amendment.

## Minutes of the Task Force Meetings

**CITY OF PASADENA**  
**CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE**  
**DECEMBER 9, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.**  
**CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249**  
**100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**OPENING**

The City Clerk Mark Jomsky called the special meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 10:04 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Ken Chawkins  
Member Vince Farhat  
Member Marcus Hatcher  
Member Lena Kennedy (Arrived at 10:43 a.m.)  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Jacque Robinson-Baisley (Absent)  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson (Absent)

**Staff:**

Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alexander Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Robles, Sr. Assistant City Clerk

**WELCOME, OATH OF OFFICE, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS, AND CITY STAFF**

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, administered the oath of office to each member of the Charter Study Task Force (CSTF) present.

Task Force members, City staff, and consultants provided self-introductory comments.

Following discussion, by consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed.

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

City Clerk Jomsky introduced the item, and requested nominations for the position of Chair of the Charter Study Task Force.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to nominate Member Ken Chawkins to serve as Chair to the Task Force. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Members Kennedy, Robinson-Baisley, Wilson)

Chair Chawkins expressed gratitude to the Task Force for electing him to serve as Chair. He then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

**MOTIONS:**

Member Farhat moved, seconded by Member Novak, to nominate Member Marcus Hatcher to serve as Vice Chair to the Task Force.

Following discussion, Member Salinas moved, seconded by Member Mejia, to nominated Member Margaret McAustin to serve as Vice Chair to the Task Force.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of the Vice Chair, the pros and cons of possibly selecting two co-Vice Chairs to serve, as well as options for one Vice Chair to serve for a period, and then a second Vice Chair to serve for the remaining period.

Following discussion Member McAustin withdrew her name from consideration for Vice Chair, and the motion was withdrawn.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** Motion to elect Member Marcus Hatcher to serve as Vice Chair.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Hatcher, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Members Kennedy, Robinson-Baisley, Wilson

**ABSTAIN:** None

**BROWN ACT/PUBLIC RECORDS ACT/CITY CHARTER BASICS - TRAINING AND REVIEW CONDUCTED BY CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Member Lena Kennedy arrived at 10:43 a.m., and was sworn in to serve on the Task Force by City Clerk Jomsky.

Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, including an introduction of City Charter basics, review of the Brown Act open meeting requirements, public records, the City's social media policy, and parliamentary procedure; and responded to questions.

In response to questions related to outreach of Task Force meetings, City staff confirmed that the Task Force meeting information will be shared with the Public Information Office and distributed through normal channels of the City.

Following discussion, by order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed.

**REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL APPROVED CHARGE, SCOPE, AND TIMELINE FOR CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE**

City Clerk Jomsky reviewed the item as part of a PowerPoint presentation, discussing the Task Force's scope, charge, and proposed timeline in detail; and responded to questions.

City staff responded to questions related campaign finance, contribution limits, Council compensation, special elections held in Pasadena, and the process and method for the Task Force to submit its recommendations for City Council consideration.

Following discussion, by order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BAKER TILLY CONSULTING TEAM; PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF CONSULTANT WORK PLAN**

Shauna Clark and Carol Jacobs, representing the Baker Tilly Consultant Team, introduced themselves, and Ms. Clark reviewed a PowerPoint presentation for the item; and responded to questions.

Ms. Clark responded to questions regarding the process the staff, consultant team, and Task Force will use to complete the work plan for each topic, including how members of the public can comment or give public testimony on matters under consideration and/or previously decided by the Task Force.

Following discussion, by order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed.

### **SETTING TIME AND MEETING LOCATION FOR REGULAR MEETINGS**

Member Hatcher left the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

City Clerk Jomsky reviewed the proposed regular meeting schedule of the Charter Study Task Force, explained that regular meetings of the Task Force will be held in the Council Chamber to accommodate hybrid in-person and virtual format for public and community member participation, and responded to questions.

It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member McCoy, to approve the Pasadena City Council Chamber as the regular meeting location for the Task Force, as well as setting the following dates and times as regular meetings of the Task Force:

Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.; Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; and Thursday May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Members Hatcher, Robinson-Baisley, Wilson)



**ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Chair, the special meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

**ATTEST:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**PASADENA CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
JANUARY 13, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.  
PASADENA CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, ROOM S249**

The regular meeting of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force, scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. was cancelled as ordered and posted.



---

KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

ATTEST:



---

Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
JANUARY 20, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**TELECONFERENCE LOCATION: SUNRIVER RESORT, BUSINESS CENTER  
17600 CENTER DRIVE SUNRIVER, OR 97707**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**OPENING**

The Chair called the special meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 10:01 a.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Vince Farhat (participated remotely)  
Member Lena Louise Kennedy  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Jacque Robinson-Baisley (Absent)  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:**

Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alexander Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Robles, Sr. Assistant City Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING**

It was moved by Member McAustin, seconded by Member Salinas, to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: Member Robinson-Baisley

ABSTAIN: Member Wilson

**DISCUSSION ON VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

City Clerk Jomsky provided introductory comments, and Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly, reviewed the staff report as part of a PowerPoint presentation, including election terminology, special stand-alone election information; and responded to questions.

City Clerk Jomsky provided additional details on the City's capabilities to administer stand-alone special elections, and in response to questions, noted that cost and voter turnout rates are issues to consider when conducting a special stand-alone election.

Following discussion, Chair Chawkins and Member Wilson asked staff to provide comparative information related to costs for administering special and regular elections.

Member Salinas raised the issue that within Section 403 of the City Charter, death as a reason for a vacancy was not part of the definition, in that Charter section, and suggested that this issue be addressed as part of any improvements made to this section.

Member McAustin raised the issue of the 75-day timeframe for the Council to make an appointment to fill a vacancy. She noted that prior appointments required the City Council to determine the steps and requirements on how to fill each vacancy. She suggested that efficiencies and public transparency of the process would be achieved if the City Council formally adopted a vacancy appointment process, so that it was clearly defined prior to a vacancy occurring (it was suggested by ordinance).

Member Farhat suggested that staff also include information on the cost of Rank Choice Voting as part of the cost comparison for regular and special stand-alone elections.

Member Kennedy suggested that the issue of implementing a residency requirement be considered, whereby an applicant for City Council would need to show proof of living in the Council District for a certain period of time prior to seeking the appointed office. Member McAustin suggested that the residency requirement could be set for the period prior to the vacancy occurring.

City Attorney Bagneris stated that staff will look at residency requirements in terms of constitutionality to ensure that any requirements would be legally enforceable.

Member Wilson requested that consideration be given to having similar, or the same, residency requirements for candidates seeking City Council seats as applicants seeking appointment to a vacant Council District seat, citing the need to be consistent.

Ed Washatka, Pasadena resident, advocated for Charter Study Task Force meetings to be held at locations in the community, vacancies on the City Council to be filled by special election, and residency requirements implemented for seats on the City Council.

Tim Wendler, Pasadena resident, spoke on Rank Choice Voting (including its benefits) as an alternative to conducting primary and general elections with runoffs.

Various members of the Task Force stated their support for recommending that the City Council formally adopt the vacancy appointment process by ordinance, and that the adopted appointment process include a community outreach/engagement requirement. There was also supporting consensus for eliminating the Charter provision that stipulates that a Council District vacancy would be filled by lot (if the deadline to make an appointment expires).

The Task Force discussed various scenarios, as well as pros and cons, for filling a vacancy by appointment, including consideration given to requiring appointments for scenarios of one year or less remaining on the term (as well as other timeframes).

Member McAustin suggested that the public outreach and community engagement requirement include at least one public meeting as part of the adopted process in the district where there is a vacancy, to maximize public participation during an appointment.

Following discussion on when to call a special stand-alone election, City Clerk Jomsky suggested one possible option would be to authorize the City Council to make an appointment within a certain timeframe (i.e., 60 days or 75 days), and if no appointment is made, the City Council would then be required to call a special election.

Vice Chair Hatcher advocated for consideration of a petition process that would allow the community to require a special election by petition in the event that there is a lack of support for either an appointment process, or after the appointment is made by the City Council.

In response to comments by Member Wilson, staff was asked to report back with scenarios detailing best, medium, and worst-case scenarios for vacancy in terms of the length of time a seat on the City Council would remain vacant due to appointment, as well as the time leading up to a special election.

Member Novak stated his concerns with outcomes that result in a lengthy vacancy on the City Council, and spoke in support of solutions that provide clear and defined direction to the Council on how to proceed.

Member Salinas requested staff to include in its review of the petition process, criteria/details to consider in moving such an option forward. Member Wilson asked that as part of the additional information, staff include the threshold of signatures needed for a petition to be found sufficient to trigger an election (i.e., 5% or 10% of the registered voters of the district).

Member Kennedy requested more information on options for an interim appointee/caretaker during a Council District vacancy until an election is held, and whether the "caretaker" would be a staff person or member of the public. Member Mejia requested information on any peer cities that utilize a "caretaker" role, with Member Novak noting that the Los

Angeles City Council's "caretaker" role is not allowed to vote at a City Council meeting.

There was general consensus among the Task Force that the option of maintaining the Council's authority to make appointments to fill a vacancy on the City Council (in certain circumstances) should be retained.

By order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed, with staff to return with the additional requested information detailed above.

## **RECESS**

The Charter Study Task Force meeting recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 12:21 p.m.

## **DISCUSSION ON VICE MAYOR APPOINTMENT PROCESS, TIMING OF VICE MAYOR ELECTION, LENGTH OF TERM TO SERVE AS VICE MAYOR, AND DUTIES RELATED TO VACANCY IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE**

City Clerk Mark Jomsky provided an overview of the issues related to the Vice Mayor position, and Shauna Clerk, Baker Tilly, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, with both responding to questions.

Ed Washatka, Pasadena resident, stated that the City Council should not base its decision in choosing a Vice Mayor solely on length of service on the City Council, and also advocated for a vacancy of the Mayor's position to be treated the same as a vacancy for a Council District position.

Following discussion, Member Wilson suggested that the term of office for the Vice Mayor should be a rotational one-year term. He also stated that in terms of a vacancy in the Mayor's position, he agreed with the public speaker that it should be treated the same as a vacancy on the City Council. Regarding an interim/caretaker position until an election can be held, Member Wilson suggested that the City Council should select from among the Council an interim Mayor to serve, rather than having the Vice Mayor automatically become the Mayor (or interim Mayor).

Member Farhat noted that the selection of the interim Mayor by the City Council following a vacancy would have to be conducted quickly, to ensure continuity of government, especially in the event of an emergency declaration, etc.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of Vice Mayor (excluding the role of the Vice Mayor stepping into the Mayor's position during a vacancy, which was discussed separately), recommending the selection of the Vice Mayor to occur on an annual basis with a term of one year, and with the Council to consider seniority and rotational participation when selecting, but not making either factor a requirement in selecting.

There was also discussion on the longer-term role of the Vice Mayor in terms of a vacancy in the Mayor's position, and recommending that the selection of an interim Mayor to fill the vacancy (until filled at an election) occur at the time of the vacancy, and not automatically filled by the Vice Mayor, with consideration given to experience and ability to serve in that capacity.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council the selection of the Vice Mayor to occur on an annual basis with a term of one year, the Council to consider seniority and rotational participation when making the selection (not making either factor a requirement), and the selection of the Vice Mayor occurring at the City's annual organizational meeting on the fifth Monday following the statewide General Election in even years, and the fifth Monday following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd years.

Member Mejia requested a friendly amendment to add one-year term limits for the Vice Mayor role. Following discussion, the friendly amendment was withdrawn.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: Member Robinson-Baisley

ABSTAIN: None

The Task Force returned to the discussion of the Vice Mayor's role when a vacancy occurs in the Mayor's position (due to resignation, long-term absence, or death).

Member Farhat spoke in support of recommending to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to create a Mayor Pro Tem position, with the Council to select from among the remaining members a Mayor Pro Tem to serve in the role of Mayor in the event of a vacancy, on an interim basis (without having to relinquish their Council District seat) until the position of Mayor is filled at a future election (timing to be determined), and require four affirmative votes of the City Council in order to approve the selected Mayor Pro Tem.

Member Wilson pointed out that in the event the Council selects the sitting Vice Mayor to serve as a Mayor Pro Tem, the Council would then need to select a new Vice Mayor to ensure both roles are filled (and also noted that the recommended provisions for the Vice Mayor selection occur at an organizational meeting).

**ORIGINAL MOTION:**

It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to create a Mayor Pro Tem position in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor's position, with the Council to select from among the remaining members a Mayor Pro Tem to assume the duties of the Mayor on an

interim basis (without having to relinquish their Council District seat) until the vacant position of Mayor is filled at a future election (timing to be determined), with the Mayor Pro Tem selection needing four affirmative votes of the seven remaining Councilmembers.

The Task Force discussed the issue of requiring four affirmative votes to select the Mayor Pro Tem versus the current City Charter requirement that an action of the Council requires five affirmative votes.

Following discussion, Member Wilson requested a friendly amendment to the motion to remove the four affirmative votes to select the Vice Mayor, keep the five affirmative vote threshold that is currently in the City Charter, and have it apply to the selection of the Mayor Pro Tem.

**AMENDED MOTION:**

It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to create a Mayor Pro Tem position in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor's position, with the Council to select from among the remaining members a Mayor Pro Tem to serve in the role of Mayor on an interim basis (without having to relinquish their Council District seat) until the vacant position of Mayor is filled at a future election (timing to be determined).

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: Member Robinson-Baisley

ABSTAIN: None

**DISCUSSION ON TASK FORCE MEMBERS ATTENDING AND SPEAKING AT PUBLIC FORUMS AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE WORK**

Chair Chawkins presented information on recent invitations he and other members of the Task Force have received to speak at public forums or community meetings regarding the work of the Charter Study Task Force. He requested that members of the Task Force communicate with the City Clerk, City Attorney, and Chair when such invitations occur to ensure efficiency and coordination.

City Attorney Bagneris reminded the Task Force that if they attend and speak at a community meeting or forum, that they are speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the Task Force or the City.

Member Kennedy asked that the issue of Task Force meetings being held out in the community, as opposed to only at City Hall, be agendaized for discussion at the next meeting.

Member Wilson suggested that each Task Force member reach out to their Councilmember to possibly participate in upcoming District meetings and to provide information on the work of the Task Force, why



Charter Study is occurring, what it means, etc., since these issues will likely be on the ballot for the November General Election.

Following discussion, by order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

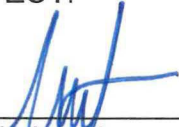
On the order of the Chair, the special meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.



---

KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

ATTEST:



---

Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**PASADENA CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
JANUARY 25, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
PASADENA CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, ROOM S249**

The regular meeting of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force, scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. was cancelled as ordered and posted.



---

KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

ATTEST:



---

Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**OPENING** The Chair called the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:01 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance. (Absent: None)

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Louise Kennedy  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:** Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alexander Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Dennis Jebbia, residence not stated, advocated for the Task Force to meet with tenants, landlords and homeowners in the City to discuss proposed charter amendments to Measure H.

Following public comment, Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, provided information on the authority and scope of the Task Force, which does not include reviewing and/or considering amendments to the Charter related to Measure H.

Member McAustin asked staff to forward the comments of the public speaker to Pasadena Rental Housing Board and/or City Manager.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2024 CANCELED MEETING**

It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member McAustin, to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: None)

**OLD BUSINESS** **FOLLOW UP INFORMATION PERTAINING TO CONSIDERATION OF VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, presented a PowerPoint with follow-up information from the January 20, 2024 Task Force meeting, including information on special stand-alone elections, timing, and costs; reviewed an example of a special stand-alone election held by the City of Los Angeles to fill a vacancy in a Council District in 2023, and the potential nexus of estimated costs for hypothetical stand-alone election for City Council District 3; reviewed rank choice voting information; and responded to questions

Member Kennedy spoke on the importance and value of community input when it comes to City Council appointments to fill a vacancy; and on the need to consider the many impacts and benefits to the community when choosing between appointments by the City Council and special elections.

Member Novak advocated for developing “if-then” scenarios for determining how to fill a vacancy by appointment or by special stand-alone election to ensure clear direction to the City Council on how to proceed in the event of a vacancy.

Ed Washatka, Pasadena resident, emphasized the need to choose democracy over costs, and advocated for holding special elections to fill vacancies on the City Council.

Kermit McCoy, Pasadena resident, spoke in support of the City holding special elections to fill vacancies on the City Council.

Member McAustin requested that staff provide the meeting minutes from the last discussion on this item so the Task Force can have in front of them the motions, discussion, and relevant issues/decision points.

Member Wilson spoke in support of an appointment process when there is one year or less remaining on the term, and that the City Council should adopt a detailed appointment process by ordinance, which emphasizes the importance and value of community input. If the remaining term is greater than one-year, he supported providing the City Council with discretion on conduct a special election, making an appointment (based on the situation), or a combination of appointment and special election.

Following discussion, Vice Chair Hatcher suggested that an appointment process for City Council vacancies should be conducted if the remaining length term is eighteen months.

Member McAustin stated her concerns with the 75-day appointment process, as she believes that period is too long, and suggested a shorter time-period to make an appointment.

Member McCoy spoke on the need to factor in the marginal benefits the City is receiving by utilizing a special election process due to the timing aspects.

Member Novak noted that unless there is four years remaining on a term (or almost four years), there may not be a huge advantage of a special election process over the appointment process.

Member Wilson spoke in support of recommending the City Council adopt an ordinance to codify the appointment process, and supported a reduced appointment period within 60 days.

Following discussion, the Task Force, by consensus, directed staff to:

- Focus on Optional Motion No. 2 from Slide No. 14 of the PowerPoint presentation: “Length of Term Determines Method: Allow a 75-day appointment if term will last less than a year (or two years) or call special election if term will be more than one year (or two years)”;
- Incorporate a recommendation that the City Council adopt an ordinance to codify the appointment process for transparency and efficiency purposes, and with the appointment process to include a mandatory public engagement and notice requirement to ensure public participation and awareness.

By order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed, with staff to return with additional information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSIDERATION OF TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Chair Chawkins introduced the item and noted that the discussion on term limits is intended as an initial framing of the issue, and that the item will return for further discussion at a future Task Force meeting. He encouraged the Task Force to consider the issues and request any follow-up information from staff and the consultants needed for future deliberations and what to recommend to the City Council.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that the City Clerk’s Office received ten letters on the issue of term limits, with seven in favor of implementing term limits, two letters in opposition, and one letter stating pros and cons, with all of correspondence distributed to the Task Force, posted online, and made part of the record for this item.

Shauna Clerk, representing Baker Tilly, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, including information on the existence of term limits in comparison cities, and advantages and disadvantages of term limits; and responded to questions.

Anthony Manousos, Pasadena resident, advocated for term limits for the Pasadena City Council.

Discussion ensued on the role and impact of Councilmembers serving in a part-time capacity, which impacts the pool of individuals able to run and serve on the City Council, the need to understand term limits and the relationship with compensation for elected officials, the

consequences of not recommending term limits, and the possible impacts this would have on women and people of color who have been directly impacted by term limits (or the lack thereof).

In response to questions, City Clerk Jomsky provided information on the various cities with full-time (compensated) mayors and councilmembers, but stated that staff can return with information on compensation at a future meeting.

The Task Force discussed the consultant's stated advantages and disadvantages of term limits, with some noting that term limits should be viewed as an advantage by increasing interest in running for office for an open seat (rather than against an established incumbent), and conversely that term limits may foster a "revolving door" forcing seasoned Councilmembers from office and causing instability on the Council. It was also noted that incumbency may provide an unfair playing field for challengers, and by implementing term limits, it creates more opportunities.

Member Wilson advocated for separate term limits for the Mayor and Councilmember elected officials.

Member Farhat spoke in opposition to recommending a lifetime ban for elected officials in the City of Pasadena.

Member McCoy asked staff to provide information on how term limits were implemented in comparison cities, either by initiative measure or by Council proposal.

Member Salinas asked staff to provide information on Political Action Committees that are active and registered in the City of Pasadena; and recommended staff contact Fernando Guerra, faculty member at Loyola Marymount University, who tracks election data for information on term limits.

In response to questions by Members Salinas and McAustin, Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, agreed to provide additional information on the "Levine Act", and responded to questions.

Member McAustin expressed concerns with allowing Councilmembers to seek election on the Pasadena City Council once they term out of office, but was supported of allowing term-out Councilmembers to run for Mayor.

Member Kennedy asked staff to provide information on other municipalities that have term limits for elected officials longer than twelve years.

Chair Chawkins summarized the discussion on the item, and asked staff to seek out additional input from elected officials that have experienced term limits, or staff or other nonpartisan individuals on the dynamics of term limits. He stated that he hopes the Task Force can

get a sense of how term limits affect governance, elected representation, and staff; provide information on the unintended consequences and benefits generated from implementing term limits for elected officials; and return to the Task Force for further consideration.

By order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed, with staff to return with additional information.

**FUTURE MEETING  
SCHEDULE**

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK  
FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND REGULAR  
MEETING LOCATION**

City Clerk Jomsky provided a brief summary of the Task Force's regular meeting schedule, proposed remote meeting dates and locations, and responded to questions.

Member Farhat spoke in support of Task Force meetings occurring off site, and in the community, including at the Jackie Robinson Center.

Member Wilson and Chair Chawkins echoed comments related to holding meetings off site.


Following discussion, on the order of the Chair, and by consensus of the Charter Study Task Force, direct staff to schedule remote meetings on March 14, 2024 and April 11, 2024, with consideration given to an additional meeting date to be determined.

Member Wilson spoke on the need to distribute the Task Force meeting schedule to the community, including utilizing the City's newsletters.

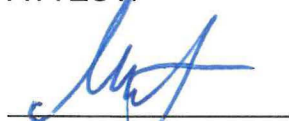
Chair Chawkins asked staff to determine if the Task Force will be able to present an update to the City Council on their work and utilize the opportunity to request the Councilmembers disseminate the Task Force meeting schedule.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

  
KENC HAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

**ATTEST:**

  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA**  
**CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249**  
**100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**OPENING** The Chair called the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:08 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Louise Kennedy (Absent)  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy (Absent)  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson (Absent)  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

Staff: Javan Rad, Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Christine Soo, Deputy City Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT** No one appeared for public comment on matters not on the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Member Farhat requested that the January 20, 2024, minutes be amended to correct the spelling of “Mayor Pro Tern” to “Mayor Pro Tem”, which occurs several times on Page 5 (last three paragraphs), and Page 6 (first four paragraphs).

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, also stated that on Page 3 of the January 20, 2024 minutes, the seventh paragraph will be amended to include the word “provide”, to read “...and spoke in support of solutions that provide clear and...”; and the February 7, 2024 minutes will be amended to correct the spelling of Chair Chawkins name.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member McAustin, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2024 (special meeting) and February 7, 2024, as amended and as detailed above; and January 25, 2024 minutes, as submitted. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson)

**OLD BUSINESS** **CONSIDERATION OF VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

City Clerk Jomsky provided an oral summary of the staff report, presented a PowerPoint presentation on possible amendments to the City’s Charter submitted for discussion, and responded to questions.



Regarding the language submitted by staff for discussion, Member Salinas recommended that the following sentence be amended as follows: “If more than two years remain on the unexpired term, ~~or the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy~~, then the office shall may be filled at a regular or special municipal election...”, which provides the City Council the ability to decide whether or not to call for a regular or special municipal election.

In response to this suggestion, Member McAustin pointed out that the Task Force had previously determined that a vacant City Council seat with more than two years remaining on the term would require an election to fill the vacancy, and changing the word “shall” to “may” as proposed by Member Salinas does not align with previous discussions on the matter.

Members McAustin, Farhat, and Salinas spoke on the need to allow for public participation when a vacancy occurs on the City Council, and following discussion, spoke in support of a 75-day period to fill a City Council vacancy, which provides sufficient time for staff to notify the community and solicit their input on the matter.

Discussion ensued regarding the 75-day period for the City Council appointment process to fill a vacancy, and whether to allow more time than 75 days to avoid having to call special stand-alone elections.

Member Novak advocated for keeping the language of “shall” rather than providing the Council with an option to call a special election, and spoke in support of not changing the length of the 75-day period to fill a City Council vacancy.

**Motion:**

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to maintain the 75-day period for a City Council vacancy appointment process, eliminate the Charter provision that stipulates that a Council District vacancy will be filled by lot, and amend Pasadena City Charter, Section 403, to include “death” as a cause of vacancy. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson)

Regarding the determination of when the Council must act to make an appointment to fill a vacancy, Vice Chair Hatcher advocated for the Task Force to recommend an appointment if one year or less remains on an unexpired term of a City Council seat, with recognition that cost and democracy are predominant factors, and the Charter should be amended to provide voters an opportunity to select their representative.

Member Novak advocated for recommending that the City Council make an appointment if two years or less remain on an unexpired term of a vacant City Council seat. He also expressed concerns with recommending verbiage that allows the City Council to call an election if they cannot agree on one person to appoint.

Following discussion, Member Salinas advocated to amend Section 404. Vacancy Appointment, verbiage “ If more than two years remain on the unexpired term, or ~~the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy~~ fails to timely appoint,...” which would trigger an election.

Members McAustin and Farhat spoke in support of Section 404. Vacancy Appointment, verbiage as “...remaining members shall within 75 days...,” specifically leaving the word “shall” in the language as it will be a requirement of the City Council per the City Charter.

**Motion:**

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend the following verbiage for City Charter, Section 404.-Vacancy – Appointment, “...if the City Council fails to timely appoint a person to fill the vacancy, then the office shall be filled at a regular or special municipal election for the time remaining on the unexpired term, upon certification of the candidate that receives a majority of the votes cast for that office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies on the City Council.”:

AYES: Members Mejia, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Novak

ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson

ABSTAIN: None

Member Farhat spoke on the need for City staff to “to tighten up” the amended language in Section 404, and asked staff to bring back the matter back at a future Charter Study Task Force meeting, and specifically when more Task Force members would be present to help finalize the matter.

With regard to the issue of the length of term remaining to determine when an appointment process should be utilized by the City Council, Vice Chair Hatcher advocated for ensuring the democratic option of the City’s residents to elect their representative, and expressed concerns with the City Council appointing an individual for approximately two years of a four-year term.

The Task Force members discussed the pros and cons of the City Council recommending appointments if: a) One year or less remained on the unexpired term; b) 18 months or less remained on the unexpired term; and c) Two years or less remained on the unexpired term. The Task Force members considered the time period required to call, coordinate, and conduct a special election to fill a vacancy on the City Council.

City Clerk Jomsky, provided information on the different time frames of the recommended appointments, and responded to questions.

Members McAustin and Salinas spoke in favor of Option C (two years or less remained on the unexpired term).

**Motion:** Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Novak, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, by recommending that the City Council conduct an appointment process if two years or less remained on an unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins

NOES: Vice Chair Hatcher

ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson

ABSTAIN: None

The Task Force discussed the consideration of adding a residency requirement for an appointed position to fill vacancies on the City Council, considering whether to require: a) Residency of at least six months, b) Residency of at least 30 days; and c) Residency at the time a vacancy occurs.

Members McAustin, Mejia, and Farhat spoke in support of a residency requirement of at least six months for an appointed person. Member McAustin noted as part of her consideration and preference, that an appointed individual be part of the community that the person is seeking to represent.

Vice Chair Hatcher and Member Mejia expressed concerns with not having the same residency requirements for individuals seeking the appointed office and candidates seeking the elected office. Vice Chair Hatcher asked staff to provide information on other municipalities residence requirements.

Following discussion regarding the Charge and Scope of the Task Force, Chair Chawkins noted his inclination to pursue the resident requirement for candidates only after formally asking the City Council to add the matter to the Task Force's scope.

**Motion:** Following discussion, it was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member McAustin, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, include a residency requirement of at least six months for those seeking to be appointed to the City Council to fill a vacant unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson

ABSTAIN: None

**RECESS**

The Charter Study Task Force meeting recessed at 7:47 p.m. and reconvened at 7:57 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE MAYOR’S ELECTION**

Shauna Clark, representing Baker Tilly, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, including information on the City’s term lengths and time of elections, cities with two-year mayor terms, advantages and disadvantages of two- and six-year terms, the role of term limits currently under consideration, and responded to questions.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that the City Clerk’s Office received two letters providing comments on the matter, one advocating for a six-year term for the Mayor position on the City Council; and the other advocating for the Mayor’s election cycle to occur in odd years, which were distributed to the Task Force, posted online, and made part of the record for this item.

The Task Force discussed prior City Elections, vendors available to assist municipalities with elections, and the pros and cons associated with a mayoral six-year term, moving all Council District elections to the same cycle opposite the Mayor, and the need for staggered Councilmember terms.

Members Farhat and Novak expressed concerns with the Mayoral term being two-years, noting the need for the Mayor to continuously be running for office, and likely not focused on the vision of the City; and optimally having an odd year Mayoral election in order to provide all Councilmembers the same opportunity to run for Mayor without having some to forfeit their seat.

Chair Chawkins requested that the consultant team provide information from other municipalities on options for odd-year Mayoral elections, voter turnout, and associated costs.

By order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed, with staff to return with the additional requested information detailed above.

**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND REGULAR MEETING LOCATION**


City Clerk Jomsky provided an update on the Task Force’s regular meeting schedule, and reported that staff has reserved Robinson Park Recreation Center, multi-purpose room for the April 11, 2024 Task Force meeting to occur at 6:00 p.m., and responded to questions.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to approve the April 11, 2024 Charter Study Task Force meeting at 6:00 p.m., and at Robinson Park Recreation Center,

Multi-Purpose Room, as a regular meeting. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

**ATTEST:**



Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
MARCH 14, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING**                           The Chair called the regular meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:06 p.m. (Absent: Members Kennedy, Mejia)

**ROLL CALL:**                   Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Louise Kennedy (absent)  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia (absent)  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:**                           Michele Bagneris, City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member McAustin, to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted.

**AYES:**           Members Farhat, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
**NOES:**           None  
**ABSTAIN:**      Members McCoy, Wilson  
**ABSENT:**       Members Kennedy, Mejia

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**           No one appeared for public comment on matters not on the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS**                           **CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION OF TERM LIMITS FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

Shauna Clark, representing consultant – Baker Tilly, introduced Dr. Julian Gold, Mayor of Beverly Hills, and Michael MacDonald, Ventura City Clerk, as guest speakers sharing their perspectives on the impacts of term limits on City Councils.

Dr. Gold stated that the City of Beverly Hills implemented term limits in 2022, with the ballot measure receiving 82% approval of voters in support. He noted that one of the cons of having term limits is that it hinders a City Council from retaining institutional knowledge over longer periods of time, as members cycle out. He stated that one of the pros of having term limits is that it allows younger voices on the City Council, facilitating difficult discussions on matters important to them.

Mr. MacDonald shared that in the City of Ventura, prior to term limits, a number of Councilmembers had served for decades, which raised the initial question regarding limitations on diverse representation resulting from the lack of City Council turnover. To address this issue, the City of Ventura appointed a Charter Review Committee to study the issues (pros and cons) of preserving institutional knowledge versus fostering an incumbency advantage. He stated that the Charter Review Committee recommended City Council term limits for three four-year terms, which was placed on the ballot, and was subsequently adopted by voters.

In response to Member Farhat's inquiry for a recommended number of terms, Dr. Gold spoke about his personal experience with the learning curve of being an elected official from his first term to this third term, noting that the ease of transitioning to this new role depends on an individual's background and their existing knowledge; he also shared the importance of outgoing Councilmembers planning for successors.

In response to Member Salinas' inquiry regarding the use of social media in campaigns, Dr. Gold stated that it has contributed to increasingly professional campaigns, and organizations are utilizing social media platforms to turn out the vote. Mr. MacDonald shared that social media platforms have increased public outreach efforts.

Following completion of the guest speaker presentations, City Clerk Jomsky reported that two letters in support of term limits and one letter in opposition to term limits were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the Charter Study Task Force, posted online, and made part of the public record.

Shauna Clark provided a presentation on term limits in California cities, methodologies for data collection, and a summary of responses received, including reported advantages and disadvantages with term limits, as provided by responding cities. Ms. Clark and City Clerk Jomsky reported on survey findings and the limitations they faced when collecting responses throughout the state. Ms. Clark explained that impacts were difficult to determine because the implementation of term limits at many municipalities were either too new or had been in place for so long that the initial perspectives were not available. She noted that based on reports provided by some cities with term limits, more individuals were inclined to run for office as incumbents termed out. She also clarified that if term limits were adopted, current members of the City Council would not be affected until their next election cycle (in 2026 or 2028).

The Task Force discussed incumbency and the potential pros and cons of term limits, including its impact on new ideas, diversity, and retention of institutional knowledge.

Member Salinas advocated for implementing a formal onboarding process for newly elected Councilmembers, which would provide them an opportunity to learn bylaws and meet with City staff.

Vice Chair Hatcher and Member Wilson spoke in support of term limits, stating studies show that term limits increase participation among women and minority candidates, which promotes diverse engagement and fresh ideas.

Member McAustin expressed concerns regarding term limits, pointing out that term limits occur every four years with voters having the opportunity to elect a new representative if they are unhappy with their incumbent's performance. She acknowledged that the expenses and costs of campaigning can deter individuals from running for office. She also spoke in support of implementing an onboarding process for newly elected Councilmembers, and advocated for increased public outreach and education for constituents on what it means to be a Councilmember to encourage more residents to consider candidacy, noting that it takes knowledge and time to consider running for office.

Chair Chawkins suggested recommending a trial period for term limits to provide an opportunity to review and consider these new dynamics and its effect on the City Council prior to full implementation.

Member Farhat spoke in support of recommending term limits to the City Council, as well as recommending a Council-driven public information process to encourage more residents to run for public office, an onboarding process for new Councilmembers, and for a robust description of the Task Force's discussion to be provided as part of the City Council's de novo review of this topic.

Simon Gibbons, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns with the concept of term limits and the length of time needed to fully understand its impact and determine its effectiveness.

Member Salinas expressed concerns regarding the proposed timing to implement term limits, suggesting that term limits may be more beneficial in situations where the elected body exhibits a lack of stability, and stated his preference for a wait and see approach, especially in relation to the effects of the newly implemented Levine Act prior to supporting term limits at this time.

**MOTION:**

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend amendment(s) to the City Charter to (a) limit the Mayor's position to three consecutive four-year terms, and limit each member of the City Council to three consecutive four-year terms for each district, with a partial term of less than two years not counting towards a full term, (b) grant the elected official, after a four-



year hiatus, or after four years in another City Council elected office, eligibility to hold elected office for two additional four-year terms, and (c) set the effective date of term limits in 2026 for Council Districts, 3, 5, and 7, and in 2028 for the Mayor and Council Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher  
NOES: Members Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia

MOTION: It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to (a) recommend to the City Council to adopt a formal Council-driven public information process and an onboarding process for new Councilmembers; (b) direct staff to include a robust description of the Task Force's discussion regarding term limits, to be included in the Task Force's Final Report, as well as part of the record provided to the City Council in its de novo review; and (c) suggest to the City Council to set a timeframe to evaluate the impacts of terms limits if/when implemented.

Member McAustin suggested a friendly amendment to make the third recommendation as a separate motion.

Member Farhat and Vice Chair Hatcher accepted the friendly amendment.

AMENDED MOTION: Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend to the City Council to adopt a formal Council-driven public information process and an onboarding process for new Councilmembers, and direct staff to include a robust description of the Task Force's discussion regarding term limits, to be included in the Task Force's Final Report, as well as part of the record provided to the City Council in its de novo review.

Member Salinas mentioned that the League of California Cities offers an onboarding program to educate and help new Councilmembers navigate their new roles.

Chair Chawkins suggested that staff recommend using existing programs, such as the one offered by League of California Cities, as a model for Pasadena to create their own onboarding process.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia

MOTION: It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend to the City Council to set a time to evaluate the effects of terms limits if/when implemented.

Member Wilson suggested that in addition to those effects, it could be good practice to have periodic reviews of the City Charter.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Following discussion, it was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend a review cycle for the City Charter and term limits to determine its impacts.

**MOTION TABLED:** Following discussion, Member Wilson suggested that the motion be tabled and brought back at a later date as a part of the final recommendations package to the City Council.

**NEW BUSINESS  
ITEM TABLED**

Member McAustin left the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION, BROADLY, AS WELL AS DEDICATED CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (City Charter Section 405)\*\***

The Task Force unanimously agreed by consensus to table the new business item to the next meeting and requested that the next meeting start at 5:30 p.m. to provide additional time for discussion.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND/OR REGULAR MEETING LOCATION**

City Clerk Jomsky announced that the Charter Study Task Force meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024, will take place at H&H Jivalagian Youth Center in East Pasadena.

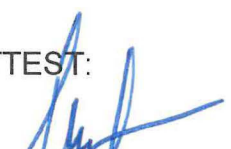
**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to set a new start time of 5:30 p.m. for the Charter Study Task Force meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024; and to set the time and location for the meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the H&H Jivalagian Youth Center. (Motion Unanimously Approved) (Absent: Members Kennedy, McAustin, Mejia)

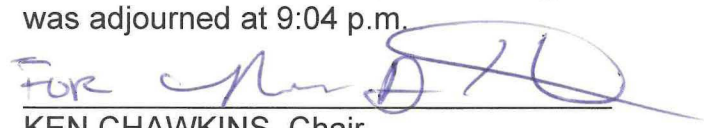
Member Wilson requested additional information pertaining to the amount of time Councilmembers spend on Council-related work and constituency-related matters per month. He suggested that averaging the hours per month would be more considerable than weekly hours, since agendas and the length of Council meetings vary.

Member Farhat requested additional information on District Liaison compensation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
MARCH 28, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING** Vice Chair Hatcher called the regular meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 5:34 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Kennedy (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins (absent)

**Staff:** Michele Bagneris, City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

It was moved by Member McAustin, seconded by Member Salinas, to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** Member Kennedy, Chair Chawkins

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** **CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION, BROADLY, AS WELL AS DEDICATED CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (City Charter Section 405)\*\***  
Member Kennedy arrived at 5:38 p.m.

City Clerk Jomsky provided introductory remarks and reported that the Charter Study Task Force can address issues of compensation and determine if relative changes need to be made to the Charter; he clarified that an impaneled Council Compensation Committee would be the recommending body. City Attorney Bagneris further stated that

Compensation Committee, the Task Force can discuss the matter in a broader scope, including making recommendations to amend the process for Council Compensation to be studied and/or changed (i.e., eliminating the Council Compensation Committee, requiring more frequent reviews of Council Compensation, etc.). She further stated that the Task Force can suggest modifications to the current level of compensation for the City Council, but unless and until the City Charter is amended, any modifications to City Council compensation must be studied by an appointed Council Compensation Committee.

Shauna Clark, consultant from Baker Tilly, gave a presentation on the compensation process, the current stipends and benefits for Pasadena's Mayor and Councilmembers, comparison of wages and benefits to other cities with similar sizes and attributes, and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of Council District Liaisons, the differences between part-time and full-time Councilmembers, and the hours spent weekly by Councilmembers doing work related to their elected positions.

Member McAustin voiced concerns that increasing compensation might change the role of City Council and more align with full-time professional, elected employees, which is inconsistent with the City's Charter and organizational structure of a City Manager/Council form of government.

Member Farhat stated that consideration of increasing Council compensation should also include the wages received by the District Liaisons.

In regard to childcare and eldercare allowances, Vice Chair Hatcher and Member Wilson expressed concerns with creating inequities in benefits received by Councilmembers if regular City employees do not the same type of benefit.

Given the various aspects of Council Compensation discussion, Member McAustin stated her support for recommending that the City Council convene a Council Compensation Committee as soon as possible.

As a point of clarification on convening the Committee, City Clerk Jomsky and City Attorney Bagneris reported that there is a Charter provision that states "Not later than October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the committee is appointed, the Council Compensation Committee shall submit a report to the City Council, recommending either no change be made in compensation, or that change, either an increase or decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If the report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the committee, the recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The committee shall cease to exist 30 days after its report is submitted to the City Council."

Member Novak and Member Kennedy advocated for using the terminology of “family care” instead of “childcare” or “eldercare” as a more comprehensive approach to meet the needs of officeholders.

Member Farhat suggested that a letter be submitted to the City Council to inform them of the Task Force’s Council Compensation discussion and to request the Council Compensation Committee be convened soon, given the October 1<sup>st</sup> sunset date.

Member Farhat made a motion, seconded by Member Salinas, to recommend that (1) the City Council convene the Charter-prescribed Council Compensation Committee, (2) the Committee be more regularly convened (at least once every 4 years), and (3) recommend that the Committee consider broadening childcare reimbursements/allowances to include family care, and to incorporate Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases, and receive all information from Baker Tilly, as well as the minutes from this Charter Study Task Force meeting.

Member Salinas suggested a friendly amendment to the motion for the Committee to consider the format laid out by CA Senate Bill 329 as a guide and concentrate on issue spotting instead of being positional.

Member Farhat and Member Salinas accepted the friendly amendment to the original motion.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 3 letters of correspondence, expressing support and/or providing various comments and suggestions pertaining to the increase of council compensation, were received by the City Clerk’s Office, distributed to the Task Force, posted online, and made part of the public record for this item.

MOTION: Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to: (1) recommend that the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee, and do so on a more regular basis; (2) recommend that the Committee discuss the issue of “family care” as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), and consider CPI increases, other factors to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and (3) direct City staff to provide the Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a brief summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes as background information. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Chair Chawkins)

RECESS: The Charter Study Task Force recessed at 7:02 p.m., and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION: Following additional discussion, it was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member McCoy, to require by charter amendment that the City Council Compensation Committee shall meet not less than once every 5 years. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Chair Chawkins)

Member Farhat requested that at the end of the Task Force's work, consideration be given to the total number of ballot measures resulting from this process, and possibly "repackage" the timing requirement of convening the Charter Compensation Committee as an ordinance rather than as a Charter Amendment measure.

## **CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Baker Tilly Consultant Clark gave a presentation on campaign contribution limits, noting the pros and cons of local limits and limits set by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). Caroline Monroe, Deputy City Attorney, provided information on the Levine Act, which prohibits parties of a proceeding from contributing more than \$250 to a Council campaign during the pendency of a proceeding before the Council, as well as restricts Councilmembers from soliciting or accepting a campaign contribution above \$250 for the 12 months prior to a proceeding.

Member Novak expressed concerns that adopting new contribution limits may create complications related to tracking and additional work for City staff.

Member Kennedy expressed support to retain the current campaign contribution limits and stated a lack of need to change the limits.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement of the Levine Act, the FPPC's role, and other cities' disclosure processes to track contributions and donations.

After further research, City Attorney Bagneris reported that the Attorney General may also enforce the Levine Act, and it is a potential misdemeanor subject to a fine of either \$10,000 or three times the amount the person failed to report properly or unlawfully contributed, expended, gave, or received, or may be imposed upon the conviction of such a violation.

In response to Member McAustin inquiry regarding the Levine Act's overlap with the City's Taxpayer Protection Amendment (TPA), City Attorney Bagneris stated that although they are similar, the Amendment addresses a different situation where a decision-maker, not just elected officials, would not be able to receive certain benefits (including employment) after voting "yes" or approving certain entitlements or during the negotiation period of a contract, noting that the TPA cannot be eliminated, unless repealed by voters as part of a Charter Amendment.

In response to Member McCoy's inquiry regarding committee funds used to run for different offices, Ms. Clark and City Clerk Jomsky explained that funds can be used by campaigns for a new race, but the candidate/committee is required to open a brand-new bank account for the new campaign, noting that candidates are allowed to donate

leftover money from the old campaign to the new campaign and there is no contribution limit for this.

Member Farhat advocated for retaining the current default contribution limits and continue the City's efforts to comply with the Levine Act. He suggested monitoring the effects of the City's TPA and the Levine Act to see if any compliance issues arise before changing contribution limits in the City Charter.

The Task Force discussed independent expenditures, the inability to regulate independent expenditures in campaign races, and the lack of transparency of who contributes funds to independent expenditure committees. The Task Force requested additional information on the effects of independent expenditures in recent elections in peer cities that have adopted campaign contribution limits more restrictive than the state limits set by AB571.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 4 letters of correspondence, expressing support and/or providing various comments pertaining to campaign contribution limits, were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the Task Force, posted online, and made part of the public record.

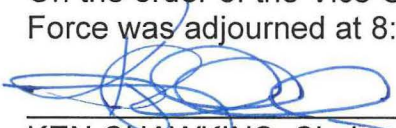
Following discussion, by order of the Vice Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed pending direction to the consultant for additional information, to be presented at a future Task Force meeting.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND/OR REGULAR MEETING LOCATION**

City Clerk Jomsky reviewed the proposed meeting schedule, noting the meeting locations of the Charter Study Task Force for the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held at Robinson Park Recreation Center, and for the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held at H&H Jivalagian Youth Center.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Vice Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
APRIL 11, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
ROBINSON PARK RECREATION CENTER, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM  
1081 N FAIR OAKS AVE, PASADENA, CA 91103**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING** Chair Chawkins called the regular meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Kennedy  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Raul Salinas (absent)  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher (absent)  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:** Michele Bagneris, City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

It was moved by Member McCoy, seconded by Member McAustin, to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Wilson  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** Chair Chawkins  
**ABSENT:** Member Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** Jon Fuhrman, Pasadena resident, advocated for a Pro Tem Mayor position and provided suggestions for the method of selection.

Allen Shay, Pasadena resident, advocated for the topic of use of technology and accountability for the Pasadena Police Department be agendized and discussed by the Task Force.

Olden Denham, Pasadena resident, spoke on the shooting of Anthony McClain and expressed the need for police reform using the Charter Amendment process.

Michelle White, Pasadena resident, requested the Task Force discuss the matter of campaign contributions from labor unions, who represent City employees.



Denise Robb, Pasadena resident, expressed support for term limits for Councilmembers, ranked choice voting, and reasonable campaign contribution limits.

Chair Chawkins clarified that the Charter Study Task Force only has the ability to discuss the topics as directed by City Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS REGARDING THE TIMING OF MAYOR'S ELECTION\*\***

Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly consultant, presented a PowerPoint presentation on cost estimates of off-cycle elections and voter turnout rates based on data from other cities in Los Angeles County. She presented a cost analysis if the City were to conduct off-cycle elections. In response to questions, City Clerk Jomsky clarified that the County of Los Angeles does not conduct elections using ranked choice voting, so the City would be responsible for purchasing equipment and hiring a consultant team to assist in running such an election.

Jonathan Horton, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns for off-cycle elections due to the high costs and low voter turnout, and advocated for a full-time, salaried Mayor.

Member McCoy, Member Farhat, and Member Novak expressed opposition to off-cycle elections due to high costs, low voter turnout, and the ineffectiveness of potentially changing the City Charter to accommodate up to four Councilmembers to run for the Office of Mayor.

Chair Chawkins suggested that one other option that the Task Force might consider would be to conduct the Mayor's Election during the Primary and General elections of the City, and have all other Council District Elections occur during the November General elections as plurality voting elections (highest vote wins, with no run-off), thus allowing Councilmembers to compete for the Mayor's seat without having to forego running for their own District seat.

City Clerk Jomsky presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the Chair's alternative solution, while also providing additional options for the Task Force to consider, including plurality elections for the Mayor and Councilmembers, plurality elections for only Councilmembers, and an option where the City could conduct a run-off election for any Council District seat that did not achieve a 50%+1 majority in the General election, that would occur eight weeks after the declaration of the General election results.

Members of the Task Force thanked the Chair and City Clerk for considering and presenting these additional options but opposed adjusting the timing of elections to essentially allow four members of the City Council to run for the Mayor's position without having to forego seeking their own elected seats.

Task Force members acknowledged the current advantage for Council Districts 3, 5, and 7, but agreed that the disadvantage to Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 did not rise to the level of creating such a complicated solution.

Member Novak expressed concerns with the proposed solutions, which may overwhelm voters. Echoing the concerns of other Task Force members, Member Novak advocated for no change to the timing of the mayoral election cycle.

Jon Fuhrman, Pasadena resident, expressed opposition to the proposed solutions, stating that it would create voter fatigue and increase partisanship in City elections.

Allen Shay, Pasadena resident, stated that the proposed solutions would create more difficulty for voters to make decisions and advocated for term limits as a better solution.

MOTION:

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council that no changes be made to the timing of the Mayoral election cycle. (Motion unanimously approved.) (Absent: Member Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher)

## NEW BUSINESS

### **STATUS REPORT ON ASSIGNED CHARTER STUDY TOPICS AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO CONSULTANT TEAM AND CITY STAFF ON PREPARATION OF FINAL REPORT\*\***

City Clerk Jomsky provided introductory remarks on the item; he provided an overview and status updates on the assigned topics that have been discussed by the Task Force thus far, and noted the remaining pending issues that required clarification and/or further discussion by the Task Force.

The following individuals spoke in support of placing the matter of campaign contribution limits on the ballot for voters to decide and/or provided suggestions for contribution limits and term limits.

Sonia Berndt, Pasadena resident  
Ellen Finkelppearl, Pasadena resident  
Jonathan Horton, Pasadena residents  
Ed Washatka, Pasadena resident  
Allen Shay, Pasadena resident  
Wes Reutimann, Pasadena resident

On the pending issue related to filling a council vacancy and the timing of an election if the City Council is unable to meet the 75-day appointment deadline, Member Farhat and Member Wilson advocated for the item to be discussed at the next meeting with Member Salinas in attendance to ensure a comprehensive discussion.

Member Novak emphasized caution when analyzing election trends that are compared to the City to Los Angeles, stating the City of Pasadena is drastically different in size and resources.

Member Wilson requested the consultant and City staff provide additional data pertaining to campaign contributions and independent expenditures to facilitate the Task Force's discussion and consideration on the issue.

By order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed, with staff to return with additional information at the next meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND/OR REGULAR MEETING LOCATION**


Member Farhat and Member Kennedy announced that they will attend the next Charter Study Task Force meeting remotely, in accordance with Brown Act regulations.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
APRIL 25, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING** Chair Chawkins called the regular meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:08 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat (via teleconference)  
Member Lena Kennedy (via teleconference)  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak (Absent)  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:** Javan Rad, Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 11, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

Member Farhat requested the minutes be amended as follows: Page 2, beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> Paragraph, change “Member Salinas” to “Member Farhat”, to now read, “Member McCoy, Member Farhat, and Member Novak expressed....”

It was moved by Member McAustin, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the meeting minutes, as amended.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Wilson, Chair Chawkins  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** Members Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher  
**ABSENT:** Member Novak

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** No one appeared for public comment on matters not on the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS** **CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly consultant, reviewed additional information on campaign contribution limits in other cities, including independent

expenditures, as part of a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to questions.

Member Wilson noted the difficulty of tracing the source of funds donated to Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs) and requested additional information regarding any limitations on contributions to, and expenditures made by, IECs.

Chair Chawkins questioned whether Political Action Committees (PAC) and Independent Expenditure Committees (IEC) should not be treated interchangeably, and requested information/clarification on the two types of entities.

Discussion ensued regarding the differences between PACs and IECs, the transparency in understanding the source of funds contributed to IECs, the potential interactions between a PAC and a candidate, and the purposes behind both types of political entities. Baker Tilly Consultant Clark noted that one difference between a PAC and an IEC is that a PAC is able to directly contribute to a candidate. IECs on the other hand are strictly entities that make independent expenditures in support or opposition to candidates and measures.

City Clerk Jomsky presented campaign contribution and expenditure data from comparable cities (Anaheim, Burbank, Irvine, and Santa Ana) with campaign contribution limits lower than state limits set by AB 571 and covering the 2020 and 2022 election cycles, as well as campaign contribution and expenditure data from Pasadena in 2020, 2022, and 2024, as part of a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to questions.

Member McCoy pointed out that the fluctuation of independent expenditures in the City of Santa Ana during the 2020 and 2022 election cycles was influenced by controversial topics surrounding their community at the time, including rent control measures.

Referencing the data analysis presented by City Clerk Jomsky, Member Wilson presented a regression analysis depicting the correlation between campaign contribution limits and the percentage of spending (independent expenditures) directed to the candidates. He emphasized that the City is an outlier in terms of independent expenditures occurring in Pasadena City elections.

The Charter Study Task Force engaged in discussion regarding the causation and correlation of independent expenditures and the winners of the elections.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 6 letters, advocating for lower campaign contribution limits and 1 letter in support of maintaining the current state-mandated campaign contribution limits, were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the Charter Study Task Force, posted online, and made part of the public record for this item.

The following individuals spoke on the correlations between contribution limits and independent expenditures presented in the staff reports, and advocated for lower campaign contribution limits:

Sonia Berndt, Pasadena resident  
Ellen Finkelppearl, Pasadena resident  
Samantha, Alhambra resident  
Jake Obscherning, residence not stated  
Joey G., resident not stated

In response to Member Wilson's prior inquiry, City Clerk Jomsky provided information distinguishing small PACs, large PACs, and IECs as stated in the Political Action Handbook, published by the California Chamber of Commerce.

Member Salinas noted inherent issues of campaign contribution limits, such as optics if the City's campaign contribution limit remains at \$5,500, the internal structure of enforcing lower contribution limits, and the lack of data from the recent enactment of the Levine Act. He advocated for revisiting the matter once additional data is collected.

Vice Member Hatcher provided a breakdown of the campaign contribution amounts donated to the City's candidates who ran for office in the March 5, 2024 Primary election. He noted that a majority of the largest donations were in the mayoral race. He emphasized that the Task Force should determine if the matter at hand is to develop a solution to an optical problem or an actual problem.

Member Farhat spoke in support of lower campaign contribution limits, but noted and expressed concerns regarding the administrative costs and burdens to enforce limits at the City level (whereas the burden rests with the FPPC to enforce if City defaults to state limits), highlighting the potential for candidates to politicize campaign contribution limits and staff enforcement when violations occur.

Member McAustin advocated for the development of a policy that would prohibit Members of the City Council from voting on a labor union contract if any Member accepts donations from that labor union. Assistant City Attorney Rad stated that City staff will research to see if this suggestion is covered by the Levine Act.

Referencing the data presented on the City of Burbank, Member McCoy expressed concerns relating to political polarization, party identification, and endorsements that can influence fundraising.

City Clerk Jomsky read a statement submitted by Member Paul Novak advocating for the Task Force to take no action relative to imposing new campaign contribution limits (beyond the default state limits), citing additional administration burden and the potential increase of independent expenditure activity as a way to circumvent lower limits.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Mejia, to table further discussion of the item.

Members of the Task Force expressed the need for additional data and information to support a comprehensive discussion and more complete understanding by members of the Task Force prior to voting on a recommendation for City Council consideration.

Member Salinas agreed with need for additional data and withdrew his motion.

The Charter Study Task Force requested additional information regarding the following subsequent matters: 1) the cost of having City staff enforce campaign contribution limits; 2) contextualization of data presented in Table 3 of the Baker Tilly report to determine campaign contributions/expenditures in aggregate to better understand what occurred over the time period; 3) how IECs report contributions received, and the contribution and expenditure limits for IECs and PACs; 4) information from comparably sized cities (in terms of population) that utilize State default campaign contribution limits and the correlation with independent expenditure activity occurring in those jurisdictions; 5) information on any policies that prohibit elected officials from voting on labor contracts if they have accepted campaign contributions from that labor union; and 6) the total amounts contributed and spent by labor unions in Pasadena City elections.

Member Salinas left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Chief Assistant City Attorney Rad added that City staff will look into the matter of labor contracts being excluded from the City's Tax Payer Amendment Act.

RECESS:

The Charter Study Task Force recessed at 8:13 p.m., and reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

### **STATUS REPORT ON ASSIGNED CHARTER STUDY TOPICS AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO CONSULTANT TEAM AND CITY STAFF ON PREPARATION OF FINAL REPORT**

City Clerk Jomsky provided introductory remarks on the updated item; he provided an overview and status report on the assigned topics that have been discussed by the Task Force to date, and presented a strikeout version of possible changes to the City Charter based on the Task Force's actions over the course of their meeting schedule.

The Task Force engaged in a brief discussion relating to the number of votes required by the City Council to fill a vacancy by appointment.

In response to Member Kennedy's inquiry regarding the language for the appointment process, City Clerk Jomsky clarified that the changes to the appointment process will occur in two parts – first, by voters approving amendments to the charter language, and second by the City Council adopting by ordinance a process to make appointments that incorporates community engagement and public meetings.

Member Kennedy expressed concerns that despite incorporation of community engagement elements to the City Council's appointment process, the community's input may not have any impact on the Council decisions when making appointments to fill vacancies.

In response to Member Kennedy's concerns, Chief Assistant City Attorney Rad stated that the proposed language for the vacancy appointment process can be refined to impose a duty on the Members of the City Council and specifications for community engagement can be reiterated in the ordinance, much like the process to include community organizations in the establishment of the Community Police Oversight Commission.

Member Farhat expressed support for amending Section 404 of the City Charter to change the number of votes required for a vacancy appointment from five affirmative votes to an affirmative vote by a majority of the City Council.

Member Mejia made a motion to propose a charter amendment that would require the City Council to fill a councilmember vacancy with a majority vote, instead of five affirmative votes.

Member Wilson noted that if such a change to a majority vote was made, then it should also be required that a majority vote be needed for the Council's normal course of operations, emphasizing the need to be consistent with the proposed appointment process and to have a uniform standard of voting.

After hearing Member Wilson's concerns, Chair Chawkins reopened the discussion.

Member Hatcher expressed concerns that stakes are equally as important when appointing a councilmember because voting parties do not live in the district; he advocated for maintaining the 5 affirmative vote requirements.

Member Mejia pointed out that the proposed process for appointing a councilmember is not as rigorous as the process for appointing a Mayor Pro Tem due to the requirements for public input and community engagement.

**MOTION:**

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Mejia, seconded by Member Farhat, to propose a charter amendment that would require the City Council to fill a councilmember vacancy with a majority vote, instead of five affirmative votes.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Kennedy, McCoy, Mejia, Chair Chawkins

**NOES:** Members McAustin, Wilson, Vice Member Hatcher

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Members Novak, Salinas



Member Wilson expressed concerns with the inconsistency between the approved action requiring a majority of affirmative votes of remaining members of the City Council to make an appointment for an unscheduled vacancy in a Council District, and with other normal business operations of the City Council, as well as the appointment of a Mayor Pro Tem by seven members of the City Council in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor's seat.

Chair Chawkins inquired if the Mayor Pro Tem position would receive two of everything since they would be serving as a councilmember and a mayor (i.e., seats on commissions, double compensation, etc.). Member Mejia added that the language in the amendment to Section 404 stated that the Mayor Pro Tem is not required to relinquish their seat, so they are, in fact, holding both seats.

The Task Force discussed possible vacancy scenarios of the City Council that reduced membership below eight members for a period of time. Member Chawkins and Member Wilson suggested a fully consistent solution should be considered that would change the approval threshold of the City Council to a majority of the City Council from the currently required five affirmative votes of the City Council for all matters. The Task Force agreed by consensus to table further discussion and bring back the matter when more members are present.

City Clerk Jomsky continued his presentation, and reported that the topics of campaign contribution limits, voting majority requirements, and council compensation will be brought back at the next meeting. He also stated that the remaining Task Force meetings will be used to review and approve the Final Report to the City Council.

Following discussion, by order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the remainder of the information was received and filed, including direction to City staff for additional information, to be presented at the next Task Force meeting.


**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND/OR REGULAR MEETING LOCATION**

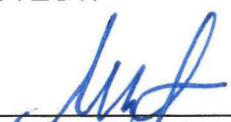
No changes were made to the Charter Study Task Force regular meeting schedule and meeting locations.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
MAY 9, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

**H&H JIVALAGIAN YOUTH CENTER, COMMUNITY ROOM  
2242 E FOOTHILL BLVD, PASADENA, CA 91107**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING** Chair Chawkins called the regular meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:07 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Kennedy  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy (absent)  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Member Paul Novak (arrived at 7:14 p.m.)  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:** Javan Rad, Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 25, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

It was moved by Vice Chair Hatcher, seconded by Member Salinas, to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. (Motion unanimously approved.) (Absent: Members McCoy, Novak)

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** No one appeared for public comment on matters not on the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS** **CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

City Clerk Jomsky provided introductory remarks, presented additional information as requested by the Task Force at the April 25, 2024 meeting, and responded to questions.

Chief Assistant City Attorney Rad reported on the legal issues related to adopting regulations to prevent Councilmembers from voting on collective bargaining agreements, including constitutional First Amendment protections related to campaign contributions, and possible legal ramifications that might result. He also reported that the Levine Act and the City's Taxpayer Protection Act both exclude labor contracts, and responded to questions.

Jon Fuhrman, guest presenter, provided a brief presentation on the framework for campaign finance regulations, clarified terminology related to political action committees (PAC) and independent expenditure committees (IEC), and responded to questions.

City Clerk Jomsky continued his presentation on the reporting of activity, expenditures, and contribution limits by PACs and IECs, the level of IE activity that exists for cities that utilize state default campaign contribution limits, and information on how much labor unions are spending on City Council campaigns.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 5 letters providing various comments and/or advocating for lower campaign contribution limits in Pasadena were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the Task Force, posted online, and made part of the public record.

City Clerk Jomsky read a statement submitted by Member McCoy, expressing support for lower campaign contribution limits and advocating for a \$500 limit for City Councilmember races and \$1,000 limit for the citywide Mayoral race.

The following individuals expressed support for lower campaign contribution limits and/or advocated for the matter to be placed on the ballot for voters to decide:

Denise Robb, Pasadena resident  
Ellen Finkelpearl, Pasadena resident  
Sonia Berndt, Pasadena resident  
Alex Rivas, Pasadena resident

David Llanas, Pasadena Police Officers Association, spoke in favor of the state mandated campaign contribution limits.

John Fuhrman, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns that lower campaign contribution limits would not eliminate bribery and that it could give incumbents an advantage.

The Task Force discussed the sentiments expressed by community members, as well as the pros and cons of implementing lower campaign contribution limits.

Members McAustin and Kennedy emphasized that lowering the City's campaign contribution limits would promote democracy and encourage more people to run for office.

Member Novak stated that the staff report indicates that most cities in California have not adopted local campaign contribution limits. Member Novak and Vice Chair Hatcher expressed concerns with lowering campaign contribution limits, stating their skepticism that lower limits resolves an actual problem or an optical problem.

Member Salinas expressed concerns with lowering campaign contribution limits, noting that if the City were to adopt limits different than the state default limits, City staff would have difficulty providing the same level of enforcement as the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and would leave the City vulnerable to an ineffective enforcement mechanism.

In response to comments and questions, Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly Consultant, clarified that only 27% of cities who have adopted lower campaign contribution limits have reported their limits to the FPPC, (since the reporting was not mandated), and noted that there may be other cities that adopted lower campaign contribution limits that are not accounted for in the information provided by Baker Tilly.

Member Wilson noted his concerns that while implementing lower campaign contribution limits may be optically positive, in actuality, it does not necessarily eliminate money from politics, which could create a sense of false confidence for members of the public regarding politics in Pasadena.

Discussion ensued regarding the consequences of lower campaign contribution limits, such as optics, incumbent advantages, the difficulty for first-time candidates to raise money, and increased participation in local elections.

Following discussion, Member Farhat spoke in favor of lower campaign contribution limits of \$1,000 per person/entity, per election, for candidates running for Councilmember and \$2,500 per person/entity, per election, for candidates running for Mayor.

In response to questions, City Clerk Jomsky clarified that adopting campaign contribution limits different than the state default limits could be implemented either through a Charter Amendment or adopted by ordinance.

Member Salinas suggested that the Task Force recommend including an enforcement mechanism, to be proposed by the City Attorney's Office, that the City Council can consider as part of any motion to adopt local campaign contribution limits.

Member Novak advocated for the motion to include limitations on the frequency of permitting changes to campaign contribution limits in order to prevent arbitrary changes by future seated City Councils.

**MOTION:**

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council to set campaign contribution limits at \$1,000 per person/entity, per election, for candidates running for Councilmember, and \$2,500 per person/entity, per election, for candidates running for Mayor; that the limits be adopted by ordinance; and subject to the City Attorney's Office providing a framework to the City Council for enforcement equivalent to, or exceeding, FPPC enforcement, if possible.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, Mejia, Salinas,  
Wilson, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: Member Novak, Vice Chair Hatcher  
ABSENT: Member McCoy  
ABSTAIN: None

Member Novak spoke in favor of amending the City Charter to include provisions that state, to the extent that the City Council adopts an ordinance imposing campaign contribution limits, that those limits cannot be changed for a period of not less than four years or at least two election cycles.

In response to Member Salinas and McAustin's concerns, Member Novak stated that this restriction would be better suited as a charter amendment (instead of by ordinance) so that it cannot be easily undone by a future City Council.

Vice Member Hatcher pointed out that the campaign contribution limits could be easily increased to \$5,500 if no time constraints in place.

Member Salinas requested that additional language be added to prevent the campaign contribution limit from exceeding a certain percentage.

Discussion ensued regarding the implementation of consumer price index (CPI) adjustments to the campaign contribution limits set by ordinance. City Clerk Jomsky clarified that theoretically, if CPI adjustments are incorporated, then the campaign contribution limits can potentially exceed state limits.

MOTION:

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend that the City Council consider a City Charter amendment, that states, "If the City Council adopts an ordinance implementing campaign contribution limits different than state limits, the ordinance may be amended no earlier than following the 2nd election cycle after its enactment or amendment."

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, Mejia, Novak,  
Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Member McCoy  
ABSTAIN: None

Member Farhat made a motion, seconded by Member Wilson, to incorporate annual CPI adjustments to the campaign contribution limits set by ordinance.

City Clerk Jomsky suggested incorporating language specifying that such annual CPI adjustments occur on January 1<sup>st</sup> of every year, instead of July 1<sup>st</sup>, to avoid changes occurring during an election cycle.

Following discussion, Members Novak, Mejia, and McAustin expressed concerns with incorporating CPI adjustments to this issue, as it would overcomplicate the matter of lowering campaign contribution limits.

**MOTION:** Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Wilson, to incorporate annual CPI adjustments to campaign contribution limits set by ordinance, with the CPI adjustments to occur on January 1<sup>st</sup> of every year.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Salinas, Wilson

**NOES:** Members McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

**ABSENT:** Member McCoy

**ABSTAIN:** Member Kennedy

**RECESS:** The Charter Study Task Force recessed at 8:38 p.m., and reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

**STATUS REPORT ON ASSIGNED CHARTER STUDY TOPICS AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE ACTION ON REMAINING PENDING ISSUES \*\***

James Maddox, Pasadena resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting and expressed concerns that the topics discussed by the Charter Study Task Force did not include the election process and voting.

Chair Chawkins announced that a subcommittee would be formed to work with the City Clerk's Office to assist in the preparation of the final report to be presented to the City Council. City Clerk Jomsky provided an update on the assigned topics that have been discussed by the Task Force, noting which remaining topics need additional consideration.

The Task Force engaged in discussion regarding the number of affirmative votes needed when a vacancy occurs on the City Council, and reconsidered the motion passed at the April 25, 2024 meeting.

**MOTION:** Following discussion, it was moved by Member Mejia, seconded by Member Farhat, to reconsider the motion passed at the April 25, 2024 meeting related to the number of affirmative votes required for a Council action to be deemed approved.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** McCoy

**ABSTAIN** None

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Mejia, to rescind the prior motion to require the City Council fill a Councilmember vacancy with a majority vote, instead of five affirmative votes.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, Mejia, Novak,  
Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Member McCoy  
ABSTAIN None

City Clerk Jomsky clarified that the draft Final Report omitted the Task Force's vote regarding the Council Compensation Committee to be convened at least once every five years by Charter Amendment, which will be corrected. He also noted that the ad hoc committee would meet the following Tuesday and Thursday to assist in editing the Final Report and that Task Force members may also submit any recommended edits to the City Clerk's Office.

Member Farhat, Member McAustin, Vice Chair Hatcher, and Chair Chawkins volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **PRESENTATION ON CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE DRAFT FINAL REPORT FOR COMMENT AND DIRECTION TO CONSULTANT AND CITY STAFF**

Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly Consultant, presented the Charter Study Task Force Draft Final Report; she provided an overview of the organization of the document, including the Task Force's adopted recommendations and proposed charter amendments, and responded to questions.

Member Wilson suggested that work on ballot questions wait until after the City Council determines which amendments to the City Charter will be submitted to the voters. He also suggested highlighting vote counts for each recommendation of the Task Force in the Final Report.

Following discussion, by order of the Chair, and consensus of the Task Force, the information was received and filed.


### **CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AND/OR REGULAR MEETING LOCATION**

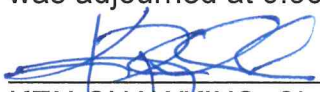
No changes were made to the Charter Study Task Force regular meeting schedule and meeting locations.

## ADJOURNMENT:

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

**CITY OF PASADENA  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
MAY 23, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM S249  
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91101**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING** Chair Chawkins called the regular meeting of the Charter Study Task Force to order at 6:08 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Member Vince Farhat  
Member Lena Kennedy  
Member Margaret McAustin  
Member Liberty McCoy  
Member Diana Carbajal Mejia (absent)  
Member Paul Novak  
Member Raul Salinas  
Member Andy Wilson  
Vice Chair Marcus Hatcher  
Chair Ken Chawkins

**Staff:** Michele Bagneris, City Attorney  
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager  
Christine Soo, Assistant City Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** No one appeared for public comment on matters not on the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 9, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

Member Farhat requested that the minutes be amended as follows: 1) on Page 3, Line 6 of the motion, remove the extra word “race”; 2) on Page 4, Line 3 of the motion, add the word “consider”, to now read “...recommend that the City Council consider a City Charter amendment...” and 3) on Page 4, Line 6 of the motion, add the words “or amendment”, to now read, “...2<sup>nd</sup> election cycle after its enactment or amendment.”

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member McAustin, seconded by Member Farhat, to approve the meeting minutes, as amended.

**AYES:** Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, Salinas, Wilson,  
Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Members McCoy, Novak

**ABSENT:** Member Mejia



## NEW BUSINESS

### REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE DRAFT FINAL REPORT FOR APPROVAL AND SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 2 letters expressing concerns and/or providing various comments regarding the discussion details on campaign contribution limits in the Task Force's draft final report were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the Task Force, posted online, and made part of the public record for the item.

City Clerk Jomsky presented brief summaries of recommendations for each assigned Charter Study topic acted on by the Task Force and as listed in the draft Final Report.

In response to Member Wilson's inquiry regarding Term Limits and partial terms of two or more years counting as full terms under the proposed limits, City Clerk Jomsky clarified that the Mayor's seat is filled only by election occurring during the City's regular election cycle. He stated that in both cases for the Mayor's seat, a partial two-year term or a full four-year term would be the result of an election, and would be terms of two or more years. Therefore, both would count as full terms toward the term limit. In contrast, he noted that the Council District seat could be filled by appointment if less than two years remained on the term. He reiterated that it was City staff's understanding that only terms of two or more years (where an election occurs) are proposed as counting toward the term limit. Discussion ensued regarding how term limits should apply to partial term scenarios.

Following discussion, the Task Force agreed by consensus to recommend amending the language in the Final Report for Mayor and City Councilmember Term Limits to read, "No person may serve more than three consecutive terms..." (removing references to "four-year" terms), and adding parentheticals stating that a partial term of two or more years would count toward a full term under term limits.

In response to Member McAustin's inquiry regarding the recommendation to the Council Compensation Committee to adjust benefits by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on an annual basis, City Clerk Jomsky clarified that the suggested adjustments pertain to benefits such as childcare. City Clerk Jomsky highlighted the fact that Councilmember stipends are already adjusted by CPI [pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code (PMC) Section 2.05.210] and benefits related to health and dental care (e.g., health and welfare benefits) are similarly addressed in the PMC [pursuant to PMC Section 2.05.220]. Chair Chawkins stated that these matters of benefits should be reviewed by the Council Compensation Committee when convened by the City Council.

Member Farhat suggested recommending that the Council Compensation Committee discuss non-base compensation, since City Councilmembers already receive CPI adjustments to their stipends and health and welfare benefits.

City Clerk Jomsky presented recommended revisions to the Final Report, as follows:

- Executive Summary – Page i, last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> line, change “three” to “several”
- Executive Summary – Page ii, Vacancy, Recommendation 1, insert the following at the end of sentence, “...vacancy, and add death as a cause of vacancy.”
- Executive Summary – Page ii, Vacancy, Recommendation 2, insert the following at the end of the sentence, “...within 75 days (in lieu of “chosen by lot”).”
- Executive Summary – Page ii, Vice Mayor, change heading title to read, “Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore”
- Executive Summary – Page iii, Recommendation 8, insert the following sentence, “Recommendation is contingent on City Attorney’s Office providing establishing a framework for enforcement.”
- Executive Summary – Page iii, Create New Recommendation 9, “The Task Force also recommends amending the Charter, if an ordinance is adopted, to restrict changes to the ordinance to occur no more than once every two election cycles, after enactment or amendment.”
- Executive Summary – Page iii, Recommendation 9, renumber as Recommendation 10
- Executive Summary – Page iii, Recommendations 10, 11, 12, and 13, Additional Task Force Recommendations Not Requiring Charter Amendments, renumber and revise as follows:
  11. Vacancy: Council to establish by ordinance the details and process for Council District vacancy appointments, including a process for robust public outreach and engagement.
  12. Vice Mayor: Vice Mayor selection process to consider seniority and the benefit of the rotational role of Vice Mayor.
  13. Term Limits: Council to adopt a formal onboarding process for new Councilmembers. and implement a Council-driven public information process to encourage individuals to run for public office.
  14. Council Compensation: Council Compensation Committee to discuss the issue of “family care” as a broader category than childcare....

In response to Member Wilson’s request to capture additional details of the Task Force’s lengthy discussion and considerations given to costs and timing factors to fill City Council vacancies by election, City Clerk Jomsky presented a brief outline of proposed details to include, such as election cost estimates for consolidated and stand-alone

elections for Council District and Mayor seats, as well as timing considerations given to appointments (if less than two years remained on the term) and special stand-alone elections (if more than two years remained on the term) for Council District vacancies.

Following discussion, the Task Force agreed by consensus to add the additional information on election costs and timing, as proposed by City staff.

Member Farhat suggested moving the Task Force member applications/biographies to the appendix section of the report to improve the report's document flow.

In response to Member Novak's suggestion that the votes for each recommendation be featured more prominently, City Clerk Jomsky noted that some recommendations are the product of multiple motions and votes (with each vote reflecting varying levels of support), and did not necessarily align in such a way as to capture the motions and votes cleanly for each recommendation.

Member Farhat suggested including footnotes in the executive summary to indicate whether or not the votes were unanimous on the issues of term limits and campaign contribution limits.

Member Salinas noted grammatical and clerical edits to be made on Pages 20, 22, and 25 of the draft Final Report.

Alejandro Rivas, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns that the discussed benefits of lowered campaign contribution limits were not captured in the draft final report and excludes the support expressed by the women on the Task Force on the matter.

Member Farhat spoke in support of approving the edits to the draft Final report as recommended by staff and the Task Force, adding a footnote/parenthetical to capture votes that were not unanimous for the issues of term limits and campaign contributions limits, and to move the applications/biographies of the Task Force members to the back of the appendix. In response to the public comment, Member Salinas suggested including a footnote to the Campaign Contribution Limit section, citing the minutes as a way to call attention to the detailed discussion of the campaign contribution limits issue, as well as the public comments made by members of the public.

**MOTION:**

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to a) approve the edits and additional details, as recommended by City staff (and detailed above); b) approve edits noted by Member Salinas on Pages 20, 22, and 25 of the draft Final Report, and substituting the word "providing" with the word "establishing" in Recommendation 8 on Page 20; c) approve the edits to Page 1, ending the sentence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph with the words "priority order"; d) add footnotes or parentheticals, at the discretion of

the Chair, Vice Chair, and the City Clerk, in the Executive Summary to capture the Task Force's vote on the issues of term limits and campaign contribution limits; e) move the Task Force member applications to the appendix; and f) include a footnote citing the meeting minutes dates to call attention to the detailed discussion on the campaign contribution limits issue. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Member Mejia)

**AUTHORIZATION FOR CHAIR CHAWKINS TO APPROVE THE FINAL MEETING MINUTES ON BEHALF OF THE TASK FORCE**

City Clerk Jomsky briefly discussed the approval process for the final set of minutes of the last Charter Study Task Force meeting, authorizing Chair Chawkins to approve the final set of minutes on behalf of the Task Force.

MOTION:


It was moved by Vice Chair Hatcher, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the staff recommendation to authorize Chair Chawkins to approve the final meeting minutes on behalf of the Task Force. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Member Mejia)

In response to Member Wilson's inquiry regarding preparation of the final report presentation, Chair Chawkins stated that the Task Force Ad Hoc Committee (including the Chair, Vice Chair, Member Farhat, and Member McAustin) will also review edits and assist with final preparation of the presentation to the City Council.

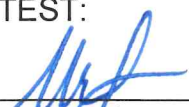
Members of the Task Force thanked one another, City Staff, and Baker Tilly consultants for their efforts that allowed the body to have robust discussions and deliberations, and successfully complete the assigned Scope of Work and Charge by the City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Charter Study Task Force was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CHAWKINS, Chair  
Charter Study Task Force

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

---

## Consultant and City Staff Reports to the Task Force

# CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 9, 2023  
ITEM 5

### **Approved Scope of City Governance Topics to be Reviewed**

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections, and review the Charter requirements pertaining to a vacancy in the office of the Mayor as it relates to the Vice Mayor position (City Charter Section 404)
- Mayor and City Council Term Limits
- Review Timing of Mayoral Election (City Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- Review Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (City Charter Sections 401 and 407)
- Consider City Council compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)
- Campaign contribution limits

Any topics the Task Force wishes to add to the list above would require City Council authorization. The Task Force, working with the consultant, will have opportunities to reconnect with the City Council during the process to provide updates and information on the Charter Study process and progress.

### **Approved Task Force Charge for City Governance Review**

- Study and fully examine topics submitted by City Council to Task Force
- Provide recommendations on those topics, including whether or not to amend the Charter in each instance, as part of a Final Report submitted to the City Council by May/June 2024
- Provide recommended amendments in a priority topics list, keeping in mind the number of ballot measures that might create voter fatigue issues
- Provide recommended ballot question(s) for Charter amendment(s)
- Provide recommended changes/amendments/additions to City Charter text

### **Suggested Timeline for Task Force:**

- November 2023 – Charter Task Force appointments
- December 2023 through May 2024 – Task Force to Review Issues and Approve Recommendations for City Council Consideration
- May/June 2024 – Final Report on Recommended Charter Amendments Submitted to City Council
- June/July 2024 – City Council to Review/Consider Recommended Charter Amendments
- August 9, 2024 – Deadline to submit Charter Amendment measures to the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters to include on November 5, 2024 General Election ballot

# CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 9, 2023

ITEM 6





City of Pasadena CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE			
NO.	DATE	TASK FORCE WORK PLAN	BAKER TILLY ROLE
1.	December 9 Saturday	<b>Organizational Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introductions</li> <li>▪ Select Chair and Vice Chair</li> <li>▪ City Charter Basics</li> <li>▪ Review charge and scope of Task Force</li> <li>▪ Review of proposed work plan</li> </ul>	Introduce BT team, qualifications, and answer questions
2.	January 13 Saturday	<b>Issue 1: Vacancy Process for Elected Officials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT reports on Issue 1: Vacancy process for Mayor and Council seats and answers questions</li> <li>▪ Task Force discusses and invites public comments</li> <li>▪ Task Force makes decision or continues Issue 1 to the next meeting for more research</li> <li>▪ If no consensus on continuance or research, TF tables Issue 1 for future consideration</li> </ul>	Written report on Issue 1 <u>Internal:</u> Complete Issue 1 follow-up and Issue 2 report before next mtg
3.	January 25 Thursday	<b>Issue 2: Mayor and Council Term Limits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT follow up (if any) on Issue 1: Vacancy Process</li> <li>▪ TF invites public comments on Issue 1</li> <li>▪ TF takes preliminary vote or tables Issue 1 for future consideration</li> <li>▪ BT reports on Issue 2: Term Limits and answers questions</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and takes public comments on Issue 2</li> <li>▪ Task Force votes on Issue 2, continues the item to next meeting for more research, or tables Issue 2 for future consideration</li> </ul>	Written report on Issue 1 follow-up  Written report on Issue 2  <u>Internal:</u> Additional research/follow-up
4.	February 7 Wednesday	<b>Issue 3: Timing of Mayoral Elections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT follow-up (if any) on Issue 2: Term Limits</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and invite public comments on Issue 2</li> <li>▪ TF takes preliminary action or tables Issue 2: Term Limits</li> <li>▪ BT reports on Issue 3: Timing of Mayoral Elections, and answers questions</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and takes public comments</li> <li>▪ TF makes preliminary decision on the timing of mayoral elections, continues Issue 3 to next meeting for more research, or tables the matter for future consideration</li> </ul>	Written report on Issue 2 follow-up Written report on Issue 3 <u>Internal:</u> Additional research/revisions to issue reports Prepare oral report on progress to date
5.	February 22 Thursday	<b>Issues 1, 2, and 3: Follow Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT presents summary of actions to date and what remains on 1, 2, or 3</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and takes public comments</li> <li>▪ TF votes on outstanding topics</li> <li>▪ TF tables any unresolved issues</li> </ul>	BT reports on progress to date  <u>Internal:</u> BT follow-up (if any)
6.	March 14 Thursday	<b>Issue 4: Vice Mayor Appointment Process and Term of Office</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT reports on Vice Mayor Appointment Process and Term</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and takes public comments</li> <li>▪ TF takes preliminary or final vote on the Vice Mayor Appointment process or asks for additional research</li> </ul>	Written report on Issue 4  <u>Internal:</u>

City of Pasadena  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

NO.	DATE	TASK FORCE WORK PLAN	BAKER TILLY ROLE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If no consensus, Issue 4 is continued to next meeting or tabled</li> </ul>	More research and revisions to Issue 4 report. Write issue 5 report
7.	March 28 Thursday	<p><b>Issue 5: Council Compensation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT presents any follow-up research on Issue 4; Vice Mayor Appointment Process</li> <li>▪ BT reports on Issue 5: Council Compensation and answers questions</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and takes public comments</li> <li>▪ TF votes on Issue 5, continues to next meeting for additional research or tables for future consideration</li> </ul>	Issue 4 follow up  Issue 5 report  <u>Internal</u> : More research if requested
8.	April 11 Thursday	<p><b>Issue 6: Campaign Contribution Limits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT presents any follow-up research on Issue 5</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and invites public comments on Issue 5</li> <li>▪ TF acts on Issue 5, continues it, or tables it for consideration later</li> <li>▪ BT reports on Issue 6 – Campaign Contribution Limits</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and invites public comments</li> <li>▪ TF votes, continues item until next meeting for additional research, or tables for future consideration</li> </ul>	Issue 5 follow-up  Written report on issue 6  <u>Internal</u> : Complete added research and prepare status report
9.	April 25 Thursday	<p><b>Status Meeting – Recap, Address Unresolved Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT reports on unresolved issues and sums up status</li> <li>▪ TF discusses each issue and invites public comments</li> <li>▪ TF finalizes action on all issues</li> </ul>	BT reports on unresolved issues
10.	April 10 to May 5	<p><b>April 10 to May 5, 2024</b> <b>Baker Tilly prepares first draft of TF report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT Peer Review</li> <li>▪ BT meet with City Clerk to review first draft if necessary</li> </ul>	<u>Internal</u> Complete first draft no later than May 5
11.	May 9 Thursday	<p><b>First Draft of Task Force Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT presents first draft of TF Report and answers questions</li> <li>▪ TF discusses and calls for public comments</li> <li>▪ TF asks for additional research or edits to the draft</li> <li>▪ TF approves draft with requested amendments or continues first draft to following meeting for revisions</li> </ul>	Present first draft <u>Internal</u> – Revise first draft
12.	May 23 Thursday	<p><b>TF Review of First Draft (revised)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT presents revisions (if any) to first draft</li> <li>▪ TF discusses revised draft and invites public comments</li> <li>▪ TF gives more direction to staff/BT as necessary</li> <li>▪ TF approves draft with requested amendments, continues for more research</li> </ul>	Present revised draft  <u>Internal</u> – Final changes to draft
13.	May 23 to June 5 (agenda deadline)	<p><b>May 23 – June 5, 2024, Council agenda deadline</b> <b>BT makes final changes to draft as requested by TF and staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BT peer review</li> <li>▪ Review first draft changes with staff</li> </ul>	

**City of Pasadena  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE**

NO.	DATE	TASK FORCE WORK PLAN	BAKER TILLY ROLE
		<p><b>Prepare PowerPoint presentation for the City Council meeting on June 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preview PPT presentation with staff</li> <li>▪ Revise PPT as necessary</li> <li>▪ BT Peer Review</li> <li>▪ Follow up meeting with staff if needed</li> </ul>	
14. CC 1	June 10 Monday	<p><b>City Council Receives Final Draft of TF Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present final report and PowerPoint presentation, and answer questions</li> <li>• Council deliberates, takes public comments, and provides direction to staff and BT</li> </ul>	<p><u>Internal</u> Revise draft, BT peer review, staff review</p>
15. CC 2	June 24 Monday	<p><b>Return to Council with follow up research, as necessary</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Additional follow up, as directed by City</b></p>	<p>BT presents revised draft Council adopts and directs City Attorney to prepare ballot language</p>

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE**

**JANUARY 20, 2024**

**ITEM 3**

**STAFF REPORT  
AND ATTACHMENT**

reviewed state codes and compared the charters and municipal codes of nine peer cities that were selected by City staff.

***Filling a Vacancy in a General Law City***

A general law city council may fill a vacant seat by appointment or election (Government Code §36542). If a council chooses to conduct a special election – or if the council does not make an appointment within 60 days of the vacancy – a special election must be held on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the call of the election.

**Alternatives for Filling a Vacancy in a General Law City**

California Government Code Section 36512 also allows general law cities to adopt an ordinance to govern filling of vacancies. The ordinance is subject to one or a combination of the following:

***Special Election:*** The ordinance could *require* a council to call a special election each time a council or mayor’s seat becomes vacant. The special election would be held on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election.

***Election triggered by petition:*** The ordinance enables a council to appoint a successor unless a petition signed by a specified number of qualified electors is filed before the end of a specified period. If the petition qualified, the special election would be held on the next regularly established election date but not less than 114 days from the filing of the petition.

***Term of appointed official:*** The ordinance may enable a city council to simultaneously make an appointment and call a special election. The special election would be held on the next regularly established election date or scheduled municipal election occurring in not less than 114 days.

***Filling Vacancies in Peer Cities***

City	Appointment	Election	Special Provisions
Pasadena	Within 75 days	No	If the appointment period expires without appointment, the successor will be chosen by lot
Anaheim	Yes	Voted on at next general election	30–day residency prior to appointment or prior to opening of nominations
Berkeley	Less than one year on term, Council has 60 days to appoint	If more than one year, the Council calls a special election	No appointment or special election allowed if a regular election is scheduled not more than 180 or less than 60 (80) days from vacancy date
Burbank	If the council does not appoint within 30 days, the mayor may appoint	Appointee holds office until next regular election	Note: If the vacancy occurs during or near a filing period, there are special provisions that can change the tenure of the appointee

City	Appointment	Election	Special Provisions
Glendale	Within 30 days	If no appointment, council must hold a special election within 120 days of appointment period	The election may be deferred if a general election is within 180 days
Long Beach	Only if vacancy occurs within 120 days of a primary election	If more than 120 days from primary, the Council has 60 days to call a special election; said election to be held within 120 days of vacancy.	
Santa Ana	Within 30 days	Special election mandated if more than 120 days are left on the term	To be appointed or nominated for election, the candidate must have lived within the district for one year continuously
Santa Barbara	Council can appoint interim <i>only</i> if less than one year left on term	Special Election mandated unless appointment option triggered. Appointment negates special election requirement.	Special election to be held on next regularly scheduled meeting unless council chooses to call special election for earlier date
Santa Monica	Within 30 days of vacancy	Election called if deadline expires without appointment	If there is an appointee, he or she holds office until the next general election
Torrance	Within 60 days	Election called if deadline expires without appointment	Appointee holds office until next regular election

### Observations

- Although triggered by different timing or circumstances, every general law city and the nine peer cities have a mechanism for appointing a qualified voter to a vacant council seat.
- In some cases, the City Council is forced to call a special election because they failed to make an appointment by the deadline.
- State law enables cities to adopt a provision allowing the council to appoint a successor unless a petition signed by a specified number of qualified electors is filed before the end of a specified period.
- No general law or peer city other than Pasadena draws lots to fill a vacant seat.

### Advantages and Disadvantages of Charter Section 404

Advantages	Disadvantages
<i>Election of Successor</i>	
Voters choose their representative at the polls	Very costly if the city must conduct a stand-alone special election
The longer nomination process (including candidate forums) serves as a method for vetting candidates	Without a method for installing an interim, seat may go unrepresented for as long as six months
<i>Appointment of Successor</i>	
Fastest method for filling the seat, thus limiting the time the district is unrepresented	District voters are excluded from selecting their representative at the ballot box

Advantages	Disadvantages
More diversity is likely. The appointment process opens opportunities to those who are not seasoned politicians.	Keeping the appointment process would not resolve some of the concerns associated with Council choosing City Council members.
Negates the cost of holding a stand-alone special election In Pasadena, with a Primary and General, it is conceivable that two elections would be needed to fill a vacancy.	
<i>Appointment/Election Combination</i>	
More flexibility to address the situation at hand—especially if it is important to fill the seat right away due to circumstances such as natural disasters	Increases uncertainty. It is likely that some community members and some applicants/candidates may be unhappy with giving the council a choice.

### Optional Motions

In cases where an election is called, the City Clerk must have enough time to open a nomination period and work with the County Registrar of Voters to administer the election. This includes meeting translation, posting and publication deadlines, preparing the voter’s pamphlet, printing, and mailing ballots, and performing several other election duties. Moreover, if the Charter requires a special (standalone) election, based on the Pasadena’s process for electing members of the City Council (50%+1 majority), the costs could be as high as \$100,000 to \$200,000

**Appointment period followed by special election if no appointment.** Move that the Charter Study Task Force recommend a November 5, 2024, ballot measure to amend Section 404. The measure would include an appointment period of 75 days followed by a requirement that if an appointment is not made within that period, the Council is required to call a special election (or leave the seat vacant until the next regular election cycle).

**Mandate election if appointment period spans more than one year:** Move that the Charter Study Task Force recommend a November 5, 2024, ballot measure to amend Section 404 to enable the Council to make an appointment within 75 days unless the appointment period would last for more than one year. In that case, the Council would have to call a special election.

As noted above, the Task Force would need to consider (as part of its recommendation) whether special stand-alone elections (that do not coincide with a regular election cycle) will include a runoff where no candidate receives 50% +1 votes, or whether the candidate with the plurality (most votes received) is elected without the requirement of a runoff.

**Mandate Special Election.** Move that the Charter Study Task Force recommend a November 5, 2024, ballot measure removing the language in Section 404 authorizing an appointment to fill a Council vacancy and replacing it with a requirement that the Council shall call a special stand-alone election at the first regular meeting following notice of the vacancy. The Task Force recommendation may also include:

**Option 1:** The special election will be held on the first date authorized by the Elections Code, not less than 88 days from the call.

**Option 2:** The special election will be held on the first date authorized by the Elections Code, not less than 88 days from the call, unless the special election can be consolidated with a regular election cycle (50%+1 majority), or a scheduled primary or general election (plurality vote) occurring in not more than 120 days.

**Election triggered by petition:** Move that the Charter Study Task Force recommend a November 5, 2024, ballot measure amending Section 404 to enable the Council to appoint a successor within 75 days of the occurrence of the vacancy, unless a petition signed by a specified number of qualified electors in the District is filed with the City Clerk before the end of a specified period. If the petition qualifies, a special election will be held on the next regularly established election date but not less than 114 days from the filing of the petition.

**Recommend no changes:** Move that the Charter Study Task Force recommend no changes to Charter Section 404.

**Refer item back to Baker Tilly:** Move to ask Baker Tilly to perform added research as specified by the Task Force for consideration at a future meeting (providing a time from of up to 30 days).



## Pasadena Election Terminology – Council Vacancy Report

The following information explains election terminology used in Baker Tilly's reports.

### *Regular elections*

- An election held on a date specified by the Pasadena City Charter
  - Regular primary (nominating) election – Elections held in March of even-numbered year for Presidential Election cycle; and June of even-numbered year of Gubernatorial Election cycle
  - Regular general (runoff) election – Elections held in November of even-numbered years

### *Consolidated election*

- An identifier for any election where a regular or special Pasadena election can coincide with a statewide election being conducted by the County of Los Angeles. For example, the Presidential Primary election and the Pasadena Primary election will be held on March 5, 2024, and conducted by the County

### *Special election*

- An election that is “called” by a city council rather than scheduled by a city’s charter. There are two types of special elections.
  - **Consolidated Special Election**  
Pasadena may call a special election to coincide with a regular Pasadena election. For example, the District 3 elections were not scheduled by Charter to be held in 2024 so the election to complete the last two years of the term is a special election.
  - **Standalone Special Election**  
Cities can call an election that will *not* be consolidated with another election. It is called a standalone special election. Pasadena’s City Charter Section 1206 empowers the City Council to call a standalone special election, however, due to provisions in City Charter Section 404, a special election cannot be called to fill a vacancy. There are several cities that either have the option or are required to call a special election to fill a vacancy.

# CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

JANUARY 20, 2024

ITEM 4

STAFF REPORT

To: Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Pasadena Charter Study – Vice Mayor appointment process, timing, and length of term

Date: January 20, 2024

---

## Background

The City Council has asked the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force to examine the selection process, timing, and length of term of the Vice Mayor.

### *Charter Section 407 – Vice Mayor reads as follows:*

At its organizational meeting, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence or disability. (Sec. 407 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998; Sec. 407 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

### *Charter Section 404 – Vacancy – Appointment The first paragraph reads in part*

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the Vice Mayor shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election. The assumption of the duties of the Mayor shall not require that the Vice Mayor relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district. If a vacancy occurs among any other members of the City Council, the remaining members shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented district who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. If the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy, the replacement shall be chosen by lot. (Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998; Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

### *Vice Mayor Election Process, Timing and Length of Term*

Pasadena's Vice Mayor is elected from among the Council by a majority vote of its members. The City Council has generally followed a tradition of electing the most senior member of the Council who has not previously served as Vice Mayor. Prior to 2018 when City elections occurred in March and April of odd years, the Vice Mayor election was held annually at the Council's organizational meeting held on the first Monday of each May. The Vice Mayor's term was one year in length but with limited exception was renewed by the City Council so that each Councilmember served as Vice Mayor for two years (consecutive one-year terms).

In 2018, when the City shifted the timing of its elections to coincide with even year statewide election dates, the organizational meeting was also modified to occur on the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday following the statewide general election. This change increased the time between

organizational meetings from annually to every two years. It also changed the Vice Mayor term from consecutive one-year terms to a single election for the two years between organizational meetings. While the Charter does not specify the length of the term for the Vice Mayor, it would stand to reason that the term would be two years to mirror the timing of the organizational meeting. However, that was not the case in 2022 when the Council appointed Councilmember Felicia Williams as Vice Mayor for 2023 and Councilmember Steve Madison as Vice Mayor for 2024.

Pasadena's Vice Mayor presides over meetings and serves as mayor pro tempore<sup>1</sup> in the absence of the Mayor. Because there are seven council members and only one opportunity every two years to select a Vice Mayor, many council members must serve multiple terms on the Council before becoming Vice Mayor under this approach.

In addition, there is nothing in the Charter about what happens if there is a vacancy in the Vice Mayor position during that member's term. This is an opportunity to amend the Charter to specify that if a Vice Mayor does not serve a full term the Council has the authority to elect a new Vice Mayor with the five affirmative votes needed.

There are examples among the nine peer cities Baker Tilly studied that enable a council to replace a vice mayor/mayor pro tempore on a majority vote. Pasadena's Charter does not provide that flexibility.

Based on current City Charter provisions, Pasadena's Vice Mayor can become Mayor without appointment, election, deliberation, public input, or possibility of replacement. Charter Section 404 says in part that, in case of a mayoral vacancy, the vice mayor shall "...assume the duties of the office of the Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next regular general election..." The next general election could be two years later.

## Fact Finding

Baker Tilly researched the Government Code for General Law cities, as well as the nine peer cities with charters, to learn how the vice mayor is chosen, the term of office, and the typical powers and duties of the office.

## General Law Cities

We found no government code provision relating to vice mayors or vice presidents of the city council that applies to General Law cities. However, Government Code Section 36802 enables cities to appoint or elect a mayor pro tempore:

*The mayor shall preside at the meetings of the council. If the mayor is absent or unable to act, the mayor pro tempore shall serve until the mayor returns or is able to act. The mayor pro tempore has all the powers and duties of the mayor.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The term pro tempore or pro tem is used by municipalities to mean "for the time being." The mayor pro tempore serves on an ad hoc basis.

### Peer City Comparisons

Table 1. Vice Mayor - Comparisons of Nine Peer Cities

City	Title	Selection process	Vice Mayor's (or MPT) Term Length	Legislative Authority
Pasadena	VM	Elected by Council at each organizational meeting	The term depends on action taken at each organizational meeting. Note: in the event of a mayoral vacancy, the vice mayor becomes mayor until the next regular election	Charter §407 Charter §404
Anaheim	MPT	Council selects member to preside over meetings in the absence of the mayor	MPT serves at pleasure of the council	Charter: Article V, §504
Berkeley	VP is MPT	VP of council becomes MPT as needed	VP serves at pleasure of council. If vacancy, VP becomes mayor. The council then has 60 days to appoint another mayor or to order a special election to fill the mayor's seat	Charter: Article VI, The Mayor, §22
Burbank	VM is MPT	The VM chosen at an organizational meeting	MPT: Until the mayor's return VM: Can be replaced at the next organizational meeting, or sooner by a council majority	Charter: Article IV, §9
Glendale	MPT	MPT selected monthly by alphabetical rotation	For the month	City Charter, Article VI, 5 (4).
Long Beach	VM is MPT	Elected by council at each organizational meeting. No veto power	If vacancy, VM can become mayor, but the council must immediately call a special election	Charter – Article II §202 – (e)(f)
Santa Ana	MPT	Elected by council at each organizational meeting	Can be replaced by council at any time	Charter: Article IV. - §405. - Mayor Pro Tem
Santa Barbara	MPT	Elected by Council as needed	Until the mayor's return	City Charter: Article V. §504.
Santa Monica	MPT	Elected by Council at organizational meeting	The vice mayor is elected to a two-year term but can be replaced by the Council	Charter – Article VI §604 Presiding Officer, Mayor.
Torrance	MPT	Council elects MPT upon the absence of mayor	Until the mayor's return	City Charter – Article 6 – Elective §610 Mayor

<sup>1</sup>MPT (mayor pro tempore), VM (vice mayor), VP (vice-president of the council)

### Observations

- While most cities do not have a vice mayor position; there is a similar position called a mayor pro tempore. The mayor pro tempore, like Pasadena's Vice Mayor, presides at council meetings and performs other duties in the temporary absence of the mayor.
- Long Beach and Burbank have vice mayors, and Berkeley has a council vice president. They have less permanency because unlike Pasadena, those vice mayors can be replaced at any time.
- Like Pasadena, five of the nine peer cities elect their mayor pro tempore or vice mayor at their organizational meeting.
- Anaheim, Berkeley, and Torrance choose their mayor pro tempore on an ad hoc basis.
- Glendale has a monthly rotation schedule for the mayor pro tempore.

- The Pasadena City Charter does not include a process for replacing the Vice Mayor.
- In Long Beach, the vice mayor/mayor pro tempore has no vote or veto power.
- Like Pasadena, the vice mayors of Long Beach and Berkeley become mayor immediately in the case of a mayoral vacancy. This occurs without public notice or input; however, Long Beach and Berkeley simultaneously call an election to fill the seat.
- Most cities fill a mayoral vacancy the same way they fill a council vacancy.
- If a vacancy occurs in Pasadena after the start of the nomination period, or anytime during the election cycle (which happened with District 3), then the vacancy can be for longer than two years. This is especially true during the Presidential election cycle, where there is a significant time between the Primary and General elections.

### *Advantages and Disadvantages of Pasadena’s Current Charter Language*

Advantages	Disadvantages
<i>Vice Mayor election</i>	
All General Law and most peer cities have the same process where the council elects the MPT or VM	Election by the Council could mean that the position goes to the person with the most political influence rather than the best leadership skills
<i>Timing</i>	
Transparency. The election occurs at a high-profile meeting that garners a lot of public interest	Organizational meetings are two years apart which limits opportunities to be elected Vice Mayor
<i>Term</i>	
Longer terms reduce uncertainty and add to organizational stability	There is no Charter provision for the Council to replace an ineffective Vice Mayor during their term as Vice Mayor
<i>Automatic Ascendence to Mayor in Case of a Vacancy</i>	
The Mayoral vacancy is filled at once, without cost	Removes the public from the selection process for as long as two years
Removes uncertainty over who can vie for a vacant mayoral seat	Deprives the Council of the ability to select the most capable person to fill a mayoral vacancy
Long term interim leadership can be more stable and predictable than leadership subject to replacement	The Vice Mayor must split time between the Mayor’s duties and District duties

### **Optional Motions:**

There are many options for electing a Vice Mayor, the length of the term, and the powers and duties. We have offered a motion to reduce the Vice Mayor’s term to one year and a motion to empower the Council to elect a Mayor from among their members in case of a mayoral vacancy. This might also be an opportunity to consider a method for filling a vacancy in the Vice Mayor’s seat. Here are a few optional motions:

**One-year term for the Vice Mayor:** Move to recommend to the City Council amending Charter Section 407 to establish a one-year term for the Vice Mayor.

**Mayoral Vacancy filled by Council:** Move to recommend to the City Council amending Charter Section 407 to provide that if a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the City Council shall elect a Mayor from among the Councilmembers who shall assume the powers and duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next regular election. The assumption of the duties of Mayor shall not require the Councilmember to relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected from a district.

**No changes:** Make no recommendation to the City Council about the Vice Mayor.

**Refer this matter back to Baker Tilly:** Refer this topic back to Baker Tilly for added research on the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ and to return to the Task Force on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) (no later than 30 days).

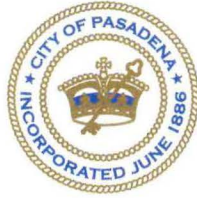
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE  
to occur at Pasadena City Hall, Council Chamber, Room S249

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.	Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (Cancelled)	Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (Special)
Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.



**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**


**ITEM 2  
INFORMATIONAL  
MEMO AND  
CORRESPONDENCE**



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members

**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk   
Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly

**DATE:** February 7, 2024

**RE:** Supplemental Information – Vacancy Appointment Process and Options for Calling a Special Election to Fill a Vacancy (January 20, 2024)

On January 20, 2024, the Charter Study Task Force discussed the following agenda item:

**CONSIDERATION OF VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

At the conclusion of the presentation, public comment, and Task Force deliberations, it was determined by the Task Force to direct the consultant and City staff to provide additional information prior to proceeding with consideration of potential recommended changes to the City Charter provisions related to this topic. Following is a list of topics that the Task Force directed the consultant and/or staff to address with supplemental information:

- Any limitations to dates for special stand-alone elections
- Estimated costs for stand-alone elections
- Rank Choice Voting Information
- Options for Petition Process for Voters to Require Special Election to Fill Vacancy

**Election Dates and Timing of Special Stand-Alone Elections**

While there are established election dates in the California Elections Code, according to the County's Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office (County RRCC), cities are not limited in dates to call a special stand-alone election to fill a vacancy. Thus, such a special stand-alone election could be held on any day and not limited to the established election dates in the Elections Code and used by Los Angeles County which are detailed below.

### Even Year Dates:

- The first Tuesday following a Monday in March (Presidential Primary Election)
- The first Tuesday following a Monday in June (Gubernatorial Primary Election)
- The first Tuesday following a Monday in November (General Election)

### Odd Year Dates:

- The first Tuesday following a Monday in March
- The first Tuesday following a Monday in November

### Cost and Voter Turnout Considerations

On regular even year election dates, the City shares election costs with other government agencies whose elections occur at the same time as Pasadena's regular elections. Further cost sharing occurs among agencies who share geographic jurisdictions during these same election dates (City, PCC, PUSD). Beyond the cost perspective, in terms of regular election dates, there is a benefit to the voters in consolidating elections on regular election dates. Limiting the number of active elections in the City, reduces issues related to voter fatigue, and result in higher turnout rates for elections. Voter turnout rates are consistently higher when comparing Presidential (or Gubernatorial) Primary and General Elections with special stand-alone elections.

### City of Los Angeles Special Election to Fill District 6 Vacancy

Using an example from an election held in 2023, the City of Los Angeles called a special stand-alone Primary Election to fill a vacancy in LA Council District 6 (LACD6), which was held on April 4, 2023 and administered by the County RRCC. Then the City held a special stand-alone run-off Election that occurred 12 weeks later on June 27, 2023, also administered by the County RRCC.

The total voter registration at the time of the 2023 April Primary election for LACD6 was 118,473 registered voters. The total ballots cast in the Primary was 13,510 ballots (11.40% turnout). In June, the reported voter registration at the time was 117,799, with total ballot casts in the run-off being 15,375 (13.05% turnout). The reported cost for the April Primary election (only) was \$7.6 million, or approximately \$64.15 per registered voter.

### City of Pasadena Special Election to Fill District 3 for Remaining Two-year Term

The estimated cost for County RRCC services to administer the upcoming District 3 special election on March 5, 2024 is approximately \$59,000 (based on the County RRCC's online estimator) for 11,147 voters. The cost for District 3 special election occurring on the City's regular Municipal Primary Election date of March 5, 2024 is estimated to be \$5.29 per registered voter (less than one-tenth the cost of the compared special stand-alone election).

In terms of voter turnout rates for Pasadena Council District 3 for the most recent regular election held in June 2022, the number of ballots cast was 2,988 (27% voter turnout). If you were to look back to prior City elections held in odd years, the turnout for Pasadena Council District 3 was 7.5% in 2009, 13.8% in 2013, and 13.3% in 2017.

City staff has requested from the County an election cost estimate for a special Council District 3 stand-alone election to be held in March 2025 (just to provide an apples-to-apples comparison). Staff will distribute this estimate as soon as it is received from the County. Some issues to keep in mind in terms of election administration and cost: state law requires that all voters receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election. This has a significant impact on costs associated with administering an election. State law also requires that an in-person vote center be established within a voting area. When the County provides their estimate for a special stand-alone election, these are a couple of significant variables that the Task Force should be aware of in their consideration of the issue.

### **Rank Choice Voting Inquiry**

At the January 20, 2024 Task Force meeting, additional information was requested regarding Rank Choice Voting (RCV) as an option for Pasadena. Some of the stated benefits by proponents of RCV include: eliminates run-off elections, increases the civility of elections (opponents less likely to attack one-another if attempting to garner 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked votes from voters), reduces election costs, and eliminates lame-duck period between declaration of election results and start of new term.

In speaking with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office, RCV is not an option at this time. An RCV system to serve LA County cities has not been developed (or acquired), and is not currently on the RRCC's future work plan. Since the County administers elections on behalf of the City of Pasadena, it appears that this option is more for future City consideration.

Despite this, City staff contacted the City of Berkeley, which conducts RCV elections for members of the Berkeley City Council. A few details to share regarding Berkeley's use of RCV. First, the County of Alameda that administers elections on behalf of Berkeley has an acquired and certified RCV system that it makes available to cities within its jurisdiction, including the City of Berkeley. Berkeley City Council regular elections occur and are consolidated with statewide general elections in November of even years. The RCV elections held for Berkeley City Council are actually separate ballot elections from the County's statewide ballot. This means that Berkeley voters receive two ballot types for the November election: the RCV ballot for City Council races and the regular statewide ballot for federal, state, and county races and measures (as well as any Berkeley City measures).

In speaking with City staff for Berkeley, there is limited election cost savings for the RCV voting system. The City is responsible for paying two bills for each election, the costs associated with the RCV ballot, and the costs associated with the statewide ballot. Included in the RCV costs are software costs, upgrades, and maintenance for the RCV voting system. There is also voter education and outreach efforts conducted by the City

for Berkeley voters to ensure they are familiar with the RCV voting process. Berkeley City staff did note that there appears to be benefits related to civility in City Council elections.

Finally, staff would point out that the topic of RCV as a voting system is currently not part of the scope of topics assigned to the Charter Study Task Force. While certainly related to the issue of calling special elections for vacancies on the City Council, RCV would be a new system and methodology for Pasadena voters, and would need additional research and information as its own charter study topic. If the Task Force wanted to continue to pursue RCV as part of this process, at a minimum, the Task Force would need to request such authority from the City Council.


### **Options for Petition Process for Voters to Require City to Call a Special Election**


As part of the January 20<sup>th</sup> discussion on filling unscheduled vacancies on the City Council, there was some interest expressed regarding the possibility of establishing a petition process for members of the public that could be used to compel the City to call a special stand-alone election instead of having to accept an appointment.


Staff was unable to locate a city in California that utilizes such an approach, so the Task Force would need to consider a number of details in recommending this as an option to the City Council. This includes (but is not limited to) the following list:

- Design and production of the petitions by the Clerk's office
- Process for issuing petition by the City Clerk
- Required publication and noticing for the petition period
- Length of the signature gathering period
- Final date for filing the petition with the City Clerk (before appointment is made, or 30 days after appointment is made)
- Number of qualified signatures necessary to qualify the petition as a successful challenge and for calling an election
- Effect of petition process on appointment period (appointment immediately ended, or appointment continues to serve until the start of term for the successfully elected replacement)
- Timing of special election

Another aspect related to petitions that is present in the City's current appointment process is that the City Council **requires** applicants seeking appointment for City Council vacancies to gather at least 25 signatures of registered voters from the Council District where the vacancy exists. The Task Force might consider recommending to the City Council that the minimum signatures required for those seeking appointment be increased to demonstrate a stronger connection/support from those in the community. This would need to also consider, among other factors, the vacancy deadline to complete the appointment process, though some may consider an increased number of signatures required as a way to discourage those who otherwise may have been interested in seeking the appointed office.


Vacancies - Regular and Special Election Timing									
March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary									
Description	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	
Adopt Election Resos (Calling, County Servs, Cand S) City Council action took place on October 23, 2023 Resos for measures due before 88th day - Dec 8th	Resos adopted Oct for Council								
Noticing - Election to Be Held, Seats, Measures Additional Notices Posted as Measures Added		11.2.24							
Nomination Period Nov 13 through Dec 8th, extended to Dec 13th (not incumbents)		114 to 88 days							
Printing and Prep of Election Materials Cand Stmt, Ballots, Translations			Mid Dec to Feb						
Ballots/Pamphlets Mailed to Voters 29-Day Deadline Before Election					Feb thru Election Day				
Vote Center Sites Open 10-day and 4-Day Sites					10 and 4 Days				
Election Day - March 5, 2024									
Tally Complete - 5 Weeks 1% Manually Tally of Precincts Occurs Prior to Certification						Mar to April			
Election Results Declared - April 8, 2024							4.08.24		
Total Days from Start to Declaration of Results	168 Days								


	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>November 5, 2024 Presidential General</b>							
Adopt Election Resos (PUSD Calling, County, CS)	Resos adopted June for PUSD						
Cand Stmt - 120 Day Deadline - July 8th							
City runoff (if any); Resos for measures due before 88th day - Aug 9th							
Noticing - Election to Be Held, Seats, Measures		07.01.24					
Additional Notices Posted as Measures Added							
PUSD Nomination Period		114 to 88 days					
July 15 through Aug 9th, extended to Aug 14th (not incumbents)							
Printing and Prep of Election Materials			Mid Aug to Oct				
Cand Stmts, Ballots, Ballot Measure Text, Translations							
Ballots/Pamphlets Mailed to Voters					Oct thru Election Day		
29-Day Deadline Before Election							
Vote Center Sites Open					10 and 4 Days		
10-day and 4-Day Sites							
Election Day - November 5, 2024							
Tally Complete - 5 Weeks						Nov to early Dec	
1% Manually Tally of Precincts Occurs Prior to Certification							
Election Results Declared - December 9, 2024							12.09.24
City Council Organizational Meeting							
Total Days from Start to Declaration of Results	168 Days						
Total Days for Presidential Primary and General	413 Days						

June 2, 2026 Gubernatorial Primary									
Description	January	February	March	April	May	June	July		
Adopt Election Resos (Calling, County Servs, Cand S)	Resos adopted in January								
City Council action to Call Election in January 12, 2026									
Resos for measures due before 88th day - March 6, 2026									
Noticing - Election to Be Held, Seats, Measures		01.26.26							
Additional Notices Posted as Measures Added									
Nomination Period		114 to 88 days							
Feb 9 through Mar 6th, extended to Mar 11th (not incumbents)									
Printing and Prep of Election Materials			Mid Mar to May						
Cand Stmts, Ballots, Translations									
Ballots/Pamphlets Mailed to Voters					May thru Election Day				
29-Day Deadline Before Election									
Vote Center Sites Open					10 and 4 Days				
10-day and 4-Day Sites									
Election Day - June 2, 2026									
Tally Complete - 5 Weeks						Jun to July			
1% Manually Tally of Precincts Occurs Prior to Certification									
Election Results Declared - July 13, 2026								07.13.26	
Total Days from Start to Declaration of Results									
January 12, 2026 to July 13, 2026	182 Days								





April 8, 2025 Special City Election							
Description	November	December	January	February	March	April	
Based on City of LA D6 Special Election and Runoff							
HYPOTHETICAL - SEAT VACANT ON OCTOBER 12, 2024							
Adopt Election Resos (Calling, County Servs, Cand S)	Resos adopted						
City Council action to Call Special Election - Nov 2024							
Special Primary on April 8, 2025; Runoff on July 8, 2025							
Noticing - Election to Be Held, Seats, Measures		11.25.24					
Nomination Period		114 to 88 days					
Dec 16 through Jan 10th, extended to Jan 15th (not incumbents)							
Printing and Prep of Election Materials				Mid Jan to Mar			
Cand Stmts, Ballots, Translations							
Ballots/Pamphlets Mailed to Voters					Mar thru Election Day		
29-Day Deadline Before Election - March 10, 2025							
Vote Center Sites Open						4 Days	
4-Day Sites							
Election Day - April 8, 2025							
Tally Complete - 10 Days Later April 18, 2025						April	
Election Results Declared - April 21, 2025							04.21.25
Total Days from Vacancy	191 Days						

July 8, 2025 Special Run-Off Election										
Based on City of LA D6 Special Election and Runoff										
	April	May	June	July						
Printing and Prep of Election Materials		End of Apr to Jun								
Cand Stmts, Ballots, Translations										
Ballots/Pamphlets Mailed to Voters			June thru Election Day							
29-Day Deadline Before Election - June 9, 2025										
Vote Center Sites Open						4 Days				
4-Day Sites										
Election Day - July 8, 2025										
Tally Complete - 10 Days Later July 18, 2025						July				
Election Results Declared - July 21, 2025							07.21.25			
Total Days from Vacancy	282 Days									

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Jomsky, Mark

---

**From:** Tim Wendler  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 7:09 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting  
**Attachments:** ranked choice rhode.pdf

You don't often get email from timwendler89@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hi Mark -

As a follow-up to the last Charter Reform Task Force meeting, here's some information on ranked-choice voting that I would request you share with the task force members.

Please see the attached study and the link below:

<https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/ranked-choice-voting-in-practice-implementation-considerations-for-policy-makers>

Both cite an average \$0.42 or \$0.43 per voter which doesn't seem a lot to me to spend on Democracy. Furthermore, if you avoided a runoff election by doing it all in one round, I would think you would come out ahead.

It has the additional advantages of:

- a) It determines the candidate with the strongest overall support, and avoids fringe candidates
- b) It encourages more positive, civil campaigns (because each candidate wants the others 2nd place votes)
- c) It allows voters to vote first for their favorite candidate and not to be worried about wasting a vote on a candidate that may not be viable
- d) it eliminates the need for multiple elections – saving time and money

Tim Wendler

# The Cost of Ranked Choice Voting

Christopher Rhode

*Northern Arizona University; The Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center;  
FairVote*

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Abstract	2
Introduction	3
Methods	5
Variables	5
Selection of Cities	6
Location (L)	7
Population (P)	7
Size of Municipal Annual Budget (B)	8
Election Cycle (C)	8
Election Jurisdiction (J)	8
Political Makeup (PVI)	8
Constants	9
Data and Analysis	10
Hypotheses	10
Hypothesis 1	10
Hypothesis 2	11
Hypothesis 3	11
Findings	12
Discussion	14
Challenges and Limitations	14
Conclusion	15
References	17
Appendix A	18
Appendix B	21

## Abstract

While some academic focus has been given to the theoretical merits of alternative voting methods, many tangible aspects have gone overlooked. This has left elections administrators without essential knowledge necessary to effectively implement these types of election reforms. This study was designed to determine whether the implementation of ranked choice voting (RCV) methods at the local level is responsible for increases or decreases to the cost of elections within the municipality that implements it. Elections costs were obtained from seven local governments which switched to RCV and seven matched control governments for ten years before and after RCV was implemented. These costs were then aggregated into standard election cycles and converted into per-capita cost. A difference-in-difference regression was used to determine how switching to RCV affected election costs both during and after the initial implementation phase. Although the RCV jurisdictions are found to spend significantly more on elections overall, any differences in election cost during or following the implementation of RCV are not found to be statistically significant. This study is unable to show that implementing ranked choice voting has been responsible for any financial savings or liabilities in the cities that have chosen to use it.



## Introduction

In the United States and other modern democracies, elections are one of the most fundamental components of the maintenance of government. By extension, problems in elections and electoral processes are threats to democracies themselves...and there are a lot of problems. Noncompetitive and gerrymandered districts, winner-take-all contests, unnecessary runoffs, and plurality winners detract from the ideals of a democratic society. It is imperative for electoral problems to be properly remediated in order to preserve the role of the citizen as central to the governing process.

The endeavor of reforming elections is as complex as it is important. Perhaps the most difficult challenge is determining where supposed democratic processes fall short. In what ways are elections failing to produce fair outcomes through democratic processes? Collectively, the perceived problems are numerous. Different people and groups have pointed to a plethora of different phenomena as the cause of democratic shortcomings. In some jurisdictions, elections are notorious for low voter turnout, brutally negative campaigns, and winners who do not fully represent the diversity of their constituents (Anest, 2009). Under most electoral systems, voting paradoxes are present. This has been proven in the cases of the 2016 United States Presidential Primaries and in Danish Parliamentary elections (Kurrild-Klitgaard, 2017). Winning candidates have consistently and significantly benefited from undemocratic byproducts of their electoral processes. In all forms they take, electoral problems are present and impactful.

Scholars, policymakers, and citizens alike have long decried the existence of democratic problems. Still, their grievances commonly fail to be substantiated because evidence of problems in elections is often subjective, anecdotal, or unquantifiable. This makes tools and metrics that objectively describe democratic conditions indispensable. The progress made by academics in political science generally and election science specifically has produced new tools with which to measure both the problems that exist and the solutions proposed to fix them. Still, the measures created are not all-encompassing. There are many problems that remain without the tools necessary to describe and address them.

While democratic issues are surely multi-faceted, many can be attributed to the methods employed to elect policymakers. The most common electoral method in the United States is the plurality where each voter is allowed a single vote, regardless of the number of candidates running. The votes are then counted and the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner. Some variants require that the winning candidate receive a majority of the vote and will trigger a runoff between the top candidates if this threshold is not reached, but this is not universally required. These systems are problematic because in races where a large number of candidates seek election, either the winner could be selected with less than a majority of the vote, or multiple elections must be held to narrow the field down until someone reaches majority support. These elections are also prone to spoiler effects, are infamous for ferocious and trenchant campaign tactics, and fall short of ensuring that voters are fully able to express their preferences for all of the candidates.

The systematic problems related to voting methods are difficult to fix, but that does not mean that no solutions have been proposed. Of particular interest as a reform to current election processes is a transition to ranked choice voting methods (RCV). Two of such methods, instant runoff voting (IRV) and single transferable voting (STV) are the election models endorsed by many academics in the fields of political science and statistics. By allowing voters to rank the candidates instead of selecting just a single one, RCV has been hailed for its ability to allow voters to better express their full preferences towards all of the candidates. RCV has been supported as a reform that produces better outcomes by ensuring majority support for winners, increasing turnout, discouraging negative campaign tactics, and electing candidates that better represent the diversity of their communities (Anest, 2009).

Some of these claims have been challenged by RCV critics. Specifically, the claims that RCV brings about higher voter turnout has been disputed (Endersby and Towley 2014). It has also been alleged that the exhaustion of ballots in instant runoff tabulations dilutes the vote count so much that the winner may not actually have majority support (Burnett 2015). While candidates do have to attain a majority of non-exhausted ballots cast, this can be a lower number than the total number of valid ballots cast in the election. Still, even when the winning candidate does not receive a majority of all votes cast, they will receive more support than they would have in a simple plurality election.

Both theoretically and empirically, RCV offers a more democratic electoral process than the widely-used methods currently in place in the United States. Still, RCV is not without its practical shortfalls. A voting system is only as effective as it is implemented and RCV is often implemented improperly or inefficiently. RCV may be confusing to some voters. In some instances, this has led to concerningly high numbers of ballots that are spoiled or do not properly follow RCV directions (Neely, Blash and Cook, 2005). Spoiled and otherwise improperly completed ballots often reduce the pool of valid ballots and can concentrate influence in the hands of certain factions of voters.

This demonstrates an often-overlooked aspect of election reform: implementation. Few studies have been conducted to determine how the implementation of voting reform efforts influences their effectiveness. This leaves administrators in the dark on the best practices for seeing reform efforts like RCV through. It also disincentives policymakers from supporting reform efforts. In the last century, RCV has been repealed shortly after being passed in cities and states in nearly two-thirds of the jurisdictions in which it originally passed (Santucci, 2016). This includes in municipalities like Boulder, CO; Cincinnati, OH; and Ann Arbor, MI. Each of these cities repealed RCV in favor of plurality winners or runoff elections. In many aspects, there is absolutely no empirical or objective precedent to inform the proper implementation of RCV. This is a problem.

One particular shortcoming in the understanding of RCV implementation surrounds its financial effects. Proponents of RCV have long made the claim that it can be undertaken for cheaper than traditional plurality. They claim that by eliminating the need for primary and runoff elections, RCV will be responsible for a decline in the cost of elections to the jurisdictions that oversee them. These claims have never been sufficiently substantiated. The actual cost increases or savings brought about by RCV has not been the subject of any published study. Any claims regarding the effect that RCV has on election budgets is little more than speculation. This leaves a significant void in an important area of election administration. Without an understanding of the financial impact of

undertaking electoral reforms like RCV, election administrators will be flying blind when trying to effectively implement them. Does implementing RCV at the local level change the cost of elections to the municipality? This paper will seek an answer to this question. By analyzing election cost data of municipalities that have implemented RCV in the last 20 years, the monetary costs and benefits of RCV can be revealed.

## Methods

In the United States, the use of ranked choice voting has largely been limited to local jurisdictions. As of early 2018, ten different municipalities are actively utilizing some form of RCV to elect local officials. The majority of these cities first implemented RCV in the years between 2007 and 2011. The use of RCV is expanding, however. Two more municipalities and the state of Maine will also implement RCV later this year. The last decade has ushered in a new era of support for RCV not seen in more than fifty years. In the middle of the twentieth century, RCV saw a similar level of support as it was adopted in dozens of cities across the country.

Both historically and currently, RCV has taken numerous different forms when used. In some jurisdictions, like Telluride, CO and Portland, ME the use of RCV is limited to only one local race, such as mayor. In other cities, however, RCV is used more extensively to elect every official at the local level. This includes the mayor, city council, sheriff, and other municipal positions. Additionally, the exact type of RCV can vary as well. In jurisdictions that use districts and each race has only one winner, RCV usually takes the form of “instant runoff voting” (IRV). When it is used in multi-winner races – usually at-large council races – it takes the form of the “single transferable vote” (STV). Going even further, both IRV and STV can utilize different methods to eliminate candidates and redistribute votes. However, no matter the form of RCV, any city that uses it should be subject to the financial effects caused by it. For this reason, each of these disparities will be negated and any municipality that uses RCV to elect local officials in any capacity will be considered an “RCV city.”

Because a significant number of the cities that currently utilize RCV have implemented it fairly recently, many records from the years surrounding its implementation remain intact and accessible. Here, each of the cities which have implemented RCV in the last twenty years and had it in place for at least three election cycles are subjects of examination. By looking at documented election costs for each city in the years surrounding RCV implementation, an aggregate spending pattern is discerned. This model is then compared with a similar model created from the election costs of control cities that do not utilize RCV over the same time period.

## Variables

In this study, the type of election used by a given city is the explanatory variable. Ranked choice voting methods will be contrasted with standard voting methods. These include both majority-rule voting and plurality voting. Both methods are similar. They both usually entail a primary and a general election in which each voter is awarded one vote for each seat to be filled.

Their use is both common and widespread throughout the United States. Under the plurality system, the candidate(s) with the most votes are certified as the winner(s). Under the majority system, the winning candidates must surpass a certain percentage of votes. This is usually 50 percent plus one but can be different for contests with more than one winner. A particularity associated with majority-rule voting is that when no candidate reaches the number of votes required to be elected, another runoff election is forced between the top contenders for the seat. This means that majority-rule votes can require three different elections in order to choose a winner for a single seat. Each of these elections will run a cost to the jurisdiction that oversees them.

The alternative under examination – RCV – inherently encompasses a broad range of different voting methods such as instant-runoff voting, single transferable voting, Borda counts, and Condorcet criterion. Only two of these methods – IRV and STV – have actually been used in elections in the United States. The cost of running RCV elections in these two forms has been the subject of much rhetoric. Proponents of RCV claim that it will save jurisdictions money by eliminating the need for unnecessary runoff and primary elections. Opponents argue that RCV drives up costs as it is inherently confusing to voters and can warrant public campaigns to educate the public on its use. Additionally, it requires special voting equipment in order to implement, which is often expensive to purchase. It can also require election workers work longer hours, potentially further driving up the costs.

These two classifications of voting systems are compared on the basis their financial cost. Because the interest is in the regular and ongoing aggregate cost of elections, there is a need to account for numerous relative discrepancies between cities. Different jurisdictions hold municipal elections during different times of the year and on different years themselves. In order to remediate these differences, the cost used is not the cost of particular elections or even the annual cost of elections. Instead, the aggregate biannual cost of elections is used. This is the total amount spent on all elections held in a two-year period. Additionally, in order to account for size differences in cities, the costs considered are marginal to the population of those cities. The dependent variable is thus the biannual marginal cost of elections for each city examined. This provides a fair metric with which all cities election costs can be compared equally.

## Selection of Cities

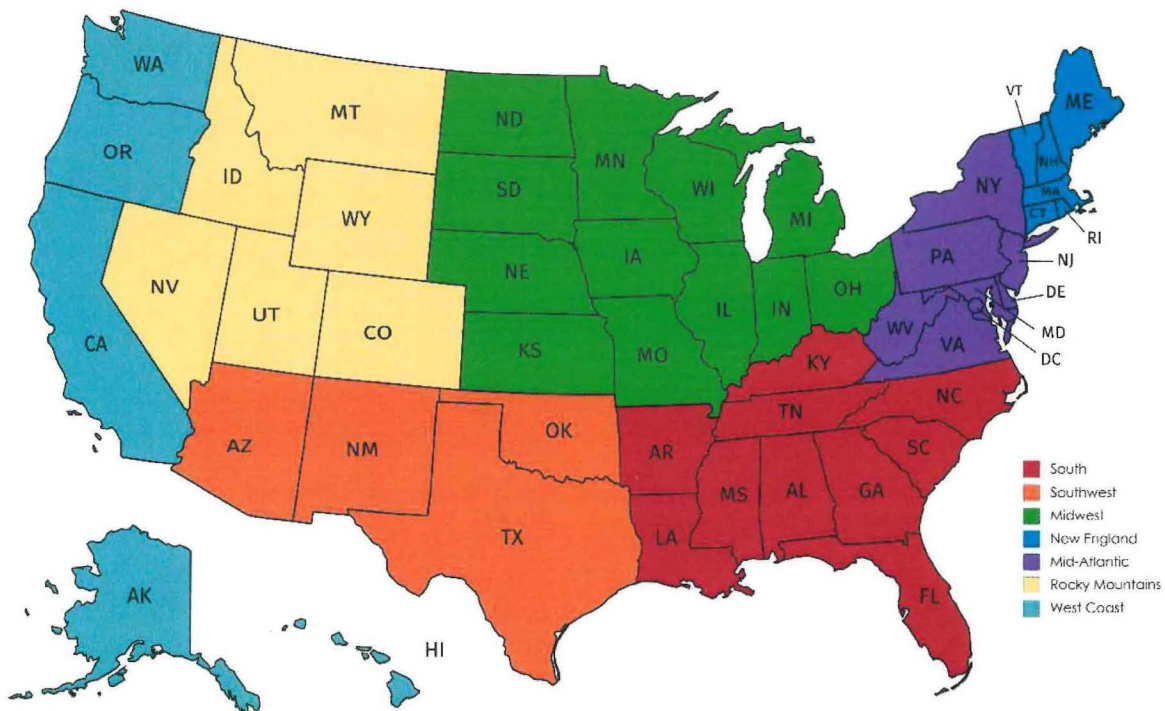
Cities that conduct elections using RCV are the focus of this study. Because only eleven cities implemented RCV in the United States during the time period of focus, a random sample of these municipalities is not appropriate. Instead, efforts were made to include every municipality that utilizes RCV for election cost data with the intention of establishing a full census. Requests were sent to Berkeley, CA; Burlington, VT; Hendersonville, NC; Minneapolis, MN; Oakland, CA; Portland, ME; San Francisco, CA; San Leandro, CA; St. Paul, MN; Takoma Park, MD; and Telluride, CO. Even though Cambridge, MA still uses RCV for its local elections, it was excluded because it first implemented RCV in the 1940s, making its data antiquated and excessively difficult to obtain. From these cities, four (Minneapolis, MN; San Francisco, CA; Hendersonville, NC; and Portland, ME) were unable to produce sufficient records of election costs for the years requested and had to be excluded.

Data from the eleven experimental RCV cities was then compared with data from control cities. Because the cities that have enacted RCV are not themselves a random sample of all municipalities throughout the country or even within their respective states, a random sample was not deemed appropriate to select the control cities. Instead, control cities were intentionally selected through a matching criteria. Six different variables were considered with the intention of identifying control cities that were as similar to the experimental cities as possible. The variables considered are outlined as follows.

### *Location (L)*

Because state laws, regional economies, governmental structures, culture, and other similar factors could alter the cost of elections to municipalities, control cities were evaluated based on their location. Cities within the same state as their corresponding experimental city were considered to best fulfill this consideration. When no other cities within the same state closely mirrored the experimental city, cities in the same region of the country were given precedence. The regions used are shown in Image 1.

**Figure 1 - Map of The United States by region**



### *Population (P)*

A city's population is one of its most defining traits. Bigger cities have larger and greater encompassing governments than small cities towns, and villages. More importantly, bigger cities

generally have more expensive governments than smaller governments. For this reason, control cities were only considered if they had a population within 25% of the experimental city as of the 2010 census. Within this margin, cities with closer populations to the experimental cities were favored.

### *Size of Municipal Annual Budget (B)*

In order to account for possible financial factors, control cities were evaluated on the amount of their annual expenditures. Both the total and marginal budget appropriations for the closest available year to RCV implementation was considered. Because municipal budgets varied significantly, total and marginal municipal appropriations for control cities had to fall within 50% of the appropriation of the respective experimental city. Cities with closer marginal and aggregate annual appropriations to the experimental city were favored.

### *Election Cycle (C)*

Federal election cycles are four years, with elections in even-numbered years. These elections usually correspond with increased interest, higher voter turnout and increased election costs. Some states and municipalities hold their elections separately in odd-numbered years. In these cases, the aggregate and ongoing costs associated with elections can be higher than for jurisdictions that consolidate their elections on the federal cycle. Whether or not cities hold their own elections in odd-numbered years can be a factor in the total cost of elections to that city. For this reason, precedence was given to possible control cities that held elections on the same cycle as the corresponding experimental city.

### *Election Jurisdiction (J)*

Many municipalities do not run their own elections. Instead, they contract election services to counties and less commonly, private organizations. Counties and private companies are often able to achieve economies of scale that cities cannot by coordinating elections for numerous jurisdictions simultaneously. This is especially true in the cases of smaller municipalities. With this consideration in mind, municipalities whose elections are run by the same respective entity as the RCV municipality were favored as control cities.

### *Political Makeup (PVI)*

Ranked choice voting is a progressive reform. Denying its connection to politics would be both misleading and academically irresponsible. While RCV itself is not inherently partisan, there are discernable political patterns in the cities in which it has been implemented. In order to account for the political culture and ideology of the municipalities, control cities were evaluated for their political makeup. The Partisan Voting Index (PVI) in the last two presidential elections was used to determine the political makeup of each city. Cities which more closely corresponded to the experimental city were favored.

No control city perfectly matched the experimental city that it was matched to. In the case of each RCV city, numerous potential control cities fit the general criteria outlined. A simple

mathematical process categorized the candidate control cities numerically. Each city started with five points. Cities lost one point each for being from a different state, being from a different region, conducting elections on a different cycle, and having a different entity responsible for conducting elections than the corresponding RCV city. Cities also lost points equivalent to the percentage it differed from the RCV city in aggregate budget size, marginal budget size, and political makeup. Finally, each city lost points equivalent to four times the percentage it differed from the experimental city in population.

$$\textit{Similarity} = 5 - (\Delta L \cdot 2) - \Delta B - (\Delta P \cdot 4) - \Delta B - \Delta J - \Delta PVI$$

For each RCV city, the candidate city with the highest score was used in the study as its matched control. The cities with the second and third highest score were retained as secondary and tertiary alternates. Only in cases where the selected control city was unable to produce sufficient election cost data, was the second candidate city utilized instead. This option was never utilized as each election cost data for every control city was obtained. The criteria and calculations used to evaluate the similarity of control cities to their experimental cities can be found in its entirety in Appendix A.

## Constants

The data collected for this study represents a large range of time. The elections examined were conducted over two decades between 1996 and 2016. This presents the possibility that cost data could be affected by ongoing economic factors. In order to account for this and ensure that data from each year is comparable, all election costs were adjusted for inflation according to the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) to their 2017 equivalent.

The data also represents a diverse set of cities. The cities range from San Jose, Ca – which at 945,000 residents is the tenth most populous in the nation, to Telluride, CO with just over 2000 inhabitants. This represents a relative difference of over 40,000%. In order to ensure that data could be compared between cities of vastly different sizes, the actual cost was first divided by the city's total population. This reduced election costs to the marginal or per-capita cost instead of the total cost.

The cities examined held elections in cycles. Typically, municipal elections are held only every other year. The same is true for state and federal elections. Whether municipalities hold their elections on the same cycle as states and the federal government or not, this causes a natural pattern where election costs typically oscillate between relatively higher and lower expenditures in one-year increments. In order to account for this, election costs were aggregated into two-year summations beginning on January 1 of odd-numbered years and ending on December 31 of even-numbered years.

The cities examined implemented RCV during different election cycles. This makes comparing budgets before and after implementation difficult when the costs are plotted on the same timeline. Instead of using an actual timeline, the costs were considered relative to the year that RCV

was implemented in the experimental city. This enabled direct comparisons between cities that implemented RCV in different election cycles.

## Data and Analysis

### Hypotheses

The action of interest for this study is a tangible change in elections to RCV. Logistically, this change comes after the policy is conceived, introduced, debated, and passed by policymakers. In some cases, the time lapse between these steps and RCV implementation is close to a decade or more. The actual changes that take place in the switch to RCV include things like purchasing new equipment and software, training (or retraining) elections administrators and staff, educating the public about the new voting methods, and conducting elections in accordance with RCV practices.

These changes are not all sustained activities despite the fact that RCV becomes the permanent model for conducting elections. This means that any cost changes that stem from differences in the ways elections are conducted should be permanent so long as RCV is utilized in the municipality. The other activities, however, are not expected to be ongoing. They are one-time actions. As such, any cost differences that they cause should also be acute to the election cycle that they occur in. This distinction breaks the timeline of RCV implementation into three phases.

First, there is the “before implementation” ( $T_0$ ) period which represents all elections prior to the first short-term expenditures. Next is the “during implementation” ( $T_1$ ) phase. This consists of the expenses associated with actually switching to RCV in the first election cycle that utilizes it. This is similar to an adjustment period for the elections officials and the voting citizens. Finally, there is the “after implementation” ( $T_2$ ) phase. This consists of the elections that take place after RCV is fully in use. By this time, administrators and citizens should be acquainted with RCV and fully prepared to conduct elections using it. This understanding of RCV implementation informs hypotheses of how RCV will or will not influence the cost of elections.

#### *Hypothesis 1*

$H_{0,1}$ : *The average cost of election cycles before implementation is the same in RCV cities and control cities.*

$$H_{0,1}: \mu_{T_0,RCV} = \mu_{T_0,CONTROL}$$

$H_{A,1}$ : *The average cost of election cycles before implementation is not the same in RCV cities and control cities*

$$H_{A,1}: \mu_{T_0,RCV} \neq \mu_{T_0,CONTROL}$$

Because no tangible actions have been taken to begin implementing RCV at this stage, there is no discernable reason that election costs should be different in experimental cities than in control cities. All cities utilize plurality or majority-rule elections and no cities have undertaken any significant actions that should cause significantly higher or lower election costs than the other. Additionally, control cities were chosen because of their similarity to corresponding RCV cities on



things like size, budget, and location. This is sufficient to satisfy the parallel trend assumption. While it is possible that an unknown variable that is inherently present or absent in RCV cities influences how much the city spends on elections in the years before RCV is implemented, such a variable should continue after RCV is implemented and can therefore be accounted for in calculated regressions.

### *Hypothesis 2*

*H<sub>0,2</sub>: The average change to the cost of election cycles during implementation is the same in RCV cities and control cities.*

$$H_{0,2}: \Delta\mu_{T1,RCV} = \Delta\mu_{T1,CONTROL}$$

*H<sub>A,2</sub>: The average change to the cost of election cycles during implementation is not the same in RCV cities and control cities.*

$$H_{A,2}: \Delta\mu_{T1,RCV} \neq \Delta\mu_{T1,CONTROL}$$

The initial implementation phase may be the busiest for RCV cities. Municipalities are on the hook for updated or new voting machines and tabulation software. The election officials must learn about the inner workings of RCV in order to run the elections. Some cities also undertake voter education efforts. All of these constitute costs that are likely to increase total spending on elections; some of them could be quite substantial. While any additional costs borne during the initial implementation should vary by municipality, it seems at least possible that they will constitute a significant aggregate cost. Based on this observation, it is reasonable to predict that the cost of elections will be different in the election cycles surrounding the initial implementation of RCV.

### *Hypothesis 3*

*H<sub>0,3</sub>: The average change to the cost of election cycles after implementation is the same in RCV cities and control cities.*

$$H_{0,3}: \Delta\mu_{T2,RCV} = \Delta\mu_{T2,CONTROL}$$

*H<sub>A,3</sub>: The average change to the cost of election cycles after implementation is not the same in RCV cities and control cities.*

$$H_{A,3}: \Delta\mu_{T2,RCV} \neq \Delta\mu_{T2,CONTROL}$$

In the election cycles succeeding the implementation of RCV, there are not any additional foreseen short-term or infrastructural costs that would not also be borne by the maintenance of plurality or majority-rule voting methods. RCV is touted for its ability to eliminate unnecessary elections entirely. With RCV, runoff elections are rendered unnecessary as the ballots can be tabulated to determine a definite majority winner every time. In the same capacity, RCV would allow primaries to be skipped as a majority winning candidate can be determined even when there are many candidates in the same race. Not all jurisdictions that implement RCV do so without

primaries, but the option does allow municipalities to forgo them. By allowing municipalities to hold fewer elections, RCV may offer a means to similarly reduce the aggregate cost of elections. With this premise, it can be predicted that election costs will be different for RCV municipalities in the years following RCV implementation.

## Findings

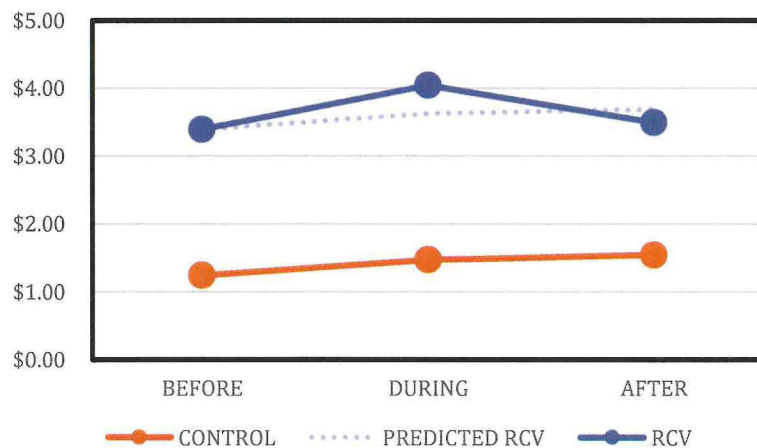
Data were collected from 14 different municipalities on the cost of municipal elections. In total, election costs from 239 elections were aggregated into 111 election cycle totals. Each of these election cycles was then given two different quantifiers to identify its status as a control or experimental election cycle, and its status relative to RCV implementation. Election cycles that occurred in control jurisdictions were quantified as 0, while RCV (treatment) jurisdictions were quantified as 1. Similarly, election cycles that took place before RCV was initially implemented were quantified as  $T_0$ . Election cycles where RCV was initially implemented were quantified  $T_1$ , and cycles succeeding initial implementation were quantified  $T_2$ .

These quantifiers created six different categories which election cycles could fall under. For each category, the mean and standard deviation were calculated. This is shown numerically in table 2 and graphically in figure 2. A full table of all election cycle costs is available in Appendix B.

**Table 2:** Election cycle costs

		Before ( $T_0$ )	During ( $T_1$ )	After ( $T_2$ )
Control ( $0$ )	$\mu$	\$1.24	\$1.46	\$1.54
	$\sigma$	0.356	0.819	0.485
RCV ( $1$ )	$\mu$	\$3.39	\$4.04	\$3.49
	$\sigma$	0.485	1.162	0.721

**Figure 2:** Average marginal election cost



This categorization allowed a difference-in-difference regression to be run on the election costs in two different capacities. First, election cycles where RCV was initially implemented could be compared to the cycles prior to its implementation. This allowed any election cost increases or

decreases caused by RCV at its implementation point to be identified. This calculation is shown as follows.

**Table 3 – During implementation difference in difference regression**

Cost	Coef.	SE	Z-Score	P-Score	[95% Conf. Int.]
T	0.227	0.819	0.28	0.784	-1.409 1.860
RCV	2.151	0.513	4.20	0.000	1.128 3.175
T & RCV	0.424	1.162	0.37	0.716	-1.895 2.744
_cons	1.236	0.356	3.47	0.001	0.525 1.947

Before examining the effects of introducing RCV into experimental municipalities, one observation is prevalent about the control and RCV groups. In the years before RCV was implemented, the cities that would implement it spent more per election cycle than control cities. While control municipalities spent just \$1.24 per person per cycle, RCV cities spent \$3.39. This is an initial difference in expenditures of \$2.15. Put another way, RCV cities initially spent nearly three times more on elections than the control cities. Given that the standard deviation of this difference was just 0.485, this difference is statistically significant. The average cost of elections in control cities initially falls 4.43 standard deviations from that of control cities. This equates to a p-score of less than 0.001. The first null hypothesis – that the average cost of election cycles before implementation in RCV cities will be the same as control cities can be rejected.

This regression also shows that RCV election cycles were on average more expensive during the implementation phase than before it and that RCV cities election expenses increased by a larger magnitude on average than control cities during the implementation election cycles. Control cities saw average election cycle cost increases of \$0.23 per person while RCV cities saw marginal expenditures rise by an average of \$0.65. This revealed that RCV cities saw an average election cycle cost increase of \$0.42 per person more than would be otherwise expected when they first implemented RCV. Not only is this cost difference quite small, it also carries a standard error of 1.162. This places the observed difference at less than 0.4 standard deviations from the observed difference of the control sample. This gives the regression a p-score of 0.784. This \$0.42 difference observed in RCV cities is not statistically significant. For this reason, the null hypothesis that the average change to the cost of election cycles during the implementation of RCV is the same as control cities cannot be rejected.

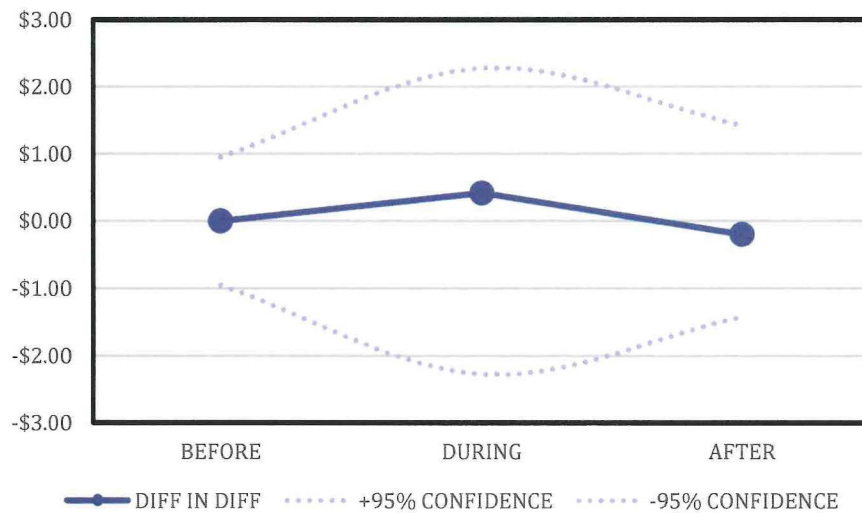
The second calculation examined the ongoing costs of RCV elections after implementation. All election cycles quantified as  $T_2$  were compared with the elections quantified as  $T_0$ . By comparing these election cycles directly and omitting cycles quantified as  $T_1$ , it was possible to determine how much it has cost to facilitate RCV elections on an ongoing basis after its initial implementation. This calculation is shown below.

**Table 4 – After implementation difference in difference regression**

Cost	Coef.	SE	Z-Score	P-Score	[95% Conf. Int.]
T	0.306	0.541	0.57	0.574	-0.769 1.381
RCV	2.151	0.485	4.43	0.000	1.188 3.115
T & RCV	-0.204	0.721	-0.26	0.792	-1.735 1.327
_cons	1.236	0.337	3.67	0.000	0.566 1.905

Like the first regression for  $T1$ , this regression for  $T2$  shows that election cycles cost significantly more in RCV cities than in control cities. While control cities saw an average marginal increase in expenditures on elections of \$0.30, RCV cities averaged a \$0.10 marginal increase in spending on elections per cycle. This equates to a difference of \$0.20 in favor of RCV jurisdictions. This difference is smaller than the one observed during the RCV implementation ( $T1$ ). It also has a smaller standard error of 0.721. This places the observed decrease in cost of elections after RCV implantation one-quarter of a standard deviation from where it was predicted to be. It carries a p-score of 0.792. Just as with the first regression, this difference is not statistically significant. Consequently, the second hypothesis – that the average change to the cost of election cycles after implementation in RCV cities is not the same as control cities also cannot be rejected.

**Figure 3:** Difference in difference of RCV election cycle costs



## Discussion

### Challenges and Limitations

There are a few considerations that should be made in order to place this study in the proper context. First, it is possible that the data examined were affected by nonresponse bias. This study sought to collect election cost information from eleven RCV municipalities and eleven matched control municipalities. Of these jurisdictions, four were unable to produce records that were reliable and comprehensive enough to be included in the analysis. This amounted to a response rate of 64% percent. Of the cities that could not produce sufficient records, all four were RCV cities. This was particularly unfortunate as it required the exclusion of the data from the city's matched control as well. It also puts forth the possibility that each of the RCV cities that could not produce election cost data share some unknown but important characteristic that would go underrepresented by their exclusion.

Second, the data used in this study was less extensive than would have been optimal. It was obtained from no more than fourteen different municipalities. It encompassed no more than 111

election cycles, which were broken down into six different classifications. This sample size is less than optimal. Unfortunately, the nature of RCV elections limits the quantity of data available. The number of jurisdictions that have undertaken electoral reform to utilize RCV is relatively small. This will continue to be a limiting factor in data collection until RCV becomes a more prevalent voting method. Additionally, time itself made some election cost data difficult, if not impossible to obtain. Both legal document retention schedules and technological advancements presented barriers to older and antiquated information. Unfortunately, these will likely continue into the foreseeable future and will consequently remain obstacles to future knowledge.

Third, the type of RCV implemented in each examined city varied both in the exact processes used and the extent to which it was used. In different jurisdictions, RCV was used in single-winner and multi-winner races. In most single-winner races, the “instant runoff” method was used. In multi-winner races, however, multiple different tabulation rules were utilized to select winners. In some cities, RCV was only used in some of its electoral races. In Telluride, CO, for example, RCV was only used in the mayoral race. This varying use of RCV could have influenced the extent to which its implementation affected election costs.

Finally, the findings from this study are not meant to be representative of all cities throughout the United States. While the cities examined come from ten different states in all regions of the country, they are not a representative sample of American Cities. Cities that have chosen to implement RCV are not random. They have many traits that make them a unique group of municipalities. By even choosing to implement RCV, they could be considered outliers in the context of American cities. Because the cities that make up this study are not a random or representative sample of the entire country, neither are the findings derived. This limits any conclusions to being descriptive of what has happened thus far in jurisdictions that RCV has been implemented. It would be improper to expect the conclusions of this study to perfectly predict what would happen in other cities that chose to implement RCV in the future.

## Conclusion

Overall, election cycle cost data of cities that have implemented RCV shows that any change to the cost of elections either during or after the switch to RCV is not statistically significant. The observed cost change during RCV implementation was a small \$0.42 increase that equated to less than one-half of a standard deviation of what would be expected. A similar observation was made for elections following RCV implementation where the \$0.20 savings were approximately one-quarter of a standard deviation from what was expected. Neither monetary savings nor additional expenses can be directly attributed to the use of RCV at the municipal level.

One interesting finding was that cities that utilized RCV spent inordinately more on elections than cities that did not. This was substantiated by an observed cost that was more than five standard deviations greater than predicted. This finding was true before, during, and after RCV was implemented. It can be presumed from this finding that the cities that have implemented RCV thus far truly are unique in some regard. Despite attempts to control for variables that could inflate election spending, there are one or more unknown factors existent in the cities that have chosen to utilize RCV that have consistently increased their election expenditures. This was the case long

before RCV became a viable reform and endured relatively uniformly in the years after it became codified.

As the United States continues to search for meaningful and effective improvements to its democratic institutions, continued study of the costs of ranked choice voting and other reform efforts will only become more important. Many barriers that confined this study should be lifted in the future decades. As more and more jurisdictions become familiar with and experiment with voting reform efforts, more data will become available. At the time of this publication, governments across the country are on the verge of enacting their own reforms utilizing RCV. In 2018 alone, Santa Fe, NM, Benton County, OR, and the entire State of Maine are set to use RCV in their elections for the first time. This bodes well for future research.

The continued study of the costs and other implementation concerns of these reforms will continue to be of the utmost importance. Objective and unbiased research will serve as a foundation for elections administrators as they undertake the endeavor of implementing drastic reforms to our electoral process. Without a thorough understanding of the methods that are chosen for implementation and the effects they will have, otherwise effective and worthwhile reforms may be mismanaged by unnecessarily inept public administrators. The continued academic scrutiny of the implementation of alternative voting methods, such as ranked choice voting, will help to foster a culture of election administration that is adequately informed and empowered to undertake profound and integral changes to our democratic process.

## References

- Anest, Jim “Ranked Choice Voting: A Path Toward a More Integral Politics.” *Journal of Integral Theory and Practice*, vol. 4, no. 3, 2009, pp. 23-40.
- Burnett, Craig. “Ballot (and voter) ‘exhaustion’ under Instant Runoff Voting: An examination of four ranked-choice elections” *Electoral Studies*, vol. 37, March 2015, pp. 31-49.  
doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2014.11.006
- Endersby, James W., and Towle, Michael J. “Making wasted votes count: Turnout, transfers, and preferential voting in practice” *Electoral Studies*, vol. 33, 2014, pp. 144–152.,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2013.07.001>
- Kurrild-Klitgaard, Peter. “Trump, Condorcet, and Borda: Voting paradoxes in the 2016 Republican presidential primaries” *European Journal of Economy* vol. 50 2017.  
doi:10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2017.10.003
- . “Voting Paradoxes under Proportional Representation: Evidence from Eight Danish Elections” *Scandinavian Political Studies* vol. 31 (3) 2008. pp. 242–267 doi:10.1111/j.1467-9477.2008.00205.x
- Neely, Francis; Blash, Lisel; and Cook, Corey. “An Assessment of Ranked-Choice Voting in the San Francisco 2004 Election.” Public Research Institute, 2005.
- Santucci, Jack. “Party Splits, Not Progressives: The Origins of Proportional Representation in American Local Government.” *American Politics Research*, Vol. 45(3), 2016. doi: 10.1177/1532673X16674774

## Appendix A

**Table A1 - Information on experimental RCV cities**

City	State	Region	Population (2010)	City Budget Size	Budget per Capita	Election Cycle	Election Jurisdiction	Political Lean
Berkeley	CA	West Coast	112,580	\$ 298,578,455	\$ 2,652.14	Even	County	84.5%
Oakland	CA	West Coast	390,724	\$ 839,900,000	\$ 2,149.60	Even	County	83.2%
San Francisco	CA	West Coast	805,193	\$ 1,506,655,000	\$ 1,871.17	Even	County	84.0%
San Leandro	CA	West Coast	84,950	\$ 91,254,815	\$ 1,074.22	Even	County	78.3%
Telluride	CO	Rocky Mtns.	2,325	\$ 16,549,896	\$ 7,118.23	Odd	County	69.5%
Portland	ME	New England	66,194	\$ 257,592,919	\$ 3,891.48	3- years	City	56.9%
Takoma Park	MD	Mid-Atlantic	16,715	\$ 14,704,393	\$ 879.71	Odd	City	73.4%
Minneapolis	MN	Midwest	382,578	\$ 1,107,800,000	\$ 2,895.62	Odd	City	63.2%
St. Paul	MN	Midwest	285,068	\$503,343,270	\$ 1764.70	Odd	County	66.2%
Hendersonville	NC	South	13,137	\$ 27,951,390	\$ 2,127.68	Odd	County	35.1%
Burlington	VT	New England	42,417	\$ 160,444,280	\$ 3,782.55	3-years	City	70.3%

**Table A2 - Information on primary control cities**

City	State	Region	Population (2010)	City Budget Size	Budget per Capita	Election Cycle	Election Jurisdiction	Political Lean
Santa Clara	CA	West Coast	116,468	\$ 500,943,000	\$ 4,301	Even	County	71.6%
	SAME	SAME	3.45%	46.17%	41.29%	SAME	SAME	12.9%
Anaheim	CA	West Coast	336,265	\$ 926,903,219	\$ 2,756	Even	County	47.9%
	SAME	SAME	13.94%	10.36%	28.23%	SAME	SAME	35.3%
San Jose	CA	West Coast	945,942	\$ 1,309,599,726	\$ 1,384	Even	County	71.6%
	SAME	SAME	17.48%	13.08%	26.01%	SAME	SAME	12.4%
Chico	CA	West Coast	86,187	\$ 99,899,024	\$ 1,159	Even	County	44.6%
	SAME	SAME	1.46%	2.42%	0.95%	SAME	SAME	33.7%
Snowmass Village	CO	Rocky Mtns.	2,826	\$ 25,236,944	\$ 8,930	Odd	County	68.8%
	SAME	SAME	21.55%	23.03%	1.22%	SAME	SAME	0.6%
Pawtucket	RI	New England	71,148	\$ 277,034,399	\$ 3,894	Even	City	71.4%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	7.48%	6.30%	12.83%	DIFFERENT	SAME	14.5%
Hyattsville	MD	Mid-Atlantic	17,557	\$ 14,410,443	\$ 821	Odd	City	89.7%
	SAME	SAME	5.04%	8.31%	12.71%	SAME	SAME	16.3%
Cleveland	OH	Midwest	396,815	\$ 1,067,303,443	\$ 2,690	Odd	County	67.3%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	3.72%	6.76%	10.10%	SAME	DIFFERENT	4.2%
Toledo	OH	Midwest	287,208	\$ 610,895,792	\$ 2,127	Odd	County	60.2%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	0.75%	5.99%	6.69%	SAME	SAME	6.0%
Newton	NC	South	12,968	\$39,564,461	\$3,051	Odd	County	32.2%
	SAME	SAME	1.29%	14.20%	15.69%	SAME	SAME	3.0%
Norwich	CT	New England	40,318	\$165,455,785	\$4,104	Odd	City	54.5%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	4.95%	3.12%	8.49%	DIFFERENT	SAME	15.9%



**Table A3 - Information on first alternate control cities**

City	State	Region	Population (2010)	City Budget Size	Budget per Capita	Election Cycle	Election Jurisdiction	Political Lean
Roseville	CA	West Coast	118,788	\$ 483,261,192	\$ 4,068	Even	County	40.1%
	SAME	SAME	5.51%	46.22%	38.58%	SAME	SAME	44.40%
Sacramento	CA	West Coast	466,488	\$ 707,000,000	\$ 1,516	Even	County	57.8%
	SAME	SAME	19.39%	15.82%	29.49%	SAME	SAME	25.4%
Austin	TX	Southwest	790,390	\$ 2,656,801,000	\$ 3,361	Even	County	63.3%
	DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT	1.84%	19.56%	21.80%	SAME	SAME	20.7%
Redwood City	CA	West Coast	76,815	\$ 95,229,518	\$ 1,240	Even	County	73.9%
	SAME	SAME	9.58%	4.36%	15.41%	SAME	SAME	4.5%
Frisco	CO	Rocky Mtns.	2,683	\$ 14,166,384	\$ 5,280	Odd	County	59.8%
	SAME	SAME	15.40%	36.45%	44.93%	SAME	SAME	9.7%
Greenwich	CT	New England	62,610	\$ 287,226,070	\$ 4,588	Odd	City	56.5%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	5.41%	11.50%	17.89%	DIFFERENT	SAME	0.4%
Greenbelt	MD	Mid-Atlantic	23,068	\$ 25,848,394	\$ 1,121	Odd	City	89.7%
	SAME	SAME	38.01%	47.49%	6.87%	SAME	SAME	16.3%
Cincinnati	OH	Midwest	296,943	\$ 1,170,400,000	\$ 3,941	Odd	County	52.2%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	22.38%	18.16%	5.44%	SAME	DIFFERENT	11.0%
St Louis	MO	Midwest	319,294	\$ 503,343,270	\$ 1,576	Odd	City	81.2%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	12.01%	16.10%	25.09%	SAME	DIFFERENT	15.1%
Henderson	NC	South	15,368	\$28,159,986	\$1,832.38	Odd	County	62.80%
	SAME	SAME	16.98%	5.74%	19.43%	SAME	SAME	27.70%
Arlington	MA	New England	42,844	\$126,306,310	\$2,948.05	Odd	City	64.45%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	1.01%	21.28%	22.06%	DIFFERENT	SAME	5.85%

**Table A4 - Information on second alternate control cities**

City	State	Region	Population (2010)	City Budget Size	Budget per Person	Election Cycle	Election Jurisdiction	Political Lean
Lansing	MI	Midwest	114,344	\$ 192,448,297	\$ 1,683	Odd	City	62.2%
	DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT	1.57%	43.85%	44.71%	DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT	22.30%
Santa Ana	CA	West Coast	324,528	\$ 482,090,685	\$ 1,486	Even	City	47.9%
	SAME	SAME	16.94%	48.15%	37.57%	SAME	DIFFERENT	35.3%
Detroit	MI	Midwest	713,777	\$ 1,983,454,000	\$ 2,779	Odd	County	70.0%
	DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT	11.35%	14.69%	29.38%	DIFFERENT	SAME	14.0%
Redding	CA	West Coast	89,861	\$ 98,294,340	\$ 1,094	Even	City	30.9%
	SAME	SAME	5.78%	7.71%	1.83%	SAME	DIFFERENT	47.4%
Leadville	CO	Rocky Mtns.	2,602	\$ 5,577,136	\$ 2,143	Odd	County	59.8%
	SAME	SAME	11.91%	70.64%	73.77%	SAME	SAME	9.7%
Fairfield	CT	New England	61,337	\$ 278,465,591	\$ 4,540	Odd	City	71.4%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	7.34%	23.23%	17.15%	DIFFERENT	SAME	14.5%
New Carrollton	MD	Mid-Atlantic	12,135	\$ 5,332,485	\$ 439	Even	City	89.7%
	SAME	SAME	27.40%	68.41%	56.48%	DIFFERENT	SAME	16.3%
New Orleans	LA	South	343,829	\$ 644,309,358	\$ 1,874	Odd	City	80.6%
	DIFFERENT	DIFFERENT	10.13%	53.08%	47.79%	SAME	SAME	17.4%
Madison	WI	Midwest	233,209	\$ 323,724,474	\$ 1,388	Odd	City	71.4%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	18.19%	35.69%	21.38%	SAME	DIFFERENT	5.2%
Eden	NC	South	15,527	\$33,253,800	\$2,141.68	Odd	County	36.5%
	SAME	SAME	18.19%	23.17%	35.00%	SAME	SAME	1.4%
Everett	MA	New England	41,667	\$182,960,373	\$4,391.01	Odd	City	64.5%
	DIFFERENT	SAME	1.77%	30.03%	28.77%	DIFFERENT	SAME	5.8%

**Table A5 - Similarity of control cities to corresponding experimental RCV cities**

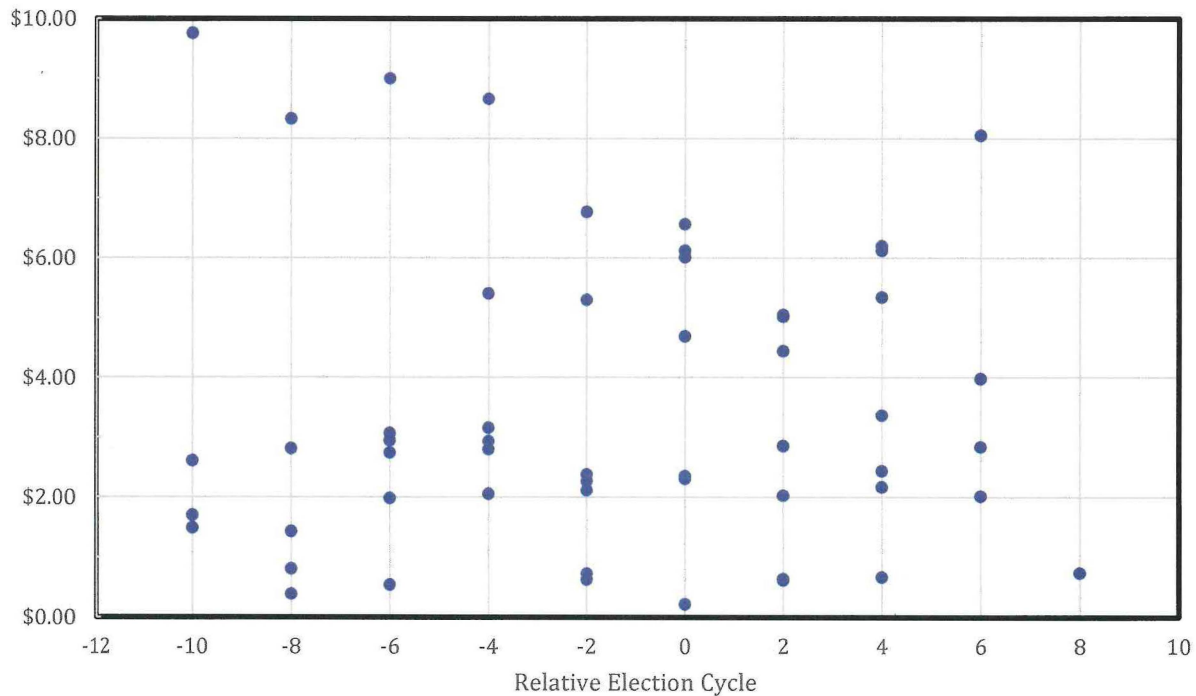
RCV City		Primary Control City			Secondary Control City			Tertiary Control City		
City	State	City	State	Similarity	City	State	Similarity	City	State	Similarity
Berkeley	CA	Santa Clara	CA	3.86	Roseville	CA	3.49	Lansing	MI	-0.17
Oakland	CA	Anaheim	CA	3.70	Sacramento	CA	3.52	Santa Ana	CA	2.11
San Francisco	CA	San Jose	CA	3.79	Austin	TX	2.31	Detroit	MI	0.97
San Leandro	CA	Chico	CA	4.57	Redwood City	CA	4.37	Redding	CA	3.20
Telluride	CO	Snowmass Village	CO	3.89	Frisco	CO	3.47	Leadville	CO	2.98
Portland	ME	Pawtucket	RI	2.36	Greenwich	CT	2.49	Fairfield	CT	2.16
Takoma Park	MD	Hyattsville	MD	4.43	Greenbelt	MD	2.77	New Carrollton	MD	1.49
Minneapolis	MN	Cleveland	OH	2.64	Cincinnati	OH	1.76	New Orleans	LA	1.41
St. Paul	MN	Toledo	OH	3.78	St. Louis	MO	1.96	Madison	WI	1.65
Hendersonville	NC	Newton	NC	4.62	Henderson	NC	3.79	Eden	NC	3.68
Burlington	VT	Norwich	CT	2.53	Arlington	MA	2.47	Everett	MA	2.28

## Appendix B

**Table B1 – RCV Election Cycles Marginal Costs<sup>1</sup>**

RCV City	-10	-8	-6	-4	-2	0	+2	+4	+6	+8	+10
Berkeley, CA		\$0.39	\$2.74	\$2.94	\$2.27	\$6.12	\$4.44	\$5.34	\$8.05	N/A	N/A
Burlington, VT	\$2.61	\$1.43	\$3.07	\$2.80	\$2.12	\$2.31	\$2.03	\$3.37	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oakland, CA	\$1.70	\$2.81	\$1.98	\$3.16	\$2.38	\$6.01	\$2.86	\$2.44	\$3.98	N/A	N/A
San Leandro, CA			\$0.54	\$2.06	\$0.63	\$2.35	\$0.62	\$2.17	\$2.84	N/A	N/A
St. Paul, MN			\$2.95	\$5.41	\$5.30	\$4.69	\$5.05	\$6.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
Takoma Park, MD	\$1.49	\$0.81			\$0.73	\$0.22	\$0.64	\$0.67	\$2.02	\$0.74	N/A
Telluride, CO	\$9.76	\$8.33	\$9.00	\$8.66	\$6.77	\$6.56	\$5.02	\$6.12	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Image B1 – Marginal Cost of Election Cycles in RCV Jurisdictions**

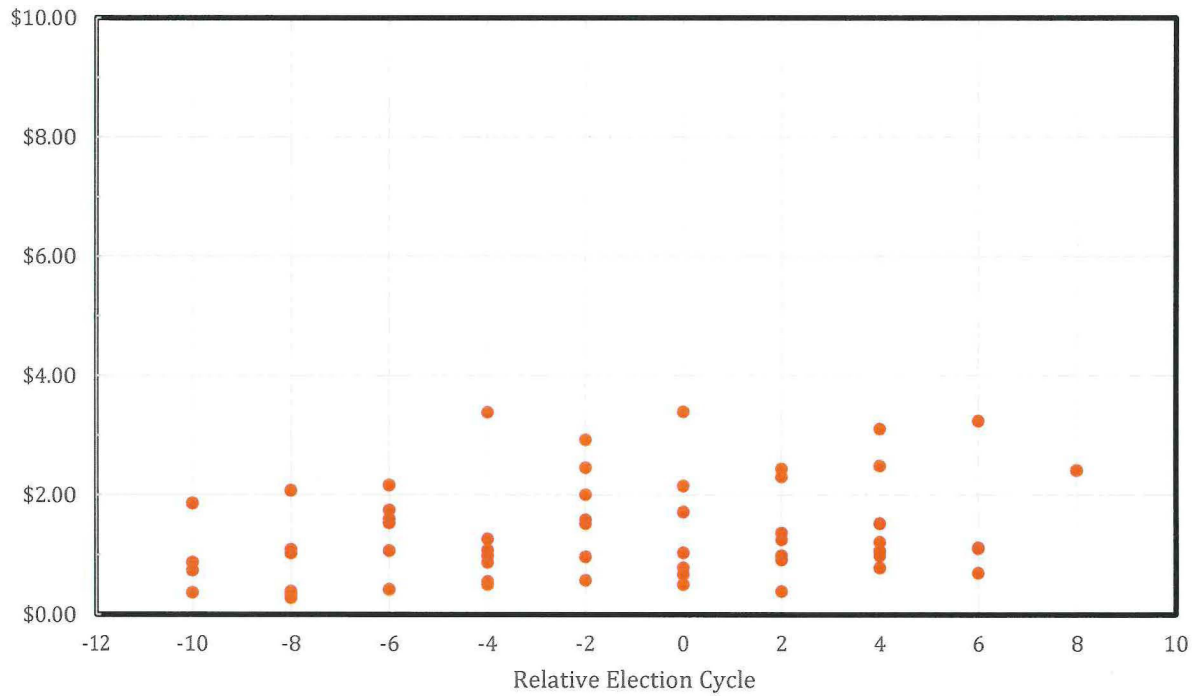


<sup>1</sup> Some jurisdictions included in this study have implemented RCV less than 10 years from its completion. Cycles that have yet to occur are denoted as N/A.

**Table B2 – Control Election Cycles Marginal Costs**

Control City	-10	-8	-6	-4	-2	0	+2	+4	+6	+8	+10
Santa Clara, CA	\$0.73	\$0.27	\$1.53	\$1.26	\$2.92	\$3.39	\$2.30	\$1.21	\$3.24	N/A	N/A
Norwich, CT		\$2.07	\$2.16	\$3.38	\$2.00	\$2.15	\$2.43	\$3.10	N/A	N/A	N/A
Anaheim, CA	\$0.36	\$0.33	\$0.41	\$0.50	\$0.57	\$0.50	\$0.38	\$1.06	\$0.69	N/A	N/A
Chico, CA	\$1.86	\$0.38	\$1.06	\$1.07	\$0.96	\$0.67	\$0.98	\$0.78	\$1.10	N/A	N/A
Toledo, OH		\$1.02	\$1.59	\$0.87	\$1.58	\$1.03	\$1.36	\$0.98	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hyattsville, MD				\$0.98	\$1.52	\$1.71	\$1.25	\$1.52	\$1.12	\$2.41	N/A
Snowmass Village, CO	\$0.87	\$1.08	\$1.74	\$0.55	\$2.45	\$0.78	\$0.91	\$2.48	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Image B2 – Marginal Cost of Election Cycles in Control Jurisdictions**



**Table B1 – All RCV Cost Data**

City	State	Year Implemented	Relative Cycle	Cycle Cost	Time Quantifier	Control Quantifier	Active RCV
Berkeley	California	2010	6	\$8.05	1	1	1
Berkeley	California	2010	4	\$5.34	1	1	1
Berkeley	California	2010	2	\$4.44	1	1	1
Berkeley	California	2010	0	\$6.12	0	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-2	\$2.27	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-4	\$2.94	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-6	\$2.74	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-8	\$0.39	-1	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	4	\$3.27	1	1	1
Burlington	Vermont	2006	2	\$2.03	1	1	1
Burlington	Vermont	2006	0	\$2.31	0	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	-2	\$2.12	-1	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	-4	\$2.80	-1	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	-6	\$3.07	-1	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	-8	\$1.43	-1	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	-10	\$2.61	-1	1	0
Oakland	California	2010	6	\$3.98	1	1	1
Oakland	California	2010	4	\$4.24	1	1	1
Oakland	California	2010	2	\$2.86	1	1	1
Oakland	California	2010	0	\$6.01	0	1	0
Oakland	California	2010	-2	\$2.38	-1	1	0
Oakland	California	2010	-4	\$3.16	-1	1	0
Oakland	California	2010	-6	\$1.98	-1	1	0
Oakland	California	2010	-8	\$2.81	-1	1	0
Oakland	California	2010	-10	\$1.70	-1	1	0
San Francisco	California	2004	10	\$15.67	1	1	1
San Francisco	California	2004	8	\$10.25	1	1	1
San Francisco	California	2004	6	\$9.15	1	1	1
San Francisco	California	2004	4	\$12.34	1	1	1
San Francisco	California	2004	2	\$13.65	1	1	1
San Francisco	California	2004	0	\$15.50	0	1	0
San Francisco	California	2004	-2	\$10.99	-1	1	0
San Leandro	California	2010	6	\$2.84	1	1	1
San Leandro	California	2010	4	\$2.17	1	1	1
San Leandro	California	2010	2	\$0.62	1	1	1

City	State	Year Implemented	Relative Cycle	Cycle Cost	Time Quantifier	Control Quantifier	Active RCV
San Leandro	California	2010	0	\$2.35	0	1	0
San Leandro	California	2010	-2	\$0.63	-1	1	0
San Leandro	California	2010	-4	\$2.06	-1	1	0
San Leandro	California	2010	-6	\$0.54	-1	1	0
St. Paul	Minnesota	2011	4	\$6.20	1	1	1
St. Paul	Minnesota	2011	2	\$5.05	1	1	1
St. Paul	Minnesota	2011	0	\$4.69	0	1	0
St. Paul	Minnesota	2011	-2	\$5.30	-1	1	0
St. Paul	Minnesota	2011	-4	\$5.41	-1	1	0
St. Paul	Minnesota	2011	-6	\$2.95	-1	1	0
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	8	\$0.74	1	1	1
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	6	\$2.02	1	1	1
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	4	\$0.67	1	1	1
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	2	\$0.64	1	1	1
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	0	\$0.22	0	1	0
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	-2	\$0.73	-1	1	0
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	-8	\$0.81	-1	1	0
Takoma Park	Maryland	2007	-10	\$1.49	-1	1	0
Telluride	Colorado	2011	4	\$6.12	1	1	1
Telluride	Colorado	2011	2	\$5.02	1	1	1
Telluride	Colorado	2011	0	\$6.56	0	1	0
Telluride	Colorado	2011	-2	\$6.77	-1	1	0
Telluride	Colorado	2011	-4	\$8.66	-1	1	0
Telluride	Colorado	2011	-6	\$9.00	-1	1	0
Telluride	Colorado	2011	-8	\$8.33	-1	1	0
Telluride	Colorado	2011	-10	\$9.76	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	6	\$8.05	1	1	1
Berkeley	California	2010	4	\$5.34	1	1	1
Berkeley	California	2010	2	\$4.44	1	1	1
Berkeley	California	2010	0	\$6.12	0	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-2	\$2.27	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-4	\$2.94	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-6	\$2.74	-1	1	0
Berkeley	California	2010	-8	\$0.39	-1	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	4	\$3.27	1	1	1
Burlington	Vermont	2006	2	\$2.03	1	1	1

<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Year Implemented</b>	<b>Relative Cycle</b>	<b>Cycle Cost</b>	<b>Time Quantifier</b>	<b>Control Quantifier</b>	<b>Active RCV</b>
Burlington	Vermont	2006	0	\$2.31	0	1	0
Burlington	Vermont	2006	-2	\$2.12	-1	1	0

**Table B2 – All Control Cost Data**

City	State	Year Implemented	Relative Cycle	Cycle Cost	Time Quantifier	Control Quantifier	Active RCV
Santa Clara	California	2010	6	\$3.24	1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	4	\$1.21	1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	2	\$2.30	1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	0	\$3.39	0	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	-2	\$2.92	-1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	-4	\$1.26	-1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	-6	\$1.53	-1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	-8	\$0.27	-1	0	0
Santa Clara	California	2010	-10	\$0.73	-1	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	4	\$3.10	1	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	2	\$2.43	1	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	0	\$2.15	0	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	-2	\$2.00	-1	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	-4	\$2.38	-1	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	-6	\$2.16	-1	0	0
Norwich	Connecticut	2006	-8	\$2.07	-1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	4	\$1.00	1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	2	\$0.89	1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	0	\$1.07	0	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	-2	\$0.67	-1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	-4	\$0.64	-1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	-6	\$0.63	-1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	-8	\$0.58	-1	0	0
Newton	North Carolina	2007	-10	\$0.56	-1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	6	\$0.69	1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	4	\$1.06	1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	2	\$0.38	1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	0	\$0.50	0	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	-2	\$0.57	-1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	-4	\$0.50	-1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	-6	\$0.41	-1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	-8	\$0.33	-1	0	0
Anaheim	California	2010	-10	\$0.36	-1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	10	\$2.22	1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	8	\$2.30	1	0	0



City	State	Year Implemented	Relative Cycle	Cycle Cost	Time Quantifier	Control Quantifier	Active RCV
San Jose	California	2004	6	\$2.90	1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	4	\$3.63	1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	2	\$2.29	1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	0	\$3.57	0	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	-2	\$0.63	-1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	-4	\$0.23	-1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	-6	\$0.47	-1	0	0
San Jose	California	2004	-8	\$0.53	-1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	6	\$1.10	1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	4	\$0.78	1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	2	\$0.98	1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	0	\$0.67	0	0	0
Chico	California	2010	-2	\$0.96	-1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	-4	\$1.07	-1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	-6	\$1.06	-1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	-8	\$0.38	-1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	-10	\$1.86	-1	0	0
Chico	California	2010	-12	\$0.25	-1	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	4	\$0.98	1	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	2	\$1.36	1	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	0	\$1.03	0	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	-2	\$1.58	-1	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	-4	\$0.87	-1	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	-6	\$1.59	-1	0	0
Toledo	Ohio	2011	-8	\$1.02	-1	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	8	\$2.41	1	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	6	\$1.12	1	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	4	\$1.52	1	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	2	\$1.25	1	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	0	\$1.71	0	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	-2	\$1.52	-1	0	0
Hyattsville	Maryland	2007	-4	\$0.98	-1	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	4	\$2.48	1	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	2	\$0.91	1	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	0	\$0.78	0	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	-2	\$2.45	-1	0	0

City	State	Year Implemented	Relative Cycle	Cycle Cost	Time Quantifier	Control Quantifier	Active RCV
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	-4	\$0.55	-1	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	-6	\$1.74	-1	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	-8	\$1.08	-1	0	0
Snowmass Village	Colorado	2011	-10	\$0.87	-1	0	0

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT**



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Project Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Discussion Regarding Term Limits for Members of the City Council

Date: February 7, 2024

---

## Background

As part of the City Council's scope of study, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force has been asked to examine term limits for elected officials on the City Council. This topic has been raised periodically by members of the public whenever the issue of Charter Study has been considered.

Section 401 of the Charter establishes four-year terms for the Mayor and City Council, and Section 406 sets the term of office for the Mayor at four years. The Charter language pertaining to term limits reads as follows:

### **Section 401. – Number and Term**

(A). There shall be a City Council consisting of a Mayor and seven Councilmembers. The seven Councilmembers shall be nominated and elected by district as provided in this Charter. Except as provided in subsection B, the term of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be four years.

### **Section 406. – The Mayor**

(A) The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the City at large for a term of four years, except as provided in Section 401.

## Fact Finding

The Pasadena City Charter does not limit the number of terms or years the Mayor and Council can hold elective office on the Pasadena City Council. The California Elections Code does require that candidates seeking local elected office have their name on the ballot once, and so a candidate cannot seek both the Mayor's seat and a District seat on the same ballot.

The most common argument in favor of term limits is that they create more opportunities for non-incumbent candidates to be elected. The most common counterargument is that term limits can artificially remove a community's most experienced and (often-times) highly regarded legislator. Irrespective of the pros and cons, term limit discussions and ballot measures are gaining popularity in California.

**California Government Code Section 36502(b) Term Limits reads:**

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the city council of a general law or charter city may adopt, or the residents of the city may propose by initiative, a proposal to limit or repeal a limit on the number of terms a member of the city council may serve on the city council, or the number of terms an elected mayor may serve. Any proposal to limit the number of terms a member of the city council may serve on the city council, or the number of terms an elected mayor may serve, shall apply prospectively only, and shall not become operative unless it is submitted to the electors of the city at a regularly scheduled election and a majority of the votes cast on the question favor the adoption of the proposal.

Table 1. Research on Term Limits in Peer Cities

**Peer City Research**

This table presents Baker Tilly’s research of the nine peer cities. The second two columns of this table show the structure—rotational or directly-elected mayor, and districts or no districts.

City	Directly Elected Mayor	Districts	Terms and Limits	Authority/Comments
Pasadena	Yes	Yes	Mayor: Four-year term, no limits Council: Four-year terms, no limits	Charter Sections 401 and 406
Anaheim	Yes	Yes	Mayor and Council: Two four-year terms; of no more than eight consecutive years even if those eight were as both, mayor, and council.  Clock re-sets after two years of being termed out  Note: Elected by plurality	<a href="#">City Charter: Article V. City Council, Section 503.5. Mayor and City Council Term Limitations</a>
Berkeley	Yes	Yes	Mayor and Council: Four-year terms with no limit  Note: Elected by plurality	City Charter: <a href="#">Article 5, Section 14. Mayor’s term of office &amp; Section 15. Councilmembers term of office</a>
Burbank	No	No	Four years terms with no limits	<a href="#">Municipal Code: Chapter 3 Elections, 2-3-110: Terms of Office</a>
Glendale	No	No	Rotational mayor  Council: No more than three four-year terms.	<a href="#">Code or Ordinances: Chapter 2.04.020 Selection of the Mayor</a>  <a href="#">City Charter: Article V Elections. Section 6 Terms</a>

City	Directly Elected Mayor	Districts	Terms and Limits	Authority/Comments
			Partial term of more than two years counts as full term.	<a href="#">of elective officers; term limits of councilmembers</a>
Long Beach	Yes	Yes	Lifetime ban after three four-year terms as mayor and three-four-year terms as councilmember.	<a href="#">§ 214. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL—THREE TERM LIMIT., Article II. CITY COUNCIL, City Charter, Long Beach (elaws.us)</a>
Santa Ana	Yes	Yes	Mayor: No more than four two-year terms  Council: No more than three two-year terms.  Partial terms do not count toward term limits	<a href="#">City Charter: Article IV., - City Council, Division 1, Sec. 404 - Presiding officer, Mayor</a>  <a href="#">Article IV. - City Council, Division 1, Sec. 401.01 – Term limits</a>
Santa Barbara	Yes	Yes	No more than two consecutive four-year terms as mayor plus two consecutive four-year terms as councilmember.	<a href="#">City Charter, Article V. Mayor and City Council, Section 500.1 City Council-Limitation on Terms</a>
Santa Monica	No	No	No more than three four-year terms as mayor and three four-year terms as councilmember	<a href="#">City Charter, Article VI The City Council, Section 600 – Number, Term, and Term Limits</a>
Torrance	Yes		Mayor and Council: No more than two consecutive four-year terms  A four-year absence resets the clock	<a href="#">City Charter: Article 6 – Elective Officers, Section 602, Terms (a)(b)(c)</a>

**Observations**

- Six of the nine peer cities have term limits and those six, except Santa Ana, have four-year terms for mayor.
- Santa Ana has a two-year term for Mayor
- Glendale, Long Beach, and Santa Monica have a three-term limit.
- Anaheim, Santa Barbara, and Torrance have a two-term limit.
- Torrance and Anaheim allow councilmembers who have exhausted their two four-year terms to run again after an absence.
- In Santa Ana, a partial term does not count as a full term. In Glendale, a partial term of more than two years counts as a full term.

*Advantages and Disadvantages of Term Limits*

Advantages of Term Limits	Disadvantages of Term Limits
Create more opportunities for non-incumbents to be elected	Considered counterproductive by some who think term limits usurps power away from voters by limiting options
Term limits have broad public appeal	Term limits can shorten the tenure of the community's most experienced legislators
New legislators bring in new points of view	Unlike seasoned elected officials, new legislators may rely on special interests to fill in their knowledge gaps
Turnover is believed to increase accountability	Experience gained from time on the job makes it easier to navigate the myriad of California rules and regulations applying to cities, as well as the complexities of the annual budget
Adopting term limits now does not prohibit the community or City Council from amending or eliminating term limits in the future	Term limits make public office less appealing

**Discussion points for Considering Term Limits**

If the Task Force were to recommend term limits, how would they be structured?

1. Should term limits be based on:
  - a. the number of terms (e.g., three consecutive four-year terms)?
  - b. the number of years? (See Anaheim)
  - c. a combination of the above (See Santa Barbara and Santa Monica)
2. Should mayor and council term limits be the same? (All peer cities except Santa Ana have four-year terms for the mayor and council).
3. Does time away from elected office reset the clock? If so, how many years of absence are needed? (See Anaheim and Torrance which requires a four-year gap versus Long Beach which has a lifetime ban)
4. Do partial terms count? (See Santa Ana and Glendale)
5. When do term limits commence? (proscriptive only)
  - a. When each current elected official steps down
  - b. For those elected in 2026 (for Districts 3, 5, and 7) and 2028 for Districts 1, 2, 4, 6 and the Mayor).
  - c. After election year \_\_\_\_.

*Example of motion creating term limits*

Recommend that the City Council propose a Charter Amendment to change Charter Sections 401 and 406 to limit the Mayor and the Council to three (or four) consecutive four-year terms as Mayor and three (or four) consecutive four-year terms as Councilmember, with a partial term of more than two years counting as a term. After a four-year hiatus, or after four years in another office (Mayor to Council or Council to Mayor), the official would be eligible to hold office for another three four-year terms. This provision goes into effect in 2026 for Council Districts 3, 5, and 7, and 2028 for the Mayor and Council Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6.



**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**nt:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:24 PM  
**o:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: [Public Comment - Charter Study Task Force] FW: Charter Study Task Force: Term Limits

---

**From:** Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:23:58 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** '  
**Subject:** [Public Comment - Charter Study Task Force] FW: Charter Study Task Force: Term Limits

Hi Liz, thank you so much for sharing your thoughts! By way of this message, I am forwarding to the City Clerk for the Charter Study Task Force, which is meeting Wed. Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss term limits. -Jess

Jessica C. Rivas  
Councilmember, District 5  
City of Pasadena

[Sign up](#) for the D5 e-mail list

**From:** Liz Burnam-Supple  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 3:03 PM  
**To:** Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Study Task Force: Term Limits

You don't often get email from [Liz Burnam-Supple](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Councilmember Rivas,  
I am writing to note my strong opposition to term limits as a party of the Pasadena City Charter. Free and fair public elections already serve to limit councilmembers and hold them accountable to their constituents. If the electorate feels that their councilmember is effectively representing their will in City Council, why should they be denied the opportunity to have said councilmember continue to represent them and instead be forced to select a less popular candidate? Term limits are undemocratic and I strongly oppose them, and would encourage the task force to also oppose them.  
Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Elizabeth Burnam-Supple

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:54 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Commission Letter re Term Limits

---

**From:** Denise  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:54:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** Jess Rivas <jess@jessforpasadena.com>  
**Subject:** Charter Commission Letter re Term Limits

You don't often get email from [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

February 4, 2024

Attn: Pasadena City Charter Commission

Re: Term Limits for Pasadena City Council

Gentlepersons:

I am writing to you to strongly suggest that we limit the terms of Pasadena City Councilmembers. I know from personal experience that having the same city councilmembers serve for fifteen, twenty, thirty or more years is detrimental for politics. There's a need for new people and/or young people to get involved. It reinvigorates democracy with fresh thoughts, fresh approaches and an excitement that leads to change.

Los Angeles used to have no term limits. I remember the days of the city councilperson sleeping during the meetings. I was a tenant's rights activist in the 1980s and 90s and I clearly remember my city councilmember telling me that "renter's don't count" because they "rarely vote." I remember his assistants having to wake him up during the meeting. He served until his death at age 76.

I believe, like Los Angeles, the councilmembers should be limited to three four-year terms.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Robb, Ph.D.  
Political Science, Professor



and voters are obliged to educate themselves about these fresh voices.

. was glad that the idea of unlimited donations was defeated, despite the specious argument that limits are a disadvantage for new contenders. I don't know if candidates can bank or donate unexpended donations, I hope not, because retaining unexpended money gives incumbents another unfair advantage and contributes to council members receiving the largess of another member, an incumbent with a large accumulation to dole out. Indeed, the ability to amass funds and help a colleague, adds to alliances and co-dependency that militates against openness and democracy.

Carl Selkin

Carl Selkin

ПУСТ СВЕГДА БУДЕТ СОНЯШНИКИ

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:46 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: City Charter Meeting Wednesday topic: Term Limits

---

**From:** Dr. Andrea Davis < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:45:47 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** jess@jessforpasadena.com <jess@jessforpasadena.com>  
**Subject:** City Charter Meeting Wednesday topic: Term Limits

You don't often get email from < > . [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

**Attn: Pasadena City Charter Commission**  
**Re: Term Limits for Pasadena City Council Members**

As a business owner and employer of highly skilled employees in Pasadena, I have a strong interest in City of Pasadena governance regulations in the City Charter.

I am writing to you to strongly suggest that we limit the terms of Pasadena City Councilmembers. Data suggests that long-term public office is very detrimental for the democratic process. There's a need for new people and/or young people to get involved. It reinvigorates democracy with fresh thoughts, fresh approaches, and an excitement that leads to change.

New candidates represent new micro constituencies. They also invigorate the discussion around ideas and initiatives during their campaigns. Los Angeles used to have no term limits and revised the error of this approach. I believe, like Los Angeles, the Pasadena councilmembers should be limited to three four-year terms.

I appreciate your thoughtful debate on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Davis

Pasadena, CA

*Andrea Davis, Ph.D., Director*

*Greenhouse Therapy Center...for growing people*

*Licensed Psychologist PSY 12296*

**GreenhouseTherapyCenter.com**

**Youtube Channel: What is a Greenhouse for growing people?**

**Facebook.com/GreenhouseTherapyCenter**

Chair-Elect, Clinical and Professional Practice Division  
and Local Advocacy Network Committee Representative,  
California Psychological Association

President,  
DIR/Floortime Coalition of California

*Floortime Strategies to Promote Development in Children and Teens: A User's Guide to the  
DIR Model*

*by Andrea Davis, Lahela Isaacson, and Michelle Harwell*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail transmission including all attached files may contain confidential and legally privileged medical information which is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, you are hereby notified that any reading, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete the message and notify our office manager immediately at (626) 795-7910 and by return e-mail. \*Email is not a secure delivery method. Highly confidential information is best delivered in person.

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**nt:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:56 PM  
**to:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment for Charter Reform Task Force: Feb. 7, 2024 - Term limits and campaign limits NOW!

---

**From:** Melissa M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:55:31 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Charter Reform Task Force: Feb. 7, 2024 - Term limits and campaign limits NOW!

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Public Comment for Charter Reform Task Force: Feb. 7, 2024  
Term limits and campaign limits NOW!

Hello

I grew up in Pasadena at the college, and spend a lot of time there shopping, eating, socializing. I heard the City is in the process of government reform and that is very exciting.

Democratic principles demand term limits and campaigning finance limits. The City of Alhambra has put in \$250/donation limits and that was widely supported, with over 70% of the electorate voting yes. It was a grassroots-led-initiative (Measure V) to put it on the ballot as a charter reform effort because the City Council at the time would not consider it. Needless to say, three at a time got voted out. Those that supported it replaced them, and to this day continue to remind the public that they supported such a popular measure.

\$250 may seem too little, but with by-district voting now, it works just fine. Absolutely no one is complaining - neither candidates, nor the populace. The state mandated limit is way too high, and still only serves the monied class. Lots of other cities in the area have campaign finance limits. Now Alhambra needs to post Form 460s, too: <https://www.cityofalhambra.org/DocumentCenter/Index/29>

Pasadena is usually so good on being a leader in many areas, but on this, Pasadena is BEHIND THE TIMES. Please bring Pasadena up to speed with better campaign finance laws and set term limits.

Thank you.  
Melissa Michelson



**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**nt:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:45 PM  
**o:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Study Task Force Mtg. 2.7.2024: Agenda #3: Consideration of Term Limits

---

**From:** Sonja Berndt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:45:07 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Study Task Force Mtg. 2.7.2024: Agenda #3: Consideration of Term Limits

You don't often get email from . [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Member of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force:

I am a longtime resident of Pasadena. I am strongly in favor of instituting term limits for our City Council: 3 terms/12 years for council members; 2 terms/8 years for mayor. Term limits create more opportunities for non-incumbent candidates to be elected. Term limits would also bring sorely-needed new ideas and points of view to our Council and counteract the strong inertia of incumbency. Too often, elected officials who have been in their positions for a long time, including some of our Council members, have an “it-can’t-be-done” attitude and change moves at a snail’s pace. They get comfortable with the status quo even if change is needed.

Turning over council member positions could also increase voter enthusiasm and voter turnout. Voters would have someone new to discuss issues with and could resist the urge to stay home on election day because “so-and-so” will just get elected again.

Finally, term limits would limit the influence of lobbyists and reduce the power of special interests. Special interests lobby many of their efforts toward keeping certain people in power and their influence on elected officials is a detriment to democracy. The interests of these influencers are often contrary to/different from the interests of the majority of persons the elected official represents.

For all of these reasons, please recommend the term limits for our council members and mayor as set forth above. Thank you.

Sonja Berndt  
Pasadena

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**nt:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:12 PM  
**cc:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Charter Study Task Force regarding term limits

---

**From:** Anthony Manousos  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:11:37 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Letter to the Charter Study Task Force regarding term limits

You don't often get email from

[why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Study Task Force

I am a 12-year resident of District 1 and have been actively involved in the civic life of this community. My wife Jill Shook and I are co-founders of a nonprofit called Making Housing and Community Happen that advocates for affordable housing for our unhoused and low income neighbors. We have organized two Pasadena City Council Candidates Forum in the past four years focusing on how to end homelessness and address our city's housing crisis.

I am writing to express my support for term limits for City Council members, similar to the ones at the state level.

This is what I see as the problem with unlimited terms. Two members of the Pasadena City Council have been in office for more than 20 years. While their institutional memory and experience are valuable, and they have served the city well in many ways, I don't believe it's in the best interests of the city to have incumbents so entrenched it is hard for challengers to compete. In California, incumbents win 90% of the time at the state level and 80% at the local level. It costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to launch a serious campaign, which is a huge advantage to incumbents.

Our city is changing, with renters finally having a voice and institutional power thanks to Measure H, which was decisively passed by voters. Yet entrenched incumbents opposed rent control, even though a majority in their district supported it.

My argument is not that these entrenched incumbents are doing a bad job or are corrupt. What I am arguing is that having term limits would open up the Council to new people with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. I was very impressed by the challengers who showed up for the candidates forum that Making Housing and Community Happen organized on Jan 31. I would like to have heard from the incumbents, but they chose not to take part. This to me is worrisome since four years ago when we organized a candidates forum, 13 out of 15 candidates showed up and all submitted written responses to our questions. None bothered to do so this cycle. Are they not showing up because they feel they are going to win anyway? Will this be the new normal in Pasadena? How will this affect our democratic process?

We need elected officials in our city willing to meet with concerned citizens who want to know where they stand and why.

The state of California adopted term limits of 12 years in 1992 and it has worked fairly well. This limit gives elected officials time to learn their job and acquire expertise in law-making, but it also encourages change. It gives challengers with new ideas a chance to compete for office.

What is the sweet spot for term limits in Pasadena? Should it be 12 years or 16 years? I would lean towards 12 but am okay with 16. What I see as a problem is allowing elected officials to stay in office 20 or more years. That's just too long!

Sincerely,

Anthony Manousos  
Co-founder of Making Housing and Community Happen  
[makinghousinghappen.org](http://makinghousinghappen.org)

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:56 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Study Task Force- term limits, public comment

---

**From:** Raul Ibanez  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:56:06 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Study Task Force- term limits, public comment

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hello, to whom it may concern,

I am writing as an 18-year District 5 resident of Pasadena, an alum of PUSD K-12 schools, and a longtime employee of Pasadena City College to strongly advocate for term limits in our city council. Specifically, 3 terms/12 years for council members and 2 terms/8 years for Mayor of the City. This is undoubtedly an effective way to ensure that we have fresh and diverse perspectives and experiences represented on the Council and also to help counteract the strong inertia of incumbency. This will also ensure that all residents are represented as accurately & consistently as possible.

Thank you & please let me know if you have any questions

Raúl Ibáñez  
Student Services | Community Overcoming Recidivism through Education (CORE)  
Pasadena City College | Pasadena CA 91106  
Pronouns: *Él/He/Him*

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:59 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Thoughts on Term Limits

---

**From:** Tim Wendler  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:57:54 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** Tim Wendler  
**Subject:** Thoughts on Term Limits

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Mark -

Please share these thoughts on term limits. Thanks!

-Tim Wendler

Term Limits have advantages and disadvantages. They can encourage elected officials to be more responsive to constituents rather than institutional interests, allow for more fresh voices/new ideas on the Council, and encourages voter interest. But it can also curtail the voters' authority to re-elect someone who is doing a good job for them, and it potentially removes experienced, effective council members in their prime. My recommendation, if you are going to recommend some sort of term limits, is that you follow what I would call a **forced vacation** approach. After a certain number of terms, the Councilmember could not run for re-election, but it would not be a lifetime ban. They could run 4 or 8 years later, but would now be facing a new incumbent and would have to prove that they are the best candidate, not just one who was reelected due to the power of incumbency.

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:39 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Task Force: Term Limits for City Councilmembers

---

**From:** cindy clark-schnuelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:39:04 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** cindy Clark-Schnuelle  
**Subject:** Re: Charter Task Force: Term Limits for City Councilmembers

You don't often get email from [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear City Clerk,

As long as councilmembers represent the interests of their constituents I do not feel there is a need for term limits. We have elections.

Nothing is stopping newer or younger residents from running against and challenging an incumbent. I always welcome the debates because it makes the incumbents fire up their message to residents. If new candidates don't have the incentive or knowledge it's on them to gain it and step in front of voters. If they don't have the knowledge, should they be running for office?

All of the above being said, I strongly support limiting campaign donations to even the playing field. ALL candidates should receive the exact same amount of funds for their campaigns.

I would add that if the public or other members of the council notices that an incumbent is less than attentive during council meetings. Not aware of where a debate or discussion is flowing and or attending to their personal business during council meetings that they would be called out on the spot.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Clark-Schnuelle  
Pasadena resident

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:15 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Study Task Force Mtg. 2.7.2024: Agenda #3: Consideration of Term Limits

---

**From:** Kris Ockershauser <[kris@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:kris@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:15:17 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <[cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** Charter Study Task Force Mtg. 2.7.2024: Agenda #3: Consideration of Term Limits

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Members of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force:

I have lived in Pasadena for 21 years and have been active in civic affairs for most of that time. Term limits for our City Council would be a benefit as it would encourage more participation by the citizenry in civic affairs.

For the Council: 3 terms/12 years for council members; 2 terms/8 years for mayor.

The Council could more fairly reflect the interests of the people they are elected to represent than the special interests who work full time and contribute money to influence Councilmembers to support their interests.

Please recommend the term limits for our council members and mayor shown above.

Thank you,

Kris Ockershauser

Pasadena 91105

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:19 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: In Support of Term Limits - Charter Study Task Force

---

**From:** Victor Suarez  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:19:05 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** In Support of Term Limits - Charter Study Task Force

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Charter Study Task Force -

My name is Victor Suarez, I'm a resident of District 7 and I'm writing to voice my support for term limits in relation to item 3 in tonight's charter task force agenda. As our city continues to change it's important that the voices in city hall represent the diversity of experiences and perspectives in Pasadena.

Specifically, I would urge the task force to strongly consider the recommendation of 3 terms/12 years for city council members and 2 terms/8 years for the Mayor. I believe these term limits offer a balance of fresh perspectives while maintaining institutional knowledge in our council.

Victor Suarez



**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA  
CORRESPONDENCE**

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:54 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Commission Letter re Campaign Finance Reform

---

**From:** Denise  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:53:14 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** Jess Rivas <jess@jessforpasadena.com>  
**Subject:** Charter Commission Letter re Campaign Finance Reform

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

February 4, 2024

Attn: Pasadena City Charter Commission

Re: Campaign Contribution Limits for the City of Pasadena

Gentlepersons:

I am writing to you to strongly suggest you create campaign contribution limits of \$1,000 for municipal elections in the City of Pasadena.

Expert Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of Common Cause spoke to the council three years ago. He gave an exhaustive account of why we have contribution limits, what other cities have done and the three reasons why contribution limits are essential. 1) Quid pro quo: you don't want to give someone a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be beholden to them; 2) legalized corruption: even if it's not officially bribery, there's a "subtle tilt toward the person who donated." Donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated; and lastly, 3) Perceived corruption: 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

Mr. Mehta Stein mentioned that the average donation for cities the size of Pasadena is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. He thought \$4900 was too high. He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much. Common Cause provided a plethora of data and the consensus of campaign experts is that very high and/or unlimited contributions are harmful to democracy as well as creating a perception of corruption.

For this reason, I would like to request that the Charter require a \$1,000 limit on campaign contributions to municipal candidates.

Sincerely,

Denise Robb, Ph.D.  
Political Science, Professor

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**nt:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:47 PM  
**o:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: City Charter Meeting topic: Campaign Finance Transparency and Limits

---

**From:** Dr. Andrea Davis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:45:45 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** jess@jessforpasadena.com <jess@jessforpasadena.com>  
**Subject:** City Charter Meeting topic: Campaign Finance Transparency and Limits

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[A]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

**Attention: Pasadena City Charter Commission**  
**Re: Term Limits for Pasadena City Council Members**

The rules around campaign finance transparency and campaign finance limits are very important to me as a business owner and an employer in Pasadena.

I am writing to you to strongly suggest you create campaign contribution limits of \$1,000 for municipal elections in the City of Pasadena.

I remember so clearly when Jonathan Mehta Stein, ED at Common Cause spoke to this Council three years ago. He blew everyone out of the water with his clear-headed rational grasp of facts and figures. The arguments that followed from certain council members against donation limits did not respond to his logic or his data at all. He gave an exhaustive account of the data on the positive impact of contribution limits based on outcomes in other cities.

He also cited the logic:

1) Democracy is undermined by implicit quid pro quo: it is unwise to allow a person to give a candidate a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be emotionally or fiscally beholden to them; this psychological pressure has impacted the leadership of our City too much already;

2) Large campaign donations legalize corruption because large donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated, thus purchase greatly more power; and lastly,

3) Perceived corruption disincentivizes many from voting or getting involved; 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

The Common Cause ED reported that the average donation for cities the size of Pasadena is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. His analysis was that \$4900 was too high for our size.

He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much.

For this reason, I would like to request that the Charter require a \$1,000 limit on campaign contributions to municipal candidates.

In addition, the Charter should specify the following:

a) Independent Expenditures (IE's) should be clearly and conspicuously posted for all voters to see

b) Regular donations should be posted clearly and conspicuously for all voters to easily reference when making an informed choice

c) Conflicts of interest should be posted clearly and conspicuously for all voters to easily reference when making an informed choice

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Davis

Pasadena, CA

*Andrea Davis, Ph.D., Director  
Greenhouse Therapy Center...for growing people  
Licensed Psychologist PSY 12296*

**GreenhouseTherapyCenter.com**  
**Youtube Channel: What is a Greenhouse for growing people?**  
**Facebook.com/GreenhouseTherapyCenter**

Chair-Elect, Clinical and Professional Practice Division  
and Local Advocacy Network Committee Representative,  
California Psychological Association

President,  
DIR/Floortime Coalition of California

*Floortime Strategies to Promote Development in Children and Teens: A User's Guide to the  
DIR Model*  
*by Andrea Davis, Lahela Isaacson, and Michelle Harwell*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail transmission including all attached files may contain confidential and legally privileged medical information which is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, you are hereby notified that any reading, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete the message and notify our office manager immediately at (626) 795-7910 and by return e-mail. \*Email is not a secure delivery method. Highly confidential information is best delivered in person.

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

**ITEM 2  
INFORMATIONAL  
MEMO, AND AGENDA  
MATERIALS FROM  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND  
JANUARY 20, 2024**



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk   
**DATE:** February 22, 2024  
**RE:** Supplemental Information – Vacancy Appointment Process and Options for Calling a Special Election to Fill a Vacancy (carryover from January 20, 2024 and February 7, 2024 discussions)

On January 20, 2024 and February 7, 2024, the Charter Study Task Force discussed the following agenda item:

**CONSIDERATION OF VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

At the conclusion of the February 7, 2024 discussion, the Task Force agreed by consensus to:

- Focus on Optional Motion No. 2 from Slide No. 14 of the PowerPoint presentation: “Length of Term Determines Method: Allow a 75-day appointment if term will last less than a year (or two years) or call special election if term will be more than one year (or two years)”; and
- Incorporate a recommendation that the City Council adopt an ordinance to codify the appointment process for transparency and efficiency purposes, and with the appointment process to include a mandatory public engagement and notice requirement to ensure public participation and awareness.

**Pending Issues to Resolve**

Following is a summary of the issues that have been raised by the Task Force and are as yet unresolved:

- Determination on recommending an appointment if: a) one year or less remain, b) 18 months or less remain, or c) two years or less remain, on the unexpired term



- Determination on whether the 75-day timeframe to make an appointment is overly long and should be shortened
- Consideration of adding a residency requirement for appointed positions to fill vacancies on the Council, and if so, how long should residency be established; and whether the same residency requirements should be applied to the elected positions on the Council

# CITY OF PASADENA 2024 March Primary Election

## CITY OF PASADENA 3RD COUNCIL

<i>Voter Count</i>	<i>Rate Breakdown</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Registered Voters (RV)	11,115	
<b><i>Election Operations (rate * RV)</i></b>	<b><math>\\$3.0295 * 11115</math></b>	<b>\$33,672.89</b>
<b><i>Vote By Mail Processing (rate * RV)</i></b>	<b><math>\\$0.9539 * 11115</math></b>	<b>\$10,602.60</b>
<b><i>Sample Ballot Processing and Printing</i></b>		
Office(s)/Seat(s) (rate * No. of Offices * RV)	$\$0.0188 * 1 * 11115$	\$208.96
Measures(s) (rate * No. of Measures * RV)	$\$0.0188 * 0 * 11115$	\$0.00
Measure Text (rate * No. of Text Pages for all measures * RV)	$\$0.0564 * 0 * 11115$	\$0.00
Voting Information (rate * RV)	$\$0.5271 * 11115$	\$5,858.72
<b><i>Candidate Filing and Campaign Finance (rate * No. of Candidates)</i></b>	<b><math>\\$957.1867 * 0</math></b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Election Preparation Cost (Flat rate per jurisdiction) \$8,585.63**

**CITY OF PASADENA TOTAL ESTIMATE \$58,928.80**

**DISCLAIMER:** Please note that calculating an estimate using the Election Cost Estimate Calculator is not consent or agreement to hold, consolidate or provide support services for an election. Requests from jurisdictions for any election scenario must be received in the form of an adopted resolution or other official document and considered by the Board of Supervisors and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at the appropriate time. For more information, please contact the Election Information and Preparation Division at [ecu@rrcc.lacounty.gov](mailto:ecu@rrcc.lacounty.gov).



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

DEAN C. LOGAN

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

February 22, 2024

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk  
City of Pasadena  
100 North Garfield Avenue, Room S-228  
Pasadena, CA 91101

### ESTIMATED COST FOR A MARCH 4, 2025 SPECIAL STANDALONE ELECTION

Dear Mr. Jomsky:

As requested, the estimated cost for the City of Pasadena Council District 3 to hold a March 4, 2025 Special Standalone Election with one office is \$892,000.

The estimate includes one 11-Day Vote Center, eight Vote-By-Mail drop boxes, and 11,121 registered voters receiving VBM ballots. Changes in these, or any election factors such as the number of sample ballot booklet languages, and unanticipated increases in labor and/or operational costs may result in a significant variance from this estimate.

As a reminder, elections conducted during a consolidated election cycle (the Presidential/Gubernatorial primary or general elections) are more cost-effective to local jurisdictions since many overall costs are shared with the Federal, State and County Districts. Standalone or concurrent elections outside of the consolidated elections cost more as each jurisdiction basically sustains the full cost of their own election.

If you have any questions regarding this estimate, please contact the Election Billing Team at [ElectionBilling@rrcc.lacounty.gov](mailto:ElectionBilling@rrcc.lacounty.gov).

Sincerely,

DEAN C. LOGAN  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

JENNIFER STORM, Division Manager  
Finance and Management Division

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT**



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Project Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Discussion on the Timing of Mayoral Elections

Date: February 22, 2024

---

## Background

As part of the City Council's scope of study, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force has been asked to examine the timing of Mayoral elections. Changing the terms or timing of the Mayor's races could create opportunities for all Pasadena Councilmembers to seek the Mayor's seat without giving up their own.

Pasadena Charter Section 406 sets the term of office for the Mayor at four years:

### **Charter Section 406. – The Mayor**

(A) The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the City at large for a term of four years, except as provided in Section 401.

In 1998, when the voters of Pasadena established the directly elected Mayor, they chose four-year terms, the same length as Council terms. The election for the first directly elected Mayor coincided with the election for District seats, 1, 2, 4 and 6. Since the Mayor and Districts 1, 2, 4 and 6 appear on the same ballot, and California Elections Code prohibits candidates from having their name appear on the ballot for two different seats at the same election, those Councilmembers are unable to run for the Mayor's seat without having to forego running for their own District seat. Conversely, Councilmembers from Districts 3, 5, and 7 can run for Mayor every four years without risking their District seat.

The following Charter section shows how the District elections are staggered. Section 401 (C) starts with the year 2020 because Pasadena had to reset election dates and terms upon moving elections to even years.

### **Charter Section 401 (C)**

Beginning in the year 2020, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 shall commence in the year 2020 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2020, and the terms of office of the Councilmembers elected from Districts 3, 5, and 7 shall commence in the year 2022 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2022. The terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall commence at the time of the City's organizational meeting held on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election and until their respective successors are elected and have duly qualified.

In discussions with City staff, we have identified three options for changing the Mayoral elections. We have also included information on moving one of the Council seats to a different election cycle for discussion purposes. The options include:

- Changing the Mayor’s term from four to two or six years,
- Moving mayoral elections from even to odd years as standalone elections, or
- Enacting term limits.

***Changing the Mayor’s term from four to two or six years***

Upon incorporation, the 361 General law cities in California chose either a two-year or four-year term for directly elected mayors. The Government Code for General law cities reads:

**Government Code Section 34900**

At any general municipal election, or at a special election held for that purpose, the city council may submit to the electors the question of whether electors shall thereafter elect a mayor and four city councilmembers, and whether the mayor shall serve a two-year or four-year term. In cities presently having elected mayors, the city council may also submit to the electors the question of whether the mayor shall thereafter serve a two-year or a four-year term.

Per statute, General law cities have four-year terms for council. We believe that all Charter cites, except Vernon, also have four-year terms for Council. Uniquely, the City of Vernon has five-year terms and holds one election every year.

There are cities in California that have two-year mayoral terms, but we have yet to find a city that has six-year terms. Here are the cities with two-year terms that we have identified to date:

*Table 1. Twelve cities with two-year terms for Mayor*

City	Population	Charter/General Law	Mayor: Limits on two-year terms	Council: Limits on four-year terms
Dublin	48,831	General Law	Four consecutive	Two consecutive
Garden Grove	172,781	General Law	Four	Two terms
Grover Beach	13,200	General Law	Two consecutive	Two consecutive
Irvine	266,122	Charter	Two consecutive	Two consecutive
Kerman	14,689	General Law	Two consecutive	Two consecutive
Livermore	80,723	General Law	Four consecutive	Two consecutive
Merced	80,000	Charter	Two consecutive	Two consecutive
Monrovia	36,000	General Law	No limits	No limits
Ojai	7,700	General Law	No limits	No limits
Pacific Grove	15,522	Charter	Eight years total	Eight years in succession
San Ramon	72,000	Charter	Four consecutive	No limits
Santa Ana	334,217	Charter	Four terms	Three consecutive
Tracy	80,000	General Law	Two consecutive	Two consecutive

***Advantages and Disadvantages***

The following chart lists advantages and disadvantages of two-year and six-year terms:

<b><i>Two-year terms for Mayor</i></b>	
<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
Create more opportunities for challenging the Mayor’s seat	Mayor must campaign every two years, diverting time from city business
Over a period of four years, each councilmember could run for mayor during their off-year election cycle	Rapid turnover may disrupt previously approved projects when a mayor with different priorities is elected
Turnover is believed to increase accountability	Placing the mayor’s seat on the ballot every two years increases the cost of holding elections
<b><i>Six-year terms for Mayor</i></b>	
<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
Reduces number of citywide elections and that reduces costs to the City.	Reduces opportunities to run for Mayor and likely to turnover
Increases stability in City leadership	Reduces opportunities for Councilmembers to run for Mayor without forfeiting a seat. Some may wait 12 years

For more information, Baker Tilly could query officials in cities with two-year mayoral terms and continue to look for some with six-year terms. For instance, we would ask about turnover and the number of challengers for the mayor’s seat. We would ask if the two-year seat dissuaded candidates from running for mayor. We could also talk to officials in Ojai, Colton, and other relevant cities about ballot measures to change the mayor’s term from two to four years.

***Moving Mayoral elections to odd years***

With voter approval, it is possible to stagger Pasadena’s Mayor and Council elections by changing the election cycle for the Mayor from even to odd years. This would enable every Councilmember in Pasadena to run for Mayor every four years without risk to their current seat. Counties in the State of California hold various elections in odd years including special elections and runoffs, but a primary and a runoff for Pasadena would be a standalone election. As previously explained, standalone elections are more costly to cities and to candidates who would pay more for the printing of Candidate’s Statements.

However, if the Task Force wants to explore this option, Baker Tilly would ask the 58 County Clerks or Registrars of Voters in California if they can identify cities that hold off-cycle elections for mayor.

### *Effects of Term Limits*

As they are still under consideration by the Task Force, it is important to note that term limits may have an impact on opportunities to run for the Mayor's seat. Termed-out Councilmembers do not risk their seats by running for other offices.

Hypothetically, if a limit of three four-year terms for Districts 3, 5, and 7 began in 2026, and term limits for the Mayor and Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 commenced in 2028, Districts 3, 5 and 7 would have the advantage for the first couple of the Mayor's terms; however, in the course of time, Councilmembers will not be termed out at the same time. For example, one Councilmember might decide not to run for a third term. As a result, the clock for the next person elected to that office would reset to the first term of a twelve-year cycle, while remaining Councilmembers in that election year would be finishing the second term of their twelve-year cycle. The same goes for the Mayor who could leave office before reaching term limits.

### Flipping the Term of One District

Finally, there is a provision in state law that allows a General law city to make a one-time shift in one council term. The Government Code reads as follows:

#### **Government Code 34906 (as of January 01, 2023)**

Notwithstanding Section 36503, if a city has an elected mayor and the election of the remaining members of the city council for four-year terms is not evenly staggered, the city council may, on a one-time basis only and prior to the first day for circulating nomination papers for the general municipal election, designate one of the city council offices appearing on the general municipal ballot, other than the office of the mayor, to serve a two-year term, or may provide that of the city council offices appearing on the general municipal ballot, other than the office of the mayor, the one which receives the least votes of those elected (or if there is a tie for such a position, as decided by lot) shall serve a two-year term. At all subsequent general municipal elections, each member of the city council elected at such election, other than the mayor if the mayor has a two-year term, shall be elected to serve a four-year term.

We included this provision as a discussion point about what may be possible. Lancaster, a Charter city, used this provision in 1997 without a Charter change. However, Pasadena would have to place the measure on the ballot.



# CORRESPONDENCE

## Jomsky, Mark

---

**From:** Tim Wendler  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 5:41 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Charter Reform Task Force

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Mark -

My recommendation for the Timing of Mayoral election - a 6 year Mayoral term achieves the goal of alternating which election cycle the Mayor is running on, and gives them an extra level of being above the fray, and looking at the City's long-term interests.

Please share these comments with the task force.

-Tim Wendler

Pasadena, CA 91104

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:03 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Timing of Mayoral Election

---

**From:** Blair Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:02:59 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Timing of Mayoral Election

You don't often get email from

[. Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

City Clerk and Chair Chawkins,

I am writing to give input on the issue of the timing of the Mayoral election that will be discussed at the Charter Study Task Force. I have a conflict and will be unable to attend the meeting in person.

I support having the Mayoral election be on an off year from the Council members, so that any incumbent Council member can run for Mayor without being forced to give up the opportunity to run for re-election as a Council member.

I think there may be two ways to approach it:

In 2024 we will elect the Councilmembers for districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. It would not be a stretch to add Districts 5 and 7 to the presidential election cycle, and have the Mayor's race in the other even year (2026, 2030 for example).

Alternately, we could have the Mayoral race on an off (odd) year.

Thank you for consideration of my opinion on this matter.

Blair Miller

**CORRESPONDENCE  
NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:54 PM  
**:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: City Council Mtg Tonight

---

From: Julie McKune  
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:53:55 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: City Council Mtg Tonight

[You don't often get email from 7julie7@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<[https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010263](https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263)>.

Dear Voting members,

We support term limits. Please update our city charter to be inclusive.  
Government serves all better when it's representing all our citizens, not just the ruling class.

Regards,

Julie Romero McKune & Randal Romero, Pasadena residents 60 yrs.

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:55 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: term limits proposal

---

**From:** mb kalis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:54:27 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** term limits proposal

You don't often get email from mbkalis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

i think term limits deny voters their right

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MARCH 14, 2024**

**ITEM 2  
FOLLOW-UP  
INFORMATION**



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Project Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Pasadena Charter Study – Term Limits Outreach

Date: March 14, 2024

---

## Introduction

This report is a follow-up to the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force discussion on term limits on February 7. At that time, Baker Tilly was asked to gather information and locate speakers who had experienced the impact of term limits within their communities. This report highlights the outreach that the City Clerk’s Office and Baker Tilly conducted on the opinions of local government leaders about term limits. This report is divided into four sections.

- Background – Overview of Term Limits in California
- Methodology for Data Collection
- Comments on Advantages and disadvantages of term limits
- Interviews

## Background

By 2018, 123 of California’s 482 cities (26%) and nine out the state’s fifty-eight counties (16%) had term limits. Fifty-five of the 123 cities were charter cities. Thirty-two cities with term limits had populations greater than 100,000.<sup>1</sup>

Between 2018 and 2022, another 27 cities enacted term limits. This rapid uptick in cities with term limits coincided with two changes in elections. All California cities were mandated to hold candidate elections in even years. Second, the threat of lawsuits forced nearly every city that did not have them to convert to district elections. Today, approximately 148 (31%) of California’s 482 cities have term limits.

## Methodology

City Clerk Mark Jomsky sent an inquiry through the League of California Cities listserv seeking responses from officials experienced with term limits. The City received ten responses. Relevant responses are included in the comments section.

---

<sup>1</sup> City of Simi Valley City Manager’s report to the City Council dated October 16, 2018.



Baker Tilly read staff reports on term limits from other cities. For the public's point of view, we read ballot arguments for and against term limits. Baker Tilly developed a questionnaire which was sent to about twenty-one cities in California with populations between 100,000 and 200,000 population that have term limits. The questionnaire asked the following:

1. What benefits resulted after your community enacted term limits?
2. Were there any unforeseen issues or problems that resulted after the enactment of term limits?
3. If you had a "do over" would you enact term limits again?

The few who responded said they had no information because term limits were either too new or had been in place too long to be able to talk about their impact.<sup>2</sup>

Baker Tilly then broadened the research to include a random group of general law and charter cities. We asked city clerks if they could answer the same questions or refer us to someone who could. Many clerks said they had no direct experience with term limits for reasons previously mentioned. Others provided useful information or referred us to current or former officials who could answer the questions. We interviewed five officials who had been referred to us. In total, the City Clerk and Baker Tilly interacted with approximately 30 agencies, as shown in Table 1.

*Table 1. List of California Cities Contacted Regarding Term Limits*

Cities		
Baldwin Park	Beverly Hills	Camarillo
Carson	Commerce	Corona
Glendale USD	Costa Mesa	Downey
Dublin	Garden Grove	Glendale
Huntington Beach	Laguna Hills	Los Alamitos
Menifee	Murrieta	Newport Beach
San Ramon	Santa Barbara	Santa Monica
Saratoga	Simi Valley	Temple City
Sunnyvale	Thousand Oaks	Torrance
Ventura	Irvine	Riverside

### Comments on the Advantages and Disadvantages of Term Limits

The following is a summary of comments received. They are anonymous as many did not want to go on the record. Where we could, we used verbatim comments. Others we summarized for brevity. We left out comments that were repetitive.

<sup>2</sup> Term limits go into effect approximately one term after voter approval. Most cities surveyed had three four-year terms. A city adopting term limits more than twenty years ago has reached a point where the replacements for termed-out officials have had only one term in office.

### *Advantages of Term Limits*

- Makes it easier for other community members to replace incumbents, some of whom, have served 20 years or more,
- Limits potential alleged abuses by those in power for too long,
- Being termed out makes it easier to advocate for change,
- When your term is ending, it is easier to take necessary, but politically unpopular, positions,
- Our city adopted term limits to address the incumbent advantage,
- Necessary for getting new (and younger) people involved in local government,
- Eliminates the potential to have a council full of career and lifetime politicians, and
- Provides voters with a wider array of choices.

### *Disadvantages*

- Limits continuity in councilmembers' ability to serve and contribute, so good prospective candidates do not run,
- A special interest is controlling the council. They have two votes now with another councilmember about to be elected,
- Term limits resulted in the departure of councilmembers with decades of experience who were replaced by those with little or no experience,
- Makes city councilmembers more political, partisan, and adversarial,
- Because of loss of tenure, we lose representation on county, regional and state boards, and commissions,
- Qualified interested parties do not apply. Knowledge base is lost,
- We had the same Council for 20 years, so it has been an adjustment due to more frequent turnover,
- They term out just as they start to fully understand and get the hang of the meetings and processes,
- By the time the new councilmembers have gotten up to speed, they are already gearing up for re-election,
- Term limits do not appear to have resulted in greater diversity or more people running for council. A different type of person runs now,
- New councilmembers are not listening to the city attorney, city clerk or staff, and
- Elected officials are so new they do not follow Council protocol and cannot run a meeting.

### *Other Comments*

- Some say that the problem with term limits is electing uninformed council members. That problem is less of a threat where there is a City Manager form of government.
- Term limits have not been in effect long enough. No one has been termed out yet,
- Term limits have been in effect too long for any remaining staff or elected officials to be able to comment,
- No impact thus far. We still have about the same number of candidates and not a diverse group of candidates,

- Once the voters approved term limits, two of the longest-serving councilmembers resigned before the end of their terms,
- It may be true that term limits have resulted in more women and minorities on councils, however, the bigger picture is the negative public comments and social media posts,
- Concerns about even-year elections (see interview with Dr. Julian Gold, Mayor of Beverly Hills), and
- There is a need to increase pay for councilmembers and other elected officials, as this could incentivize more middle-class working individuals to run for office (see interview with Michael MacDonald of Ventura).

## Interviews

As discussed above, Baker Tilly interviewed referrals from city clerks and others. We also conducted interviews with two experts in public policy who have extensive experience with Southern California cities. Their comments relevant to term limits are summarized below.

### Interview with Dr. Ronald O. Loveridge

Ronald O. Loveridge, a Stanford PhD., has 33 years of public service as a City of Riverside Councilmember beginning in 1979 and as Mayor from 1994 to 2012. He served as President of the National League of Cities, is a member of the National Academy of Public Policy and is on the Board of the National Civic League which produces the Model City Charter.

Although Riverside does not have term limits, we talked to Dr. Loveridge about the political climate in Southern California and about his experience in national civic leadership. He stated that with or without term limits, it will become difficult to retain qualified leadership, especially minority leadership. He cited a study from the University of San Diego study<sup>3</sup> titled: Full Report Detailing Threats Against and Harassment of Local Elected Officials. The study found:

Seventy-five percent of all San Diego County elected officials have experienced threats or harassment because of their elected service, with roughly half experiencing threats and harassment monthly. Threats and harassment of elected officials is a bipartisan issue, but one of the study's key findings is that this behavior disproportionately affects women.

- 82% of female officials surveyed report receiving threats and harassment vs. 66% of their male counterparts
- Women on the San Diego City Council and County Board of Supervisors receive 15 to 20 times the aggressive interactions on social media that their male peers do
- 61% of women say they have considered leaving public service because of it, compared to 32% of men

---

<sup>3</sup> USD Study <https://www.sandiego.edu/news/detail.php?focus=89571>

### **Interview with Dr. Raphael (Raphe) Sonenshein**

Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein, is the executive director of the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation and previously, was the executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs. A graduate of Princeton and Yale, Dr. Sonenshein is a nationally recognized expert on racial and ethnic politics, on California and Los Angeles, and on charter reform.

We asked Dr. Sonenshein if he felt term limits had an effect in the City of Los Angeles. He pointed out that the changes in Los Angeles politics have resulted more from the number of termed-out state politicians running for local offices than from the adoption of term limits by the voters of Los Angeles. Legislators termed-out in Sacramento, have the name recognition and campaign financing to dominate local races. There is little room for new, non-career politicians.

We also interviewed Dr. Julian Gold, Mayor of Beverly Hills, and Mr. Michael MacDonald, City Clerk of Ventura. Both cities have term limits. Their bios and Baker Tilly's notes from the interviews are provided below.

### **Dr. Julian Gold, Mayor, Beverly Hills**

Mayor Julian A. Gold, M.D., was elected to the Beverly Hills City Council in 2011 and served as Mayor in 2015 and 2018. He is currently serving his third Mayoral term (2023-2024).

Dr. Gold graduated from NYU School of Medicine. A board-certified anesthesiologist for 40 years, he was Co-Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Cedars-Sinai and Co-Managing Partner of General Anesthesia Specialists Partnership Medical Group from January 1991 until April 2019. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and has served on many hospital committees. Dr. Gold is an active supporter of local youth sports and is a well-known leader in Beverly Hills.

### ***Term Limits***

Dr. Gold and another former Beverly Hills mayor sponsored term limits. The Council voted unanimously to put the question to the voters in 2022. Except for a couple of ads in the local newspaper, they relied on word-of-mouth to promote the measure. He indicated that term limits were approved by 82% of the voters.

Interest in term limits came about because of the lengths of tenure. One council member has been there for 15 years and although he voted to put the measure on the ballot, he is challenging one aspect. Dr. Gold said Beverly Hills needs younger people to come onto the council.

Knowing he is termed out made him bolder in advocating for change in the city. He found it easier to do things that are politically unpopular. There have been few comments from the community other than "we will miss you."

Dr. Gold acknowledged that term limits can force good people off the council. He said that new council members require time and attention to come up to speed and learn the operations of the

city but that uninformed council members are less of a threat when you have a City Manager form of government.

### *Even-year elections*

When asked what he would change, Mayor Gold said it is nothing related to term limits, he would go back to odd-year elections. He noted that turnout is higher in even years (12,000 voters as opposed to approximately 6,000), but half of those do not even know where city hall is. He would rather forgo higher turnout and be elected by people who understand what a council member does and the value they bring.

When city elections were stand-alone, it was clear that anyone who came to the polls, came to vote specifically on city issues. They came with some knowledge about the city and those running for office.

Today's voters go to the polls to vote for President or Governor; it is extremely hard to convey a message about your city with all the competing races and measures on the ballots. Voters do not connect with us like they used to.

### **Michael MacDonald, CMC, CPMC, City Clerk, City of Ventura**

Michael B. MacDonald is the City Clerk for the City of San Buenaventura (Ventura). Prior to joining the City of Ventura, Michael served as an Assistant City Clerk for the City of Berkeley, the City of Port Hueneme, and served as a ROVER in Alameda County for the 2018 general election. Previously, Michael served as the Chair of the Oakland Public Ethics Commission. As Chair of the Ethics Commission, Michael applied his knowledge as a City Clerk to the enforcement side of the California Political Reform Act and local ordinances to achieve greater compliance.

### *Impacts of Term Limits*

Ventura went to term limits in 2016 to address incumbency advantage. At one point, the city had Councilmembers who served for 43, 25, and 17 years respectively. Term limits had few effects until the city changed to district elections in 2018. Some members stepped down, even without being termed out, thus opening up more seats.

Today, the most senior councilmember has been there 3 years. They are just getting up to speed while running for re-election. There is no one on the council capable of mentoring new council members. There is a loss of institutional knowledge. Ventura has rotational mayors with little experience running a meeting. Moreover, the diversity level is about the same.

Term limits have not meant we have more people running for council; we have different people running. Many of those who are best qualified do not bother. Some of the reasons are the negative public discourse and term limits.

***Would you recommend term limits***

I am an advocate of term limits but only with an intensive succession plan and onboarding experience for new council members. They would need to go through training just to familiarize themselves with city government.

In addition, those running for council now need more financial support. Cities might also consider much higher pay. Middle class working people cannot devote as much time to learning city government because they are earning a living.

CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MARCH 14, 2024

ITEM 2  
CORRESPONDENCE

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:18 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: chater change re: term limits

---

**From:** mb kalis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:17:24 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** chater change re: term limits

You don't often get email from: [earn why this is important](#)

**[⚠]** CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

term limits disenfranchise voters.

People's skills and experience get cut when they can be applying them & their knowledge for the betterment of our city



## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:20 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Study Task Force - compensation and term limits

---

**From:** Bin Lee  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:19:45 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Study Task Force - compensation and term limits

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Study Task Force,

First, I want to voice my support to add term limits for council. It's a no-brainer.

More importantly, I want to talk about the low stipend, which is laughably lower than the average monthly rent of \$2,279 for a 1-bedroom apartment (source: [apartments.com](https://www.apartments.com)).

This means only a small subset of Pasadenans can afford to run and hold office, primarily homeowners who have the privilege to reduce their work hours or have multiple forms of income.

We know that the majority of residents are renters. In addition, I know plenty of friends and neighbors who are politically engaged and want to serve their community, but who can't afford to leave their full time jobs and continue paying their rent or mortgage.

I want to update the charter to pay the council a livable wage, preferably adjusted based on median income or something similar. I want a future where we encourage a larger pool of quality Pasadenans to run for office, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Pasadena is a vibrant and diverse city, and I want that diversity reflected on our ballots.

Thanks for your time,

--

Bin Lee, District 1 homeowner  
Pronouns: he | him | his

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:54 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Amendment Task Force

---

**From:** Dan Huynh  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:53:20 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Amendment Task Force

You don't often get email from \_\_\_\_\_ [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Amendment task force,

I live and work in Pasadena (Steve Madison's district). I strongly urge the task force to recommend term limits on city council members and a living wage for the council. This would allow greater participation in city government through stable and predictable council seat turnovers and ensure that candidates running for seats must not be independently wealthy to sustain themselves while serving.

Thank you,  
Dan Huynh  
91101

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MARCH 14, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT**



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force – Mayor and Council Compensation

Date: March 14, 2024

---

## **Background**

As part of the City Council's scope of study, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force was asked to examine compensation for the Mayor and Council, including childcare and eldercare. For this report, compensation as defined in Charter Section 405 and the Municipal Code includes:

- Salaries, (sometimes called wages or stipends)
- Benefits (Health and dental insurance, life insurance)
- General Office expenses (telecommunications, internet, childcare)
- One time office expenses for the purchase of a computer and mobile phone
- Out-of-pocket, reimbursable expenses which might include mileage or travel

The report does not cover the per diem or other compensation received by the Mayor and Council for serving on regional boards and commissions.

## **State Law on Compensation in Charter Cities**

Article XI § 5 (b) of the State of California Constitution empowers charter cities to decide the compensation of elected officials. Although there are no limits on salaries and benefits for charter cities, the general rule is that local officials may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. State law known as the Fair Political Practices Act imposes restrictions on gifts, honoraria, travel reimbursement and loans.

## **Charter Section 405 and Municipal Code Sections 2.05.210 and 2.05.220**

The City of Pasadena's method for setting salaries and benefits for the Mayor and Council includes:

- Formation of a compensation committee per Section 405 of the Charter,
- Provisions regarding stipends per Municipal Code Section 2.05.210, and
- Provisions regarding benefits and reimbursement per Municipal Code Section 2.05.220.

The complete text of these provisions is found later in this report.

### ***Overview of Compensation Provisions***

Given the length of the sections, and the complexity of the process, Baker Tilly has prepared an outline of Charter Section 405 on the salary process, followed by an outline of the Municipal Code sections. We have also included a table summarizing the value of the stipends and benefits.

### **Charter Section 405 – Method for Determining Mayor and Council Compensation**

1. Selection and formation of a Compensation Committee
  - a. Member qualifications and limitations
  - b. Leadership
  - c. Office space and administrative support
2. Public Meetings – Brown Act
3. Committee submits compensation recommendations to the City Council no later than October 1
4. Council decides on the following options:
  - a. Take no action
  - b. Adopt the recommendations of the Compensation Committee by ordinance
  - c. Go to the voters for compensation that exceeds Committee’s recommendation

### **Municipal Code Section 2.05.210 on Stipends**

1. Monthly stipends (set in 2000 by the last Compensation Committee)
  - a. Council: \$1,000
  - b. Mayor: \$1,500
2. Allows compensation by regional boards and other government agencies
3. Automatic July 1 increases based on annual CPI but no higher than 5% per year

### **Municipal Code Section 2.05.220 on Health and Welfare Benefits**

1. Health Insurance per Government Code Section 53200(d)
2. Computer equipment purchase (\$5,000 one time)
3. Council expenses:
  - a. Up to \$300 per month for general expenses including childcare
  - b. Up to \$150 per month for telecommunications and internet expenses
  - c. \$300 for one-time purchase of cellular equipment
4. Mayor expenses:

- a. Up to \$500 per month for general expenses including childcare
  - b. Up to \$300 per month for telecommunications and internet costs
  - c. \$300 for one-time purchase of cellular equipment
5. The Mayor and Council can be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses up to the amount established by Council resolution

Table 1 summarizes the current monthly compensation and annual salaries for the Mayor and City Council.

Table 1. Estimated Value of Stipends and Benefits in 2024

Municipal Code §2.05.110			Municipal Code §2.05.220				
	Monthly Stipend <sup>1</sup>	Annual Stipend	Health & Welfare GC §53200(d) <sup>2</sup>	General Office	Internet Phone	Out of Pocket	One Time
<b>Mayor</b>	\$2,749	\$32,988	Single: \$808.58 Two-Party: \$1,605.98 Family: \$2,101.06	Up to \$500 per month	Up to \$300 per month	Limited by resolution <sup>3</sup>	\$5K computer and \$300 cell phone
<b>Council</b>	\$1,830	\$21,960	Single: \$808.58 Two-Party: \$1,605.98 Family: \$2,101.06	Up to \$300 per month	Up to \$150 per month	Limited by resolution <sup>3</sup>	\$5K computer and \$300 cell phone

<sup>1</sup>The monthly salary amounts are provided in the *City of Pasadena Salary Schedule*. The Mayor's annual stipend of \$32,988 is on Page 43 of the salary schedule, and the Council's annual stipend of \$21,960 is on Page 14.

<sup>2</sup> The figures in the health and welfare column include the City's contribution toward medical and dental expenses as well as \$9.20 per month for a Life Insurance Policy with a \$200,000 death benefit. Although the Mayor and Council are entitled to enrollment in CalPERS, and the City pays the employer and employee cost of this enrollment, the value of CalPERS membership is not included in these figures.

<sup>3</sup> Baker Tilly was unable to find the City resolution setting limits on reimbursable expenses.

## Text of Charter Section and Municipal Codes

The following is the full text of Charter Section 405 and Municipal Codes 2.05.210 and 2.05.220.

### Charter Section 405. Formation of Compensation Committee

Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City Council authorizing the formation of a Committee on City Councilmembers' Compensation ("the Committee"), each member of the City Council shall nominate one person to the Committee, subject to the approval of the City Council. The duties of the Committee shall be to study, take public input, and make recommendations regarding the compensation paid to members of the City Council and benefits to which the members of the City Council are entitled including, but not limited to, insurance, expense allowances and reimbursement.

### ***Committee member qualifications***

Each member of the Committee shall be an elector of the City. In making their nominations, City Councilmembers shall consider persons recommended by representatives of the fields of higher education, labor, business, and organizations reflecting the diversity of the City. No person shall be eligible for membership on the Committee who is, or within five years prior to his or her appointment was, an officer or employee of the City; or who has, within five years prior to his or her appointment, had any personal or business-related contractual relation with the City.

### ***Leadership and office space***

The nominee of the Mayor shall act as temporary chair of the Committee, with the power to fix the time and place of the Committee's first meeting. At such meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair and shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to conduct its business. The provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Committee. Records of the Committee shall be maintained as public records as provided by State law. The Committee shall gather such information as it deems necessary to complete its duties, and prior to making its recommendation, shall hold at least one duly noticed public hearing for the purpose of seeking public input. The City Manager shall provide office space, staff assistance and supplies for the work of the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses pursuant to City ordinance.

### ***Submittal of Report and Recommendations***

Not later than October 1 of the year the Committee is appointed, the Committee shall submit to the City Council a report adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee recommending either that no change be made in the compensation paid to members of the City Council, or that change, either an increase or a decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If such report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee's recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The Committee shall cease to exist thirty (30) days after its report is submitted to the City Council.

### ***Council's Options***

The City Council may take no action on the recommendation, or it may, by ordinance, adjust the compensation paid to members of the City Council by an amount not to exceed the recommendations of the Committee. No action which increases the compensation of the City Council in excess of the level recommended by the Committee may be taken without a vote of the people. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to a recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote and shall be subject to referendum as provided in this Charter. Once

compensation has been initially established as provided in this section, no increase in the annual compensation shall be greater than five percent for each calendar year following the operative date of the most recent change for the compensation. No more than one ordinance establishing the compensation of City Council members may be adopted in any two-calendar year period. Any compensation and benefits fixed as a result of this Section shall constitute full compensation for the services of the City Council member and the maximum benefits provided to the City Council member by the City.

Until such time as the City Council adopts an ordinance as provided herein, Councilmembers shall continue to receive the compensation in effect as of the effective date of the Section.

### **Pasadena Municipal Code – Compensation Details**

#### ***2.05.210 - Compensation of the mayor and members of the city council***

- A. Commencing on the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section the stipend paid to members of the city council shall be \$1,000 per calendar month. The monthly stipend paid to the mayor shall be \$1,500 per calendar month. The compensation specified in this section shall not be reduced for non-attendance at meetings of the city council, but this provision shall not be construed to prohibit the city council from imposing sanctions upon any member thereof for non-attendance as provided in the City Charter. Except for the health and welfare benefits and allowances provided in this code, the stipend specified in this section shall be the exclusive compensation payable to the mayor and members of the city council by the city of Pasadena or by any agencies and instrumentalities of the city of Pasadena; however, nothing herein shall be construed to limit the amount of compensation payable to the mayor or members of the city council for services provided to other public agencies which are not instrumentalities of the city of Pasadena under the rules and regulations of those agencies.
  
- B. Beginning on July 1, 2000, and until the city council shall impanel a committee on city councilmembers' compensation as provided in Section 405 of the City Charter, the stipend established in this section shall increase annually on each July 1st by the same percentage as the increase for the 12 -month period beginning December 1st and ending November 30th in the consumer price index for all urban consumers in the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside area (CPI). However, no annual increase in the stipend of the mayor or the members of the city council shall exceed 5 percent for any fiscal year regardless of any higher increase in the CPI. Should the CPI decrease in the applicable 12-month- period, the stipend shall remain unchanged.



**2.05.220 – Benefits and expense allowances for the Mayor and City Council**

The mayor and members of the city council shall be eligible for the following benefits and allowances:

1. Health Insurance

The mayor and each member of the city council shall be eligible to participate in the city's health and welfare benefits, as defined in Government Code Section 53200(d), on the same terms and under the same provisions as apply to executive management employees of the city, except that the mayor and councilmembers are not eligible for car allowances or personal development allowance.

2. Computer Equipment Purchase

The mayor and each member of the city council shall be allowed a one-time reimbursement of up to \$5,000.00 for the purchase of computer equipment.

3. Council General Expenses Including Childcare

Each member of the city council shall be eligible for a monthly general expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$300.00 for the general expenses of office including childcare expenses; a monthly telecommunications expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$150.00 for telecommunications and internet-related expenses and a one-time allowance of up to \$300.00 for the purchase of cellular telephone equipment.

4. Mayor General Expenses Including Childcare

The mayor shall be eligible for a monthly general expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$500.00 for the general expenses of office including childcare expenses, a monthly telecommunications expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$300.00 for telecommunications and internet-related expenses, and a one-time allowance of up to \$300.00 for the purchase of cellular telephone equipment.

5. Out of Pocket Expense Reimbursement

In addition, a member of the council may incur office expenses to perform his/her duties and be reimbursed therefore in a total amount per calendar month as established by the council, by resolution. Request for reimbursement for such expenses incurred by a member of the city council shall be submitted upon voucher forms provided by the director of finance and shall be processed for payment on a semimonthly, monthly, or quarterly basis at the election of the council member.

**Fact Finding**

This section summarizes the compensation formula for General Law Cities (figure 1) and the compensation and the comparison of Mayor and Council compensation in Pasadena and the nine comparison charter cities in Tables 2 and 3

Figure 1 provides an excerpt from an Institute for Local Government publication showing that salaries for General Law cities based on population.

*Figure 1. Compensation for General Law Cities in California*

General Law Cities	
City Size by Population	Baseline Per Month Salary
Up to and Including 35,000	\$300
Over 35,000 Up to and Including 50,000	\$400
Over 50,000 Up to and Including 75,000	\$500
Over 75,000 Up to and Including 150,000	\$600
Over 150,000 Up to and Including 250,000	\$800
Over 250,000 Population	\$1000

### Comparison Cities

The State of California Controllers Office reports on compensation for elected officials within local governments. Baker Tilly used the latest available Controller’s data (Year 2022) for wages and benefits,

### Mayoral and Council Salaries and Benefits in Comparison Cities

*Table 2. Mayors’ Salaries and Benefits in Comparison Cities*

City	Population	Annual Wages	Annual Benefits	Total Wages plus Benefits	Cost per Capita
Pasadena	136,988	\$30,619	\$44,836	\$75,455	\$0.55
Anaheim	328,580	\$10,877	\$ 894	\$11,771	\$0.04
Berkeley	123,562	\$108,69	\$12,788	\$121,479	\$0.98
Burbank	104,535	\$20,765	\$21,284	\$42,049	\$0.40
Glendale	191,284	\$28,008	\$49,179	\$77,187	\$0.40
Long Beach	458,222	\$169,497	\$64,619	\$234,116	\$0.51
Santa Ana	299,630	\$18,400	\$25,888	\$44,288	\$0.15
Santa Barbara	85,418	\$75,910	\$16,478	\$92,388	\$1.08
Santa Monica	91,720	\$25,800	\$25,765	\$51,565	\$0.56
Torrance	143,057	\$6,812	\$13,422	\$20,234	\$0.08
<b>Comparison City Averages</b>		<b>\$51,460</b>	<b>\$25,771</b>	<b>\$77,231</b>	<b>\$.047</b>

Source: State of California Controller’s Report for 2022

Note: Burbank, Glendale, and Santa Monica do not have directly elected mayors. The mayor in Long Beach is full time.

Table 3. Council Salaries and Benefits in Comparison Cities

City	Population	Annual Wages	Annual Benefits	Wages plus Benefits	Costs per Capita
Pasadena	136,988	\$23,534	\$25,906	\$49,440	\$0.36
Anaheim	328,580	\$26,400	\$22,564	\$48,964	\$0.15
Berkeley	123,562	\$79,608	\$51,316	\$130,924	\$1.06
Burbank	104,535	\$34,630	\$12,919	\$47,549	\$0.45
Glendale	191,284	\$28,058	\$49,179	\$77,237	\$0.40
Long Beach	458,222	\$47,789	\$33,020	\$80,809	\$0.18
Santa Ana	299,630	\$30,808	\$19,086	\$49,894	\$0.17
Santa Barbara	85,418	\$75,910	\$19,099	\$95,009	\$1.11
Santa Monica	91,720	\$25,800	\$25,355	\$51,155	\$0.56
Torrance	143,067	\$7,740	\$18,182	\$25,922	\$0.08
<b>Comparison City Averages</b>		<b>\$39,638</b>	<b>\$27,858</b>	<b>\$67,496</b>	<b>\$0.46</b>

Source: State of California Controller's Report for 2022

### Observations

The average annual wage for a mayor in the nine comparison cities is \$51,640 versus \$30,619 in Pasadena. The annual cost of wages plus benefits in comparison cities is \$77,231 and is \$75,455 for the Mayor of Pasadena. The per capita cost of wages and benefits in comparison cities is \$0.47 versus \$0.57 in Pasadena.

The average annual wage for a councilmember in the nine comparison cities is \$39,638 versus \$23,534 in Pasadena. The average costs for wages and benefits in comparison cities is \$67,496 and in Pasadena is \$49,440. The average per capita cost of total salaries and benefits for a councilmember in the nine comparison cities is \$0.46 versus \$0.36 in Pasadena.

### Options

The Charter Study Task Force can recommend:

- A. No change.
- B. That a Compensation Committee as set forth in Charter Section 405 to review salaries and benefits, be convened as soon as possible (and that):
  - a. The Council adopt a policy to reconvene the Compensation Committee every four years
- C. Amending the Charter to change the method used to set salaries and benefits for elected officials in Pasadena. For example:
  - 1. Moving the bulk of the salary and benefit setting process to the Municipal Code

2. Using an alternative method such as benchmarking to establish salaries and benefits of elected officials in Pasadena.

**Changing the Reimbursement Method to include Childcare**

There are two expense categories. Municipal Code 2.05.220 (4) sets a fixed amount for general office expenses, including childcare. The second expense category is found in Municipal Code 2.05.220 (5), and it states: "In addition, a member of the council may incur office expenses to perform his/her duties and be reimbursed therefore in a total amount per calendar month as established by the council, by resolution."

The Task Force could recommend that the Council

- D. Adopt a resolution, as authorized by PMC Section 2.05.220(5), setting parameters for reimbursable expenses to include childcare and eldercare.

CHARTER STUDY

TASK FORCE

MARCH 14, 2024

ITEM 3

CORRESPONDENCE

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:20 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Study Task Force - compensation and term limits

---

**From:** Bin Lee  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:19:45 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Study Task Force - compensation and term limits

You don't often get email from [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A]** CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Study Task Force,

First, I want to voice my support to add term limits for council. It's a no-brainer.

More importantly, I want to talk about the low stipend, which is laughably lower than the average monthly rent of \$2,279 for a 1-bedroom apartment (source: [apartments.com](#)).

This means only a small subset of Pasadenans can afford to run and hold office, primarily homeowners who have the privilege to reduce their work hours or have multiple forms of income.

We know that the majority of residents are renters. In addition, I know plenty of friends and neighbors who are politically engaged and want to serve their community, but who can't afford to leave their full time jobs and continue paying their rent or mortgage.

I want to update the charter to pay the council a livable wage, preferably adjusted based on median income or something similar. I want a future where we encourage a larger pool of quality Pasadenans to run for office, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Pasadena is a vibrant and diverse city, and I want that diversity reflected on our ballots.

Thanks for your time,

--

Bin Lee, District 1 homeowner  
Pronouns: he | him | his

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Council compensation

---

**From:** Blair Miller  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:11:58 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>; Ken Chawkins <kenchawkins1@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Council compensation

You don't often get email from

[. Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Chair Chawkins,

I am writing to voice my support for an increase in compensation to Pasadena City Councilmembers.

Speaking with current and former Councilmembers, it seems like the job of City Councilmember can be managed in about 20 to 25 hours per week, if the Councilmember is experienced. New Councilmembers may need to invest even more hours in reviewing committee and council meeting packets, attending committee and council meetings, meeting with constituents and City staff, and attending events.

The job could easily consume 40 hours a week, if the CM had that time to devote.

The current compensation does not remotely compensate Councilmembers for the time they invest. This is a problem because it means that people who do not have flexible work, or highly compensated work, cannot afford to run and serve.

This leads to a Council that does not reflect the income levels and lived experience of the City's residents - for example, we have not one single renter on the Council.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Blair Miller

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MARCH 28, 2024**

**ITEM 2  
STAFF REPORT**





To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force – Mayor and Council Compensation

Date: ~~March 14, 2024~~ March 28, 2024

---

## **Background**

As part of the City Council's scope of study, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force was asked to examine compensation for the Mayor and Council, including childcare and eldercare. For this report, compensation as defined in Charter Section 405 and the Municipal Code includes:

- Salaries, (sometimes called wages or stipends)
- Benefits (Health and dental insurance, life insurance)
- General Office expenses (telecommunications, internet, childcare)
- One time office expenses for the purchase of a computer and mobile phone
- Out-of-pocket, reimbursable expenses which might include mileage or travel

The report does not cover the per diem or other compensation received by the Mayor and Council for serving on regional boards and commissions.

## **State Law on Compensation in Charter Cities**

Article XI § 5 (b) of the State of California Constitution empowers charter cities to decide the compensation of elected officials. Although there are no limits on salaries and benefits for charter cities, the general rule is that local officials may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. State law known as the Fair Political Practices Act imposes restrictions on gifts, honoraria, travel reimbursement and loans.

## **Charter Section 405 and Municipal Code Sections 2.05.210 and 2.05.220**

The City of Pasadena's method for setting salaries and benefits for the Mayor and Council includes:

- Formation of a compensation committee per Section 405 of the Charter,
- Provisions regarding stipends per Municipal Code Section 2.05.210, and
- Provisions regarding benefits and reimbursement per Municipal Code Section 2.05.220.

The complete text of these provisions is found later in this report.

### ***Overview of Compensation Provisions***

Given the length of the sections, and the complexity of the process, Baker Tilly has prepared an outline of Charter Section 405 on the salary process, followed by an outline of the Municipal Code sections. We have also included a table summarizing the value of the stipends and benefits.

### **Charter Section 405 – Method for Determining Mayor and Council Compensation**

1. Selection and formation of a Compensation Committee
  - a. Member qualifications and limitations
  - b. Leadership
  - c. Office space and administrative support
2. Public Meetings – Brown Act
3. Committee submits compensation recommendations to the City Council no later than October 1
4. Council decides on the following options:
  - a. Take no action
  - b. Adopt the recommendations of the Compensation Committee by ordinance
  - c. Go to the voters for compensation that exceeds Committee’s recommendation

### **Municipal Code Section 2.05.210 on Stipends**

1. Monthly stipends (set in 2000 by the last Compensation Committee)
  - a. Council: \$1,000
  - b. Mayor: \$1,500
2. Allows compensation by regional boards and other government agencies
3. Automatic July 1 increases based on annual CPI but no higher than 5% per year

### **Municipal Code Section 2.05.220 on Health and Welfare Benefits**

1. Health Insurance per Government Code Section 53200(d)
2. Computer equipment purchase (\$5,000 one time)
3. Council expenses:
  - a. Up to \$300 per month for general expenses including childcare
  - b. Up to \$150 per month for telecommunications and internet expenses
  - c. \$300 for one-time purchase of cellular equipment
4. Mayor expenses:

- a. Up to \$500 per month for general expenses including childcare
  - b. Up to \$300 per month for telecommunications and internet costs
  - c. \$300 for one-time purchase of cellular equipment
5. The Mayor and Council can be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses up to the amount established by Council resolution

Table 1 summarizes the current monthly compensation and annual salaries for the Mayor and City Council.

*Table 1. Estimated Value of Stipends and Benefits in 2024*

Municipal Code §2.05.110			Municipal Code §2.05.220				
	Monthly Stipend <sup>1</sup>	Annual Stipend	Health & Welfare GC \$53200(d) <sup>2</sup>	General Office	Internet Phone	Out of Pocket	One Time
Mayor	\$2,749	\$32,988	Single: \$808.58 Two-Party: \$1,605.98 Family: \$2,101.06	Up to \$500 per month	Up to \$300 per month	Limited by resolution <sup>3</sup>	\$5K computer and \$300 cell phone
Council	\$1,830	\$21,960	Single: \$808.58 Two-Party: \$1,605.98 Family: \$2,101.06	Up to \$300 per month	Up to \$150 per month	Limited by resolution <sup>3</sup>	\$5K computer and \$300 cell phone

<sup>1</sup>The monthly salary amounts are provided in the *City of Pasadena Salary Schedule*. The Mayor’s annual stipend of \$32,988 is on Page 43 of the salary schedule, and the Council’s annual stipend of \$21,960 is on Page 14.

<sup>2</sup> The figures in the health and welfare column include the City’s contribution toward medical and dental expenses as well as \$9.20 per month for a Life Insurance Policy with a \$200,000 death benefit. Although the Mayor and Council are entitled to enrollment in CalPERS, and the City pays the employer and employee cost of this enrollment, the value of CalPERS membership is not included in these figures.

<sup>3</sup> Baker Tilly was unable to find the City resolution setting limits on reimbursable expenses.

### Text of Charter Section and Municipal Codes

The following is the full text of Charter Section 405 and Municipal Codes 2.05.210 and 2.05.220.

#### **Charter Section 405. Formation of Compensation Committee**

Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City Council authorizing the formation of a Committee on City Councilmembers' Compensation ("the Committee"), each member of the City Council shall nominate one person to the Committee, subject to the approval of the City Council. The duties of the Committee shall be to study, take public input, and make recommendations regarding the compensation paid to members of the City Council and benefits to which the members of the City Council are entitled including, but not limited to, insurance, expense allowances and reimbursement.

### *Committee member qualifications*

Each member of the Committee shall be an elector of the City. In making their nominations, City Councilmembers shall consider persons recommended by representatives of the fields of higher education, labor, business, and organizations reflecting the diversity of the City. No person shall be eligible for membership on the Committee who is, or within five years prior to his or her appointment was, an officer or employee of the City; or who has, within five years prior to his or her appointment, had any personal or business-related contractual relation with the City.

### *Leadership and office space*

The nominee of the Mayor shall act as temporary chair of the Committee, with the power to fix the time and place of the Committee's first meeting. At such meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair and shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to conduct its business. The provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Committee. Records of the Committee shall be maintained as public records as provided by State law. The Committee shall gather such information as it deems necessary to complete its duties, and prior to making its recommendation, shall hold at least one duly noticed public hearing for the purpose of seeking public input. The City Manager shall provide office space, staff assistance and supplies for the work of the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses pursuant to City ordinance.

### *Submittal of Report and Recommendations*

Not later than October 1 of the year the Committee is appointed, the Committee shall submit to the City Council a report adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee recommending either that no change be made in the compensation paid to members of the City Council, or that change, either an increase or a decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If such report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee's recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The Committee shall cease to exist thirty (30) days after its report is submitted to the City Council.

### *Council's Options*

The City Council may take no action on the recommendation, or it may, by ordinance, adjust the compensation paid to members of the City Council by an amount not to exceed the recommendations of the Committee. No action which increases the compensation of the City Council in excess of the level recommended by the Committee may be taken without a vote of the people. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to a recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote and shall be subject to referendum as provided in this Charter. Once

compensation has been initially established as provided in this section, no increase in the annual compensation shall be greater than five percent for each calendar year following the operative date of the most recent change for the compensation. No more than one ordinance establishing the compensation of City Council members may be adopted in any two-calendar year period. Any compensation and benefits fixed as a result of this Section shall constitute full compensation for the services of the City Council member and the maximum benefits provided to the City Council member by the City.

Until such time as the City Council adopts an ordinance as provided herein, Councilmembers shall continue to receive the compensation in effect as of the effective date of the Section.

### **Pasadena Municipal Code – Compensation Details**

#### ***2.05.210 - Compensation of the mayor and members of the city council***

- A. Commencing on the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section the stipend paid to members of the city council shall be \$1,000 per calendar month. The monthly stipend paid to the mayor shall be \$1,500 per calendar month. The compensation specified in this section shall not be reduced for non-attendance at meetings of the city council, but this provision shall not be construed to prohibit the city council from imposing sanctions upon any member thereof for non-attendance as provided in the City Charter. Except for the health and welfare benefits and allowances provided in this code, the stipend specified in this section shall be the exclusive compensation payable to the mayor and members of the city council by the city of Pasadena or by any agencies and instrumentalities of the city of Pasadena; however, nothing herein shall be construed to limit the amount of compensation payable to the mayor or members of the city council for services provided to other public agencies which are not instrumentalities of the city of Pasadena under the rules and regulations of those agencies.
  
- B. Beginning on July 1, 2000, and until the city council shall impanel a committee on city councilmembers' compensation as provided in Section 405 of the City Charter, the stipend established in this section shall increase annually on each July 1st by the same percentage as the increase for the 12 -month period beginning December 1st and ending November 30th in the consumer price index for all urban consumers in the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside area (CPI). However, no annual increase in the stipend of the mayor or the members of the city council shall exceed 5 percent for any fiscal year regardless of any higher increase in the CPI. Should the CPI decrease in the applicable 12-month- period, the stipend shall remain unchanged.

***2.05.220 – Benefits and expense allowances for the Mayor and City Council***

The mayor and members of the city council shall be eligible for the following benefits and allowances:

1. Health Insurance

The mayor and each member of the city council shall be eligible to participate in the city's health and welfare benefits, as defined in Government Code Section 53200(d), on the same terms and under the same provisions as apply to executive management employees of the city, except that the mayor and councilmembers are not eligible for car allowances or personal development allowance.

2. Computer Equipment Purchase

The mayor and each member of the city council shall be allowed a one-time reimbursement of up to \$5,000.00 for the purchase of computer equipment.

3. Council General Expenses Including Childcare

Each member of the city council shall be eligible for a monthly general expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$300.00 for the general expenses of office including childcare expenses; a monthly telecommunications expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$150.00 for telecommunications and internet-related expenses and a one-time allowance of up to \$300.00 for the purchase of cellular telephone equipment.

4. Mayor General Expenses Including Childcare

The mayor shall be eligible for a monthly general expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$500.00 for the general expenses of office including childcare expenses, a monthly telecommunications expense reimbursement allowance of up to \$300.00 for telecommunications and internet-related expenses, and a one-time allowance of up to \$300.00 for the purchase of cellular telephone equipment.

5. Out of Pocket Expense Reimbursement

In addition, a member of the council may incur office expenses to perform his/her duties and be reimbursed therefore in a total amount per calendar month as established by the council, by resolution. Request for reimbursement for such expenses incurred by a member of the city council shall be submitted upon voucher forms provided by the director of finance and shall be processed for payment on a semimonthly, monthly, or quarterly basis at the election of the council member.

**Fact Finding**

This section summarizes the compensation formula for General Law Cities (figure 1) and the compensation and the comparison of Mayor and Council compensation in Pasadena and the nine comparison charter cities in Tables 2 and 3

Figure 1 provides an excerpt from an Institute for Local Government publication showing that salaries for General Law cities based on population.

*Figure 1. Compensation for General Law Cities in California*

General Law Cities	
City Size by Population	Baseline Per Month Salary
Up to and Including 35,000	\$300
Over 35,000 Up to and Including 50,000	\$400
Over 50,000 Up to and Including 75,000	\$500
Over 75,000 Up to and Including 150,000	\$600
Over 150,000 Up to and Including 250,000	\$800
Over 250,000 Population	\$1000

### Comparison Cities

The State of California Controllers Office reports on compensation for elected officials within local governments. Baker Tilly used the latest available Controller’s data (Year 2022) for wages and benefits,

### Mayoral and Council Salaries and Benefits in Comparison Cities

*Table 2. Mayors’ Salaries and Benefits in Comparison Cities*

City	Population	Annual Wages	Annual Benefits	Total Wages plus Benefits	Cost per Capita
Pasadena	136,988	\$30,619	\$44,836	\$75,455	\$0.55
Anaheim	328,580	\$10,877	\$ 894	\$11,771	\$0.04
Berkeley	123,562	\$108,69	\$12,788	\$121,479	\$0.98
Burbank	104,535	\$20,765	\$21,284	\$42,049	\$0.40
Glendale	191,284	\$28,008	\$49,179	\$77,187	\$0.40
Long Beach	458,222	\$169,497	\$64,619	\$234,116	\$0.51
Santa Ana	299,630	\$18,400	\$25,888	\$44,288	\$0.15
Santa Barbara	85,418	\$75,910	\$16,478	\$92,388	\$1.08
Santa Monica	91,720	\$25,800	\$25,765	\$51,565	\$0.56
Torrance	143,057	\$6,812	\$13,422	\$20,234	\$0.08
<b>Comparison City Averages</b>		<b>\$51,460</b>	<b>\$25,771</b>	<b>\$77,231</b>	<b>\$0.47</b>

Source: State of California Controller’s Report for 2022

Note: Burbank, Glendale, and Santa Monica do not have directly elected mayors. The mayor in Long Beach is full time.

*Table 3. Council Salaries and Benefits in Comparison Cities*

City	Population	Annual Wages	Annual Benefits	Wages plus Benefits	Costs per Capita
Pasadena	136,988	\$23,534	\$25,906	\$49,440	\$0.36
Anaheim	328,580	\$26,400	\$22,564	\$48,964	\$0.15
Berkeley	123,562	\$79,608	\$51,316	\$130,924	\$1.06
Burbank	104,535	\$34,630	\$12,919	\$47,549	\$0.45
Glendale	191,284	\$28,058	\$49,179	\$77,237	\$0.40
Long Beach	458,222	\$47,789	\$33,020	\$80,809	\$0.18
Santa Ana	299,630	\$30,808	\$19,086	\$49,894	\$0.17
Santa Barbara	85,418	\$75,910	\$19,099	\$95,009	\$1.11
Santa Monica	91,720	\$25,800	\$25,355	\$51,155	\$0.56
Torrance	143,067	\$7,740	\$18,182	\$25,922	\$0.08
<b>Comparison City Averages</b>		<b>\$39,638</b>	<b>\$27,858</b>	<b>\$67,496</b>	<b>\$0.46</b>

Source: State of California Controller's Report for 2022

### Observations

The average annual wage for a mayor in the nine comparison cities is \$51,640 versus \$30,619 in Pasadena. The annual cost of wages plus benefits in comparison cities is \$77,231 and is \$75,455 for the Mayor of Pasadena. The per capita cost of wages and benefits in comparison cities is \$0.47 versus \$0.57 in Pasadena.

The average annual wage for a councilmember in the nine comparison cities is \$39,638 versus \$23,534 in Pasadena. The average costs for wages and benefits in comparison cities is \$67,496 and in Pasadena is \$49,440. The average per capita cost of total salaries and benefits for a councilmember in the nine comparison cities is \$0.46 versus \$0.36 in Pasadena.

### Options

The Charter Study Task Force can recommend:

- A. No change.
- B. That a Compensation Committee as set forth in Charter Section 405 to review salaries and benefits, be convened as soon as possible (and that):
  - a. The Council adopt a policy to reconvene the Compensation Committee every four years
- C. Amending the Charter to change the method used to set salaries and benefits for elected officials in Pasadena. For example:
  - 1. Moving the bulk of the salary and benefit setting process to the Municipal Code



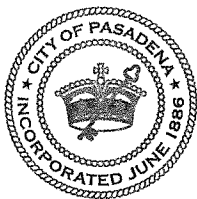
2. Using an alternative method such as benchmarking to establish salaries and benefits of elected officials in Pasadena.

**Changing the Reimbursement Method to include Childcare**

There are two expense categories. Municipal Code 2.05.220 (4) sets a fixed amount for general office expenses, including childcare. The second expense category is found in Municipal Code 2.05.220 (5), and it states: “In addition, a member of the council may incur office expenses to perform his/her duties and be reimbursed therefore in a total amount per calendar month as established by the council, by resolution.”

The Task Force could recommend that the Council

- D. Adopt a resolution, as authorized by PMC Section 2.05.220(5), setting parameters for reimbursable expenses to include childcare and eldercare.



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk *MJ*  
**DATE:** March 28, 2024  
**RE:** Supplemental Information – City Council Compensation

As requested by members of the Task Force, the information below is related to City Council hours worked and compensation for District and Mayoral Liaison employees.

**Hours Worked**

In response to a request for information, members of the City Council reported on the average hours dedicated to their elected positions. Based on responses received, following are averages of time spent working as an elected member of the Pasadena City Council:

- Councilmembers (Districts) – Reported between 15 and 40 hours per week
- Mayor – Reported between 30 and 60 hours per week

Factors affecting hours worked:

- Issues and problems occurring during the week
- Employment – Retired, Self-employed, Working for a company
- Committee Meetings, District Meetings, Evening and Weekend Events
- Meeting preparation, weekly City Council and committee agenda material review
- Meeting with constituents and City staff
- Miscellaneous/Other

**Compensation of District Liaisons/Liaison to the Mayor**

Each member of the City Council hires a Council District Liaison, or in the case of the Mayor, a Liaison to the Mayor, that is a full-time employee of the City and provides direct support to their appointing member of the City Council. On March 25, 2024, the City Council approved a new maximum annual salary for the District Liaison classification of \$103,086.

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Item 2

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:56 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment - Charter Study Task Force - Council Compensation & Campaign Contribution Limits

---

**From:** Sam Berndt  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:56:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Charter Study Task Force - Council Compensation & Campaign Contribution Limits

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Charter Study Task Force,

### Council Compensation

The City Council and Mayor have significant responsibility to our constituents. Not only do they attend the Council Meetings and Committee meetings, but meet with staff, have office hours, communicate with their communities, and host events. In a sense, their roles should be full time so as to best serve the public interest.

However, the current stipend of \$1,000 and \$1,500 a month for Council Members and Mayor respectively does not meet a minimal standard of living in our city and thus requires what should be full time jobs to at best be part time. This is despite the significant amount of responsibility and time that Council Members and the Mayor have to put in.

At the same time, the Council serves the public interest and has control over the policy of our city. Being the Council serves the public interest and has control over the policy of our city, it should be the case that the council members are able to directly relate to those in our city who have the least means to live so as to best advocate for them. That said, City Councilmembers and the Mayor should have their compensation directly tied to the Minimum Wage in Pasadena.

Thus, I propose the following in terms of Council Compensation:

1. City Councilmembers and the Mayor should be compensated hourly at the Minimum Wage for the City of Pasadena.
  - o This would enable City Council members and Mayor to live off of the salary in the same way that those who make minimum wage can live off of their salary, receive pay based off of the hours they put in, and encourage additional public participation as a public servant. Overtime should be allowed. Should a Councilmember work 40 hours a week for 4 weeks, this would equate to \$2,708.80.

## **Campaign Contributions**

Political office should not be held by whomever can raise the most money, especially if it is money disproportionately raised by large campaign contributors. In our socioeconomic system, having the capital to donate a substantial amount to a political campaign indicates you have the expendable capital for other aspects of your life. In other words, if you have the ability to donate to a campaign you have monetary power. Whereas the definition of monetary power is the ability to enact change in exchange for your money (e.g. start a business, invest in a business, purchase a home, etc.). Similarly, by donating a large amount to a political campaign, you are exchanging your monetary power for political power. Thus, in our current socioeconomic system, if you have access to monetary power you have access to political power; and if you do not have access to monetary power, you do not have access to political power.

We have seen how this impacts national politics through the Supreme Court decision of Citizens United, wherein Political Action Committees are not considered people and have the bandwidth to contribute millions of dollars to campaigns. In exchange, they receive access to politicians or are able to sway political votes. It would be foolish to think that such political influence does not happen locally or in our own city of Pasadena.

Meanwhile, while some candidates in Pasadena may receive hundreds or thousands of dollars from people who have the monetary power to make those donations, those same candidates are unlikely to be receiving that same amount of money from people across the monetary spectrum, particularly those who make minimum wage.

You have a unique opportunity to solve this problem here in Pasadena with a charter amendment that levels the playing field of power for political campaigns.

I propose the following:

1. Publicly fund elections on a per-capita basis. Provide equal monthly payments based on the taxes levied from the district they're running in to each candidate of that district for the last X months of an election. Set the campaign contribution limit to \$0.
2. If you do not publicly fund elections, set the campaign contribution limit to no more than 10% of the discretionary income for a full time minimum wage earner who lives in Pasadena. Whereas, discretionary income is what a household or individual has to invest, save, or spend after necessities are paid.

Thanks,  
Sam Berndt

CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MARCH 28, 2024

ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Campaign Contribution Limits – Pasadena Charter Study

Date: March 28, 2024

---

As part of the City Council's scope of study, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force was asked to consider campaign contribution limits (CCLs). This topic was raised by members of the public who believe that lowering contribution limits would enable political novices to run viable campaigns against incumbents as incumbents tend to be recipients of large donations. Though CCLs were in the scope of study for the Charter Study Task Force, campaign contribution limits are most often adopted by ordinance, and do not necessarily require a change to the City Charter.

### **Background**

The Political Reform Act was written in reaction to Watergate and placed on the ballot in 1974. It was approved by 70% of the votes cast. The act empowered the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to oversee and enforce regulations on campaign finance and reporting, financial conflicts of interest by public officials (Form 700), political mass mailings, and gifts and honoraria. Some of these areas overlap; in particular, conflicts of interest and campaign finance. This paper focuses on campaign contribution limits and AB 571.

The FPPC's 2023-2024 campaign contribution limit of \$5,500<sup>1</sup> applies to all elected officials and candidates whether the contribution comes from an individual, a commercial entity, a PAC, or a small contributor committee. A city or county can adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing local campaign contribution limits. Those limits can be higher, or lower than then the limits adopted by the FPPC. Of the 482 cities in California, 162 (37%) have filed local campaign contribution ordinances<sup>2</sup> with the FPPC.

### **Assembly Bill 571**

Assembly Bill 571, effective January 2021, applies state campaign contribution limits to cities and counties unless they opt out by adopting a local ordinance. The bill extends campaign finance and reporting rules, previously reserved to State Senate and Assembly elections, to city and county elections. For example, AB 571 ended officeholder campaign accounts, changed methods for resolving campaign debt, and restricted transfers of campaign funds to

---

<sup>1</sup> The FPPC increases the limits every two years to keep pace with inflation

<sup>2</sup> Cities that have adopted their own campaign limits have submitted their enacting ordinances to the FPPC. They can be found at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/Contribution-Limits-City-and-County-Candidates.html>

a candidate-controlled committee. For a more complete picture, please see the AB 571 Fact Sheet.<sup>3</sup>

### **Enforcement**

The FPPC is responsible for enforcing the Political Reform Act and they do so by imposing fines, as well as civil and criminal penalties when reportable information has not been disclosed or when reports have not been filed on time. Because of the sheer volume of reports, enforcement generally occurs on a complaint basis.

A city that adopts local limits must take on the enforcement role. City Clerks have primary responsibility for implementing, tracking, filing, and posting campaign contributions and expenditures and statements of economic interests. In a city the size of Pasadena, the City Clerk could manage two hundred or more reports per year while archiving documents filed in previous years. If Pasadena decided to adopt its own CCLs, the enforcement burden would pass to the City Clerk who would need to enlist the assistance of the City Attorney. Even complaint-based enforcement is labor intensive, costly, and may place the City Clerk, or the City Attorney in an adversarial role with an elected official. This could politicize the impartial role of City staff, and compromise their ability to administer City elections.

### **Fact Finding**

Government Code Section 84308 and Article XVII of the Pasadena City Charter are designed to quash “pay for play” schemes. Both cap campaign contributions from donors who may apply for or otherwise be entitled to receive certain benefits, such as permits. The benefits can be direct or indirect. For example, a donor may own property in the city that will benefit from a scheduled capital improvement project.

#### ***Government Code Section 84308 (includes the Levine Act)***<sup>4</sup>

Section 84308 prohibits donors and their respective agents from contributing more than \$250 to an elected official of any agency that is or will be considering a permit, license, entitlement, or other benefits to the prospective donor. Given that the contribution limit applies to any 12-month period while the proceeding is pending and for 12 months following the final decision, some donors who might have given more, stay under the \$250 limit.

#### ***Charter Article XVII Section 1703 (c)***

The Pasadena City Charter has Article XVII, known as the Taxpayer Protection Act. Like the Political Reform Act, the Taxpayer Protection Act (TPA) was designed to prevent “campaign advantages” and other conflicts of interest, however, the TPA is broader than the Political Reform Act and requires transparency in ways that the FPPC regulations do not.

---

<sup>3</sup> AB 571 Fact Sheet:

[https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NSDocuments/TAD/Campaign%20Documents/AB\\_571\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_Final.pdf](https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NSDocuments/TAD/Campaign%20Documents/AB_571_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>FPPC publication:

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NSDocuments/TAD/Campaign%20Documents/84308/Section%2084308%20and%20Parties%20and%20Participants%20Guide.pdf>



According to the Public Information Sheet on the City Clerk's website, "The City maintains three lists: (1) one of persons or entities receiving public benefits from the City; (2) another of those on the pre-contractual blackout period list; and (3) although not required as part of the TPA, a list of 501(c)(3), (4) and (6) entities who receive public benefits. City public officials and Council members/candidates have a separate, independent duty to ensure that they do not receive any personal or campaign advantages from persons on the first two lists in violation of the TPA."

Table 1. Campaign Contribution Limit

### Comparison City Research

This table presents Baker Tilly's research of CCLs in nine comparison cities.

City	Population	District	CCLs	Mayor Limits	Council Limits	Special Considerations
Pasadena	136,988	Yes	No	\$5,500	\$5,500	FPPC default
Anaheim	328,580	Yes	Yes	\$2,500	\$2,500	Adjusted in odd years based on regional CPI
Berkeley	123,562	No	Yes	\$ 250	\$ 250	Commission adjusts amounts in March of odd years. 6-to-1 match up to \$60 (\$60 donation results in \$360 match).
Burbank	104,535	No	Yes	\$ 500	\$ 500	No escalation clause
Glendale	191,284	No	Yes	\$1,340	\$1,340	Reviewed in odd years. CPI adjustment
Long Beach	458,222	Yes	Yes	\$ 500	\$ 250	Guidance on contributions to PACs
Santa Ana	299,630	Yes	Yes	\$1,000	\$1,000	Council has ability to amend limits based on CPI changes and ordinance approval
Santa Barbara	85,418	Yes	No	\$5,500	\$5,500	FPPC default
Santa Monica	91,720	No	Yes	\$ 410	\$ 410	Can be adjusted every five years by Council based on CPI
Torrance	143,057	Yes	Yes	\$1,000	\$1,000	Adopted in 1999. No available information referencing escalation

### Observations and notes

- All contribution limits adopted by the comparison cities are "per election"
- Most CCLs have escalation clauses
- Berkeley has the lowest contribution limits but also provides a match for donations up to \$60.00. A donation of \$60 nets \$360

## Benefits of Adopting Local limits and Benefits of Retaining the FPPC Limits

Benefits	
Local Contribution Limits	State Contribution Limits
Avoids compliance with AB 571 campaign finance rules	Compliance with AB 571 may not be a concern
The City will have flexibility, as limits can be lower or higher than those set by the FPPC	Defaulting to the FPPC avoids costs of enforcement and isolates City from disputes over raising or lowering donation levels
Studies of state elections show that PACs and related organizations prefer to give money to incumbent candidates <sup>5</sup>	The City Clerk and City Attorney would not be required to investigate or act against a candidate for Mayor or City Council
Lowering the limits would force candidates to collect funds from several donors as opposed to a few "big money" donors, possibly reducing the incumbent advantage	Lowering the limits could be self-defeating. Contributors would turn to independent expenditure committees that are beyond the candidate's control

Notes: See interview with campaign finance manager Jon Fuhrman on Page 5

### Sample Recommendations

- A. No action
- B. Recommend retaining the FPPC default limits
- C. Recommend that the Mayor and Council enact an ordinance adopting campaign contribution limits in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Mayor's race, and \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Council races, per election, and that the ordinance contain a clause for adjusting those limits in odd-numbered years by the regional CPI
- D. Instruct Baker Tilly to conduct the following research: -  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/fixers/reports/letmoney.html>

## **Jon Fuhrman Interview**

Baker Tilly contacted Pasadena resident and campaign finance expert Jon Fuhrman about the application of CCLs and AB 571 in Pasadena elections. Jon has been active in local and state politics for over 45 years. He has focused particularly on campaign finance, currently serving as Treasurer for Assemblymember Chris Holden and Councilmember Rick Cole, and formerly as Treasurer for Senators Jack Scott and Carol Liu, Mayor Bill Bogaard, County Supervisor Gloria Molina, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and an advisor to numerous other local candidates and clubs.

### *Did AB 571 eliminate officeholder accounts? How did that affect debt repayment?*

Yes, AB 571 eliminated officeholder accounts for local officeholders. However, if they have debts from their prior race, they may still raise funds, even after the election, subject to the state limits, to pay off debts.

Also, if you are running for the same office again, you do have to set up a new committee, but you can transfer any left-over funds from the old committee to the new committee WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION, which means your donors can give again for the new race. You can also use those funds from the campaign account designated for a future election for your current officeholder expenses. (And if you have excess funds after your election left in your account for the current election, you can use those funds for officeholder expenses.) So, you really do not need an officeholder account (although it would increase the amount of funds you could take from a single donor).

### *Is Pasadena subject to AB 571 and would adopting local limits change that?*

AB 571 is in effect in Pasadena, and we are under the current state \$5,500 contribution limitation (with larger amounts for small contributor committees). If we adopted our own limitations (either higher or lower than the state), then the other elements of AB 571 -- like the ban on officeholder accounts -- would also go away. Candidate controlled committees could make contributions to other candidate- controlled committees, but always subject to contribution limitations (either the state default limits, or the limits imposed by another city, say South Pasadena, which could be higher or lower than the state default limits).

So, by and large, I do not see AB571 as being particularly onerous. You can pretty much do anything you used to do under AB571.

### *What is your position on the current contribution limit of \$5,500?*

I would not support instituting lower campaign limits. I just finished Chris Holden's Supervisorial campaign and having a limit of \$1,500 for the Supervisorial district (with nearly two million residents) was really restrictive. It forced all the serious funding out of the candidates' control and into Independent Expenditure committees, for which there can be no contribution limitations.

So, I would not recommend trying to get out from AB 571; it would have quite limited actual impact and be a political loser of high magnitude

## References

Pew Research Center: Democracy and government, the U.S. political system, elected officials, and governmental institutions. 2018 <https://www.pewresearch.org>

Pew Research Center: Most Americans want to limit campaign spending, say big donors have greater political influence 2018 <https://www.pewresearch.org>

Frontline Story: The Fixers

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/fixers/reports/letmoney.html>

**CITY OF PASADENA**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Charter Reform Task Force

**FROM:** Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney  
Caroline K. Monroy, Deputy City Attorney

**DATE:** March 28, 2024

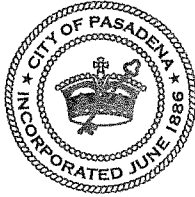
**RE:** Consideration of Campaign Contribution Limit for Mayor and City Council Elections – Government Code Section 84308

---

The Charter Study Task Force is considering campaign contribution limits for the Mayor and City Council elections at its meeting on March 28, 2024. This memo provides a brief overview of the requirements of Government Code Section 84308 (“Levine Act”). Its associated regulations can be found in Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 18438, *et seq.*


The Levine Act regulates agency officers and donors. It was originally passed in 1982, codified as part of the Political Reform Act. In 2022, the Levine Act was amended to, among other things, extend the regulations to local elected and appointed officials (effective January 1, 2023). As the Levine Act presently reads, an officer of an agency “shall not accept, solicit, or direct a contribution of more than \$250 from any party” or participant (or agent thereof) “while a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is pending, and for 12 months following . . . a final decision . . . in the proceeding.” An officer must also disclose receipt of a contribution greater than \$250 from a party or participant in the twelve months preceding the decision. In addition to disclosing prior contributions, an officer cannot take part in a decision if the officer “willfully or knowingly” received the disqualifying contribution from a party or a participant if the officer knew or had reason to know of the participant’s financial interest in the proceeding. The Levine Act includes “cure” provisions for officers.

In summary, the Levine Act prohibits a party to a proceeding before an agency from contributing more than \$250 to an officer of the agency during the proceeding and for twelve months following the agency’s final decision. A party is not prohibited from contributing more than \$250 to an officer in the twelve months before a proceeding comes before the agency but the party must disclose such contributions on the record. As discussed above, the receiving officer may be required to recuse under such circumstances.



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk   
**DATE:** March 28, 2024  
**RE:** Supplemental Information – Campaign Contribution Limits

To supplement research conducted by the Consultant team on this topic, City staff contacted a few of the local campaigns participating in contested races during the March 5, 2024 Pasadena Primary Municipal Election. The information below is not directly attributed to any single campaign, and is kept in general terms to give the Task Force a basic idea of the expenses involved in running a campaign in Pasadena. In addition, staff also examined the campaign finance disclosure reports posted online by candidates and their committees to give the Task Force a sense of the number and frequency of large dollar contributions received by each campaign.

**Anecdotal Information Regarding Costs Associated with Running a Campaign**

**Yard Signs:** According to campaigns, yard signs cost approximately \$7 to \$9 for each sign, and campaigns report purchasing anywhere from 150 to 300 signs for district races. The number of signs printed for a citywide campaign for the Office of Mayor is much higher, with signs numbering between 2,000 and 5,000.

**Mailers:** For District mailers, campaigns reported paying between \$1,500 to \$7,000 per mailer sent to voter households. Factors impacting the cost include printing, postage, and the number of targeted voter households in a district. There are different strategies employed by campaigns on frequency, content, and mailer recipients. On average, campaigns reported mailing 5 to 7 times during the election, but that number was higher for some contested races.

For the citywide Mayoral campaign, where the number of registered voters is more than 85,000, each mailer might cost between \$20,000 to \$35,000 sent to voter households in Pasadena.

**Social Media, Web, and Print Ads:** The use of various media sources for elections differs from campaign to campaign. Some campaigns report spending less than \$1,000 on social media ads, while other campaigns report dedicating 15% of the campaign budget towards media buys on social media platforms, web, and in print.

**Text Messaging, Robo Calls, etc.:** The use of this type of campaign outreach is limited for campaigns due to available voter data. Not all voters provide phone numbers, and not all phone numbers provided by voters have text messaging capabilities. In general, campaigns suggest spending approximately \$2,000 for each direct contact to voters (text or robo call). The number of contacts made to voters differs from campaign to campaign based on campaign styles and strategies.

**Campaign Consultants:** The level of consultant costs varies greatly from campaign to campaign. Based on information received from candidates and reported in campaign finance disclosure forms, consultant fees can range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 at the district level, and from \$30,000 to \$50,000 or more at the citywide Mayoral race level.

**Chart of Large Dollar Donations from March 5, 2024 Primary Municipal Election**

Candidates	\$1000 - \$2499	\$2500 - \$3999	\$4000 - \$5500	INDIVIDUALS \$4,000+	COM/SCC/OTH \$4,000+
COLE	22	0	0		
DOYLE	1	1	1	1	
GORDO	20	6	21	9	12
HAMPTON	1	0	1		1
HORTON	4	2	0		
JONES	5	5	8	4	4
LAMAR	20*	0	3	2	1
MADISON	1	0	0		
MASUDA	0	0	2	1	1
SHAY	0	0	1	1	
WILLIAMS	15*	13*	9	3	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>

\* Non-Monetary Contribution

COM – RECIPIENT COMMITTEE  
 SCC – SMALL CONTRIBUTOR COMMITTEE  
 OTH – OTHER (E.G. BUSINESS ENTITY)

The Chart above includes large dollar donations reported (via Form 497's) by campaign committees as required by the Political Reform Act. These reports are submitted within 24 hours of receipt of the donation up to and including Election Day. It should be noted that three candidates made self-contributions of \$4,000 or more, which were included as part of the contributions listed above.

**Independent Expenditures**

There were two Political Action Committees that made independent expenditures in the March 5, 2024 Primary Municipal Election in support of candidates for Pasadena City Council. One entity made three expenditures for an approximate total of \$8,900, and the second made 22 expenditures for an approximate total of \$35,000.

# CORRESPONDENCE

Item 3



**Jomsky, Mark**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:47 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: City Charter Meeting topic: Campaign Finance Transparency and Limits

---

**From:** Dr. Andrea Davis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:45:45 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** City Charter Meeting topic: Campaign Finance Transparency and Limits

You don't often get email from director@greenhousetherapycenter.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Attention: Pasadena City Charter Commission  
Re: Term Limits for Pasadena City Council Members

The rules around campaign finance transparency and campaign finance limits are very important to me as a business owner and an employer in Pasadena.

I am writing to you to strongly suggest you create campaign contribution limits of \$1,000 for municipal elections in the City of Pasadena.

I remember so clearly when Jonathan Mehta Stein, ED at Common Cause spoke to this Council three years ago. He blew everyone out of the water with his clear-headed rational grasp of facts and figures. The arguments that followed from certain council members against donation limits did not respond to his logic or his data at all. He gave an exhaustive account of the data on the positive impact of contribution limits based on outcomes in other cities.

He also cited the logic:

- 1) Democracy is undermined by implicit quid pro quo: it is unwise to allow a person to give a candidate a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be emotionally or fiscally beholden to them; this psychological pressure has impacted the leadership of our City too much already;
- 2) Large campaign donations legalize corruption because large donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated, thus purchase greatly more power; and lastly,
- 3) Perceived corruption disincentivizes many from voting or getting involved; 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

The Common Cause ED reported that the average donation for cities the size of Pasadena is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. His analysis was that \$4900 was too high for our size.

He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much.

For this reason, I would like to request that the Charter require a \$1,000 limit on campaign contributions to municipal candidates.

In addition, the Charter should specify the following:

- a) Independent Expenditures (IE's) should be clearly and conspicuously posted for all voters to see

b) Regular donations should be posted clearly and conspicuously for all voters to easily reference when making an informed choice

c) Conflicts of interest should be posted clearly and conspicuously for all voters to easily reference when making an informed choice

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Davis

Pasadena, CA 91106

*Andrea Davis, Ph.D., Director*

*Greenhouse Therapy Center....for growing people*

*Licensed Psychologist PSY 12296*

**GreenhouseTherapyCenter.com**

**Youtube Channel: What is a Greenhouse for growing people?**

**Facebook.com/GreenhouseTherapyCenter**

Chair-Elect, Clinical and Professional Practice Division  
and Local Advocacy Network Committee Representative,  
California Psychological Association

President,  
DIR/Floortime Coalition of California

*Floortime Strategies to Promote Development in Children and Teens: A User's Guide to the DIR Model*

*by Andrea Davis, Lahela Isaacson, and Michelle Harwell*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail transmission including all attached files may contain confidential and legally privileged medical information which is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, you are hereby notified that any reading, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited.

If you received this email in error, please delete the message and notify our office manager immediately at (626) 795-7910 and by return e-mail.

\*Email is not a secure delivery method. Highly confidential information is best delivered in person.

**Jomsky, Mark**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:54 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanelle (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Commission Letter re Campaign Finance Reform

---

**From:** Denise  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:53:14 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** Jess Rivas  
**Subject:** Charter Commission Letter re Campaign Finance Reform

You don't often get email from denise@panix.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A]** CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

February 4, 2024

Attn: Pasadena City Charter Commission

Re: Campaign Contribution Limits for the City of Pasadena

Gentlepersons:

I am writing to you to strongly suggest you create campaign contribution limits of \$1,000 for municipal elections in the City of Pasadena.

Expert Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of Common Cause spoke to the council three years ago. He gave an exhaustive account of why we have contribution limits, what other cities have done and the three reasons why contribution limits are essential. 1) Quid pro quo: you don't want to give someone a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be beholden to them; 2) legalized corruption: even if it's not officially bribery, there's a "subtle tilt toward the person who donated." Donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated; and lastly, 3) Perceived corruption: 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

Mr. Mehta Stein mentioned that the average donation for cities the size of Pasadena is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. He thought \$4900 was too high. He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much. Common Cause provided a plethora of data and the consensus of campaign experts is that very high and/or unlimited contributions are harmful to democracy as well as creating a perception of corruption.

For this reason, I would like to request that the Charter require a \$1,000 limit on campaign contributions to municipal candidates.

Sincerely,

Denise Robb, Ph.D.  
Political Science, Professor

Pasadena, CA 91106

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:49 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Task Force March 28 meeting 3. CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

---

From: Mark Maier >  
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:48:50 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Charter Task Force March 28 meeting 3. CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

[You don't often get email from <cityclerk@pasadena.net> so learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<[https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010263](https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263)>.

To Charter Study Task Force

I write with regard to item 3. CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

I support a limit of \$1,000 or lower for mayor and city council elections.

We are fortunate to live in a relatively small city with council district and even mayoral elections for which candidates are known to citizens. As a result we can make decisions based on conversations and other personal interactions with candidates.

Larger contributions with the current \$5,500 limit shift campaigns toward mass mailings and other advertising efforts that poorly inform citizens about important issues.

Sincerely,

Mark Maier

Pasadena 91104

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
APRIL 11, 2024**

**ITEM 2  
STAFF REPORT**



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Director, Baker Tilly  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Follow up on Timing of Mayoral Elections – Six Year terms, off-cycle elections

Date: April 11, 2024

---

## Introduction

As part of the City Council’s scope of study, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force examined changing the timing of the Mayor’s election or the length of the Mayor’s term to create opportunities for all Councilmembers to run for the Mayor’s seat without giving up their own. On February 22, 2024, the Task Force requested the consultant team examine whether other municipalities utilize six-year terms for directly elected Mayors, as well as information on off cycle-elections in odd years instead of even years as a possible solution for allowing members of the City Council to pursue the Mayor’s position without having to forfeit their district seat.

## Six Year Terms

Baker Tilly was unable to find a city in California with a six-year term for mayor. We did find Evelina Moulder’s article, “Municipal Form of Government: Trends in Structure, Responsibility, and Composition” in ICMA’s<sup>1</sup> 2008 *Municipal Yearbook*. The article presents this data on the length of terms from cities that responded to the survey. For example, 45% of those who responded said their mayor served four-year terms.

Table 1. ICMA Information on Length of Mayor’s term of office

---

Term of Office for Mayor	Survey Responses – Percent of cities with each term length
One Year	14%
Two Year	35%
Three Year	6%
Four Year	45%
Other	<1%

Based on the ICMA article, as of 2008, less than 1% of survey respondents said their cities had a term limit for mayor that exceeded four years.

---

<sup>1</sup> ICMA: International City/County Management Association



### ***Off-Cycle Elections***

The Task Force also looked at moving the Mayor's election cycle from even to odd years, thus allowing every Council Member the opportunity to run for Mayor without having to forfeit their district seat. These elections would be held one of two ways—by contracting with the County of Los Angeles or requiring the City's Clerk's Office to conduct the election without County support. The latter would require an investment by the City in purchasing, or utilizing an election vendor's, voting system certified by the Secretary of State. In addition, the City would also need to invest in additional staffing and other resources necessary to support stand-alone elections. The final consideration would be voter turnout in local elections. One of the driving factors in the City switching from odd-year elections to consolidate with the statewide elections held on even-year dates was the benefit of increased voter turnout on even-year dates.

#### ***Off cycle election conducted by County of Los Angeles***

In a letter dated February 22, 2024, Jennifer Storm, Division Manager of Los Angeles County Clerk's Finance and Management Division, estimated the cost for the County to conduct a March 2025 stand-alone election for District 3 only would be \$892,000. A citywide election could cost three or four times that amount. Then double that for the runoff.

#### ***Off cycle election conducted by the City Clerk***

City Clerks can conduct elections without support from their counties, but very few do it. Baker Tilly contacted the Elections Divisions of the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Orange, and Los Angeles. Only Redondo Beach and Whittier of Los Angeles County conduct their own stand-alone elections. Redondo Beach holds elections in odd-numbered years and Whittier's elections occur in even years in April. Both believe holding elections in-house costs less than contracting with the County of Los Angeles.

The cost of a standalone election conducted by the Pasadena City Clerk would depend on the election method, among other factors. One of the factors that increases costs with the County of Los Angeles is that the County would staff a number of in-person vote centers in accordance with state requirements. If the City determined it was necessary to have an in-person voting option, the City Clerk would need to determine how many vote centers were necessary for a citywide election, locate and secure vote centers for multi-day use, purchase or lease voting machines for use at vote centers, locate, train, and pay poll workers, purchase and securely deliver ballots, ballot boxes, and polling place supplies, and purchase or lease a vote counting computer system and software to run it.

As an alternative, the City could conduct an exclusively vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot election. Aside from possible accessibility issues, problems with the US Postal Service, and other factors, VBM elections would likely require the City to pay for return postage, and/or utilize drop box locations.

Whittier and Redondo Beach have differing approaches for elections. Redondo Beach relies on all-mail ballots while Whittier has in-person voting at three vote centers and mails ballots to every elector. Whittier owns its voting machines and vote counting equipment. Redondo

Beach borrows Whittier’s vote counting equipment and hires HART Interactive to manage vote counting.

We were unable to gather direct information about Whittier’s costs because the city clerk was unavailable to respond due to conducting the April 9, 2024, election. However, Attachment A to this report is an article related to Whittier’s election process, and a possible voter organized initiative ballot measure to move election dates to statewide dates. That same measure would also (interestingly) implement term limits for members of the City Council. Redondo Beach, which is less than half the size of Pasadena, presented a ballpark estimate of \$300,000 per election to City Clerk Mark Jomsky.

When comparing Redondo, Whittier and Pasadena, here are some aspects to bear in mind.

- Redondo Beach is 50.3% and Whittier is 61.7% the size of Pasadena
- Redondo Beach elections take place in odd years and are exclusively by mail, while Whittier’s are in even years and allow for in-person and VBM
- Neither Redondo nor Whittier conducts a primary
- If Redondo Beach pays \$300,000 out-of-pocket per election cycle, Pasadena would likely pay more than \$1,200,000. (Almost twice the registered voters x a primary and a general election). That would not include labor, facilities, equipment rental, overhead, or sunk costs
- Redondo Beach has five and Whittier has four council districts as compared to Pasadena’s seven
- All have directly elected mayors. Redondo also elects their City Clerk, City Attorney, and City Treasurer

Table 2. Election comparison data for Redondo Beach, Whittier, and Pasadena

City	Redondo Beach	Whittier	Pasadena
Population	68,918	84,496	136,988
Number of Registered Voters	48,365	54,832	88,083
Date of last canvass	March 2023	April 2022	March 2024
Total ballots cast	10,824	8,817	35,631
Turnout on those dates	22.38%	16.08%	40.19%
Estimated cost for election	\$300,000	\$360,000	\$530,000
Cost per ballot cast	\$30	\$41	\$15

Because the canvass includes turnout data, numbers from the last canvass were used in place of the most recent election.

***Term Limits and Opportunities for Councilmembers to run for Mayor***

At their March 14, 2024, meeting, the Task Force voted in favor of recommending term limits of three four-year terms (twelve years). Term limits do not change the timing of the Mayor’s election but whether the Mayor has three four-year terms or two six-year terms, and assuming all Councilmembers remain in place, the Mayor and four Councilmembers will be termed out after twelve years. Depending on the timing of each member’s term, Councilmembers will be able to run for Mayor without forfeiting their district seat (if they term out, they are not forfeiting their seat). As time goes on, some Councilmembers and perhaps the Mayor will leave their offices early to run for another office or retire. The terms will reset and there will be fewer officials who term out at the same time.

WHITTIER

# Group seeks term limits for mayor, City Council

## Petitioners seek residents' vote for 12-year maximum

By Christina Merino      PUBLISHED: March 22, 2024

[cmerino@scng.com](mailto:cmerino@scng.com)

A group of Whittier residents is seeking to establish term limits for local elected leaders.

Whittier for Term Limits has started a petition to implement term limits for the Whittier City Council and to align the city's election date with Los Angeles County elections. The hope, backers say, is to increase voter turnout, encourage more choices at the ballot box, welcome fresh perspectives and to rebuild trust in local officials.

Some of the candidates running for the city's general municipal election on April 9 are in favor, but incumbents offer a different perspective. Although there are benefits to term limits, experts say there are mixed opinions on how effective term limits truly are.

Currently, the Whittier City Council consists of a mayor who is elected to a two-year term and four councilmembers to a four-year term — but no term limits. Two out of five Whittier council members have been in office for almost two decades and a third more than 12 years.

Whittier for Term Limits was started by Stephanie Vallejo, a Whittier resident who wants to see change in the city's local government.

“Our citywide surveys and most (people) we have talked to support term limits for City Council as well as the election date change,” Vallejo said. “It will cost less money, increase voter turnout, and give others the opportunity to govern and keep our city moving forward.”

On the group's circulating petition, backers propose a maximum of 12 years for all appointed and elected City Council members, giving elected

officials ample time, ability, opportunity and the motivation to set and meet their goals — or promises — to residents, according to their website. They say that the city's current election process gives incumbents the advantage of name recognition, have well-established relationships with donors, and discourages new candidates to seek office.

Implementing term limits can change that, the local group says, providing more opportunities for leadership and promoting a "fair electoral system." It would promote transparency and rebuild trust between local government and its voters, according to their website.

The initiative would not take effect until approved by Whittier residents. If residents did approve, it would allow current members to run for office for another 12 years, and it aims to increase civic engagement and increase voter turnout.

"It really is a no-brainer and positive move for the City Council to work with and not against the people that vote them in," Vallejo said.

Surrounding cities such as Pico Rivera, Commerce, Bell Gardens, Downey and Montebello have term limits. But others, such as the neighboring city of La Habra, do not.

The initiative for term limits was filed at the City Clerk's office in November.

Proponents are circulating the petition, which must include at least 8,300 qualified signatures from Whittier voters, and be filed by May 25. The group has set a goal of collecting 10,000 signatures.

"Amongst the American public, term limits are very popular, and we see a lot of variation across the board in states and sub-state governments about term limit policies," said Jeff Hanlon, assistant professor of political science at Whittier College. "Whether it's a certain number of terms or a certain number of years that someone can serve in a legislative body."

People think term limits are a good thing because it forces turnover, Hanlon said, due to incumbency advantage with fundraising, and name recognition, while younger and new voices could have a harder time challenging that way into representative bodies.

However, there is a counterargument among political scientists, some of whom question whether term limits are good for democracy.

“You might say, ‘yes maybe, but not necessarily,’ and that is the idea that in a democracy, we’re free to choose who we want to represent us,” Hanlon said. “What if someone has represented us for more than one term, and they’ve done it exceptionally well and now we are saying we’re going to force them out of office, simply because they’ve already been there. Perhaps that’s not responsive to the public good or the public desires.”

During a candidate forum on March 11, hosted by the League of Women Voters of Whittier, District 1 and 3 candidates shared perspectives on term limits.

All district candidates were in support of term limits, but the incumbents had different perspectives on the matter.

“I’m in favor of term limits, however, my philosophy of term limits is that, that power is held by the people,” 3rd District incumbent Cathy Warner said. “Bob Henderson is a great example of the people exhibiting their power in regards to term limits and I don’t think any of us can denigrate the work that Bob has done in this city over the many terms that he served on the City Council. So yes, I believe in term limits and that is that power is held by the people.”

Longtime former councilmember Bob Henderson served on the Whittier City Council for 36 years, and served as mayor three times from 1992 to 1994, 2009 to 2010, and 2013 to 2014.

District 1 incumbent Jessica Martinez agreed with Warner, and added, “I do believe in term limits, they’re called elections.”

District 1 candidates Magdalena Barragñon Moe and Mary Ann Pacheco, as well as 3rd District candidate Monica Sena, believed that stronger term limits should be in place for mayoral and City Council offices. They said that having term limits allowed for new ideas to come across the council dais. Having the same representatives could cause stagnant improvements to the city, they said.

Sena pointed out that even the president of the United States has term limits, as well as other surrounding cities.

“We need to make sure that the local government remains broad based and open to many participants,” Pacheco said.

After hearing the candidates’ statements, Vallejo was excited that most candidates were in support of term limits. Sena is also part of the group’s

steering committee.

“The incumbents do not support term limits and changing the election date,” Vallejo said. “I believe that they have forgotten they have a responsibility to be the voice of their constituents and not make decisions based on their own personal opinions or values.”

Although there could be benefits for Whittier having term limits, experts say that the results are mixed and there’s no “real perfect solution” — term limits or no term limits, both have their problems.

Hanlon said that it is important to think about term limits in the context of the problem people are trying to solve. What is the problem that not having term limits in Whittier is creating? Or is the problem just not liking someone who keeps getting elected and people wanting to figure out a way to keep them off the ballot, he said.

“I would just say, make sure that the question at hand is about the outcome you want to see,” Hanlon said. “And if in Whittier we were to institute term limits, how would we know whether having term limits has achieved the thing we want it to achieve? Talk about that, so we know if we’re successful or not.”

Along with advocating for term limits in the ballot measure, the group wants the city’s election date changed from April to be aligned with the L.A. County election in November. Whittier for Term Limits say that Whittier’s off-cycle election gives incumbents an advantage, and cost taxpayers “one-fourth of a million dollars running its own election.”

Since 1898, Whittier has consistently held general municipal elections in April of even-numbered years.

In 2020, a California appeals court ruled in the case of City of Redondo Beach v. Padilla, affirming that charter cities were allowed to revert to the elections, such as Whittier’s election back to April.

The anticipated cost for running the 2024 general municipal election in Whittier is \$360,000, which covers election materials, additional staffing, outreach efforts, and one-time purchases such as drop boxes and facility improvements, according to Whittier City Clerk Rigo Garcia.

If the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s Office were to conduct the city’s election, according to Garcia, the proposed budget would

be \$430,000, including the county's estimate of \$395,111 and an additional \$35,000 for city outreach.

By purchasing election materials directly from certified vendors, Whittier avoids any markup, resulting in direct saving for residents.

The group also says that the off-cycle election in April hinders voting and results in low voter turnout.

There were 47,185 registered voters and 8,515 votes cast in 2018, for a 18.05% turnout. In 2020 — when the city elections aligned with the county — there were 50,399 registered voters and 22,526 votes cast for a voter turnout of 44.19%. In the last election in 2022, there were 54,832 registered voters, 8,819 votes were cast for a turnout of 16.08%.

In this year's election, there are 54,389 active voters in Whittier, Garcia said. Whittier residents have until Monday to register to vote, and so far 2,669 ballots have been returned and verified as of Thursday.

For the 2024 election, the city implemented several measures to increase voter turnout from residents. This includes adding in-person voting locations to York Field and Michigan Park; additional vote-by-mail ballot drop boxes at La Iglesia de Greenleaf and Penn Park; increased advertisements in newspapers, newsletters and colleges; hosting election community engagement meetings online and in-person; distributing election brochures to businesses and churches; enhancing social media outreach specific to the election; banners throughout the city; and creating election videos on the city's YouTube channel.

“These efforts demonstrate the city's commitment to ensuring a well-informed and engaged electorate for the upcoming election,” Garcia said in a statement last week.

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
APRIL 11, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT**





OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk   
**DATE:** April 8, 2024  
**RE:** Status Report on City Council Assigned Charter Study Topics and Possible Direction to Consultant Team and City Staff on Preparation of Final Report

The Charter Study Task Force, appointed by the City Council in November 2023, has held six meetings since December 9, 2023 to discuss the following list of assigned Council topics comprising the scope of the Task Force's work:

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections, and review the Charter requirements pertaining to a vacancy in the office of the Mayor as it relates to the role of the Vice Mayor position (City Charter Section 404)
- Review Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (City Charter Sections 401 and 407)
- Consider Mayor and City Council Term Limits
- Review Timing of Mayoral Election (City Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- Consider City Council Compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)
- Consider Campaign Contribution Limits

Each topic has been considered and discussed by the Task Force at least once over the course of the adopted meeting schedule. Detailed below is a status report on each topic, the motion and votes taken by the Task Force, and any pending/unresolved issues that should be considered as this effort comes to conclusion.

**DISCUSSION ON VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

This topic was discussed on January 20, 2024, February 7, 2024, and February 22, 2024.

On February 22, 2024, the Task Force discussion on this matter concluded. Following are adopted motions related to this issue:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to maintain the 75-day period for a City Council vacancy appointment process, eliminate the Charter provision that stipulates that a Council District vacancy will be filled by lot, and amend Pasadena City Charter, Section 403, to include “death” as a cause of vacancy.

- AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson
- ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend the following verbiage for City Charter, Section 404.-Vacancy – Appointment, “...if the City Council fails to timely appoint a person to fill the vacancy, then the office shall be filled at a regular or special municipal election for the time remaining on the unexpired term, upon certification of the candidate that receives a majority of the votes cast for that office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies on the City Council.”:

- AYES: Members Mejia, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins
- NOES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Novak
- ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson
- ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** Member Farhat spoke on the need for City staff to “to tighten up” the amended language in Section 404, and asked staff to bring back the matter at a future Charter Study Task Force meeting, and specifically when more Task Force members are present.

Regarding the matter of when to call a special election, or when to have the City Council make an appointment, the Task Force voted to approve an appointment process if two years or less remained on the unexpired term:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Novak, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, by recommending that the City Council conduct an appointment process if two years or less remained on an unexpired term:

- AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins
- NOES: Vice Chair Hatcher
- ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson
- ABSTAIN: None

Regarding the matter of residency requirement to seek the appointed office, the Task Force approved the following motion:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member McAustin, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, to include a residency requirement of at least six months for those seeking to be appointed to the City Council to fill a vacant unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**DISCUSSION ON VICE MAYOR APPOINTMENT PROCESS, TIMING OF VICE MAYOR ELECTION, LENGTH OF TERM TO SERVE AS VICE MAYOR, AND DUTIES RELATED TO VACANCY IN THE MAYOR’S OFFICE**

This topic was discussed on January 20, 2024.

Related to the appointment process for Vice Mayor, the timing of City Council’s selection of Vice Mayor, and the length of term of Vice Mayor, the Task Force’s motion was as follows:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council the selection of the Vice Mayor to occur on an annual basis with a term of one year, the Council to consider seniority and rotational participation when making the selection (not making either factor a requirement), and the selection of the Vice Mayor occurring at the City’s annual organizational meeting on the fifth Monday following the statewide General Election in even years, and the fifth Monday following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd years.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

In terms of the Charter provision which states that in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor’s position, the Vice Mayor shall assume the duties of the Mayor, the Task Force sought to make changes to ensure that the City Council would act deliberatively to select from among the remaining members someone to serve in the role of the Mayor. The Task Force also supported that the Councilmember to assume the duties of the Mayor would serve in the capacity of Mayor Pro Tempore, until the vacancy is filled in the next election. Following is the motion and vote of the Task Force:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to create a Mayor Pro Tem position in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor’s position, with the Council to select from among the remaining members a Mayor Pro Tem to serve in the role of Mayor on

an interim basis (without having to relinquish their Council District seat) until the vacant position of Mayor is filled at a future election (timing to be determined).

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** The Task Force did not determine whether the vacancy provisions of the City Council would apply to a vacancy in the Mayor's position, or if the vacancy should be filled at the next regularly scheduled City election (due to cost and turnout considerations).

### **CONSIDERATION OF TERM LIMITS FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

This matter was discussed on February 7, 2024 and March 14, 2024. The Task Force's motion was as follows:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend amendment(s) to the City Charter to (a) limit the Mayor's position to three consecutive four-year terms, and limit each member of the City Council to three consecutive four-year terms for each district, with a partial term of less than two years not counting towards a full term, (b) grant the elected official, after a four-year hiatus, or after four years in another City Council elected office, eligibility to hold elected office for two additional four-year terms, and (c) set the effective date of term limits in 2026 for Council Districts, 3, 5, and 7, and in 2028 for the Mayor and Council Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher

NOES: Members Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins

ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia

ABSTAIN: None

As part of the discussion on Term Limits, members of the Task Force spoke in favor of adding a Council-driven information process to encourage more residents to run for public office, a formal on-boarding process for new Councilmembers, and robust record of the discussion of the Task Force to be provided to the City Council.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend to the City Council to adopt a formal Council-driven public information process to encourage more residents to run for public office and an onboarding process for new Councilmembers, and direct staff to include a robust description of the Task Force's discussion regarding term limits, to be included in the Task Force's Final Report, as well as part of the record provided to the City Council in its de novo review.

Member Salinas mentioned that the League of California Cities offers an onboarding program to educate and help new Councilmembers navigate their new roles.

Chair Chawkins suggested that staff recommend using existing programs, such as the one offered by League of California Cities, as a model for Pasadena to create their own onboarding process.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia

ABSTAIN: None

**CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION, BROADLY, AS WELL AS DEDICATED CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (City Charter Section 405)**

This topic was original scheduled for March 14, 2024, but due to time-constraints, the item was rescheduled for March 28, 2024. Following are the adopted motions on this topic:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to: (1) recommend that the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee, and do so on a more regular basis; (2) recommend that the Committee discuss the issue of “family care” as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), and consider CPI increases, other factors to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and (3) direct City staff to provide the Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a brief summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes as background information.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chair Chawkins

ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member McCoy, to require by charter amendment that the City Council Compensation Committee shall meet not less than once every 5 years.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chair Chawkins

ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** Member Farhat requested that at the end of the Task Force’s work, consideration be given to the total number of ballot measures resulting from this process, and possibly “repackage” the timing requirement of convening the Charter Compensation Committee as an ordinance rather than as a Charter Amendment measure.

**CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE MAYOR’S ELECTION**

This matter was discussed on February 22, 2024, and is scheduled for follow up on April 11, 2024.

**CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

This matter was discussed on March 28, 2024, and is scheduled for follow up on April 25, 2024.

# CORRESPONDENCE

Item 3

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:00 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 4/11/2024

---

**From:** Denise ·  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:00:09 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 4/11/2024

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

[⚠] **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hi Mr. Jomsky,

Is it all right if I send my comments for the Charter meeting (this Thursday) directly to you or do I have to send them individually to each member?

Here are my comments:

Gentlepersons:

Thank you for serving on the Charter Commission. This important task is so needed in Pasadena, thank you for your service.

I wanted to make a few comments to help guide your decisions this coming Thursday April 11, 2024.

1. **Should Councilmembers have term limits.** Yes. The City of Los Angeles adopted term limits and has been all the better for it. Instead of having councilmembers serving for decades, we see fresh faces and some young people who are passionate about making changes in the city. This is not to say that all councilmembers who serve long terms do not serve in the best interest. But rather, the idea stemming from many places including ancient Greek democracy is that everyone should have a chance to serve - nothing could be more democratic. People tend not to run against incumbents and new people don't get a shot at serving the city.

2. **How should vacancies on the Council be handled?** I recommend a system of Instant Runoff Voting (aka Ranked Choice Voting) such as the system used in New York City since the charter amendment of 2019 for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President and City Council. San Francisco and many other cities and some states also use this to **save money, eliminate voter burnout**, and not require voters to come back for a runoff. **It also results in less negative campaigning** as you want to receive the second and third choice votes of those supporting any opponent.



I wrote my doctoral dissertation on ranked choice voting and I am readily available for consultation.

**3. Is the current \$5,500 contribution limit too high? Yes, it is.**

I request the city council place reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns the same way sensible cities such as Los Angeles, Alhambra and South Pasadena have. Los Angeles, with a population of almost 4 million people has a limit of \$800 in contrast to Pasadena with a much, much smaller population of fewer than 140,000 people.

Expert Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of Common Cause spoke to the City Council a few years back. For approximately 20 minutes he gave an exhaustive account of why we have contribution limits, and what other cities have done, as well as the three reasons why contribution limits are essential. 1) Quid pro quo: you don't want to give someone a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be beholden to them; 2) legalized corruption: even if it's not officially bribery, there's a "subtle tilt toward the person who donated." Donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated; and lastly, 3) Perceived corruption: 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

Mr. Mehta Stein mentioned that the average donation for cities our size is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. He thought even \$4900 was too high. He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much. Some argue that Independent Expenditures cause candidates to have a need for large donations. However, a handful of people could decide to donate the maximum and easily make up for the independent expenditure amounts we see in Pasadena.

Additionally, transparency in terms of full disclosure laws will go a long way in restoring faith in our democracy here in Pasadena.

To restore fairness to our political system, the passage and enforcement of strong campaign finance reforms that help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people is urgently needed, including placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns, complete transparency of campaign spending, and public financing of elections.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise Munro Robb, Ph.D.  
Professor, Pierce College; and Joshua's Mommy

"Those Who Can Make You Believe Absurdities Can Make You Commit Atrocities" (Possibly Voltaire)

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:09 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: [Public Comment] Charter Reform Task Force - Thu 4/11 meeting

---

**From:** Wesley Reutimann  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:08:08 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** [Public Comment] Charter Reform Task Force - Thu 4/11 meeting

You don't often get email from [earn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Reform Task Force Members,

As a local household that has voted in Pasadena elections for almost two decades now, we have observed firsthand how the lack of campaign contribution limits has influenced local Council races.

A community the size of Pasadena, with relatively small Council districts, should adopt a reasonable contribution limit of \$250-\$1,000 per election cycle. Communities across California have adopted such standards in recent years. Pasadena can and should do so, too.

According to the most recent CA Common Cause report on the subject, there are at least 109 cities and 15 counties in California that have adopted local campaign contribution limits, with an average (median) city council individual contribution limit of \$500. These include the neighboring cities of Burbank (\$400), Glendale (\$1,000), Los Angeles (\$700), and Alhambra (\$250).

Thank you,

**Wesley Reutimann**  
Pasadena 91103

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Reform Tax Force comment for April 11

---

**From:** Anne Schiller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:36:01 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Reform Tax Force comment for April 11

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#) [learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

I write in favor of a much lower campaign finance limit such as \$1,000.

We have relatively small city council districts in which campaigns can take place on a personal basis. Limiting campaign contributions will reduce the use of uninformative mass mailings and encourage meetings with candidates.

Sincerely,  
Anne Schiller

Pasadena 91104

**Jomsky, Mark**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:15 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Comments for April 11 Charter Task Force meeting

---

**From:** Gloria Newton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:15:03 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Comments for April 11 Charter Task Force meeting

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Task Force,

Thank you for your hard work in addressing the document that governs the way our city operates.

I'd like to make two comments about matters under discussion.

1. Campaign Contribution Limits: In 2021 there was a large public outcry against the Council's proposal that there be no limit to per-person contributions. I'm glad that proposal was dropped, but even going with the state limit of \$5500 is too high and will give an unfair advantage to candidates with ties to wealthy donors. Whether we acknowledge it or not, money equals voice, and in a city like Pasadena, which already has a wide income gap, it's important to set policies that make sure all residents are represented and have their voices heard. Pasadena should choose a limit more in line with other cities of our size, such as Torrance (\$1000 limit) and Berkeley (\$250 limit). In addition, Pasadena voters should set this policy, not the city council, so like Measures R, S, and T, we should be able to vote on the recommendations by the Task Force on the November ballot. Please incorporate these ideas into your recommendations.

2. Term limits: I am in favor of term limits for council members. I understand the value of having experienced council members serving, but the pattern in our city has shown incumbent candidates are far more likely to be elected than their opponents. I've lived in this city for 36 years, and in my time here, no incumbent has been unseated by a challenger in an election. Term limits do not have to be short - 4 terms of 4 years each would allow a council member to serve for 16 years, which is plenty of time to learn the job, take actions that affect change and make a difference in one's district. After 16 years, it seems fair to allow other candidates to fill the offices.

Thank you again for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Newton  
District 5 resident

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:25 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment for Task Force on Charter ReformCC

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:24:24 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Task Force on Charter ReformCC

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mark Jomsky:

Please distribute my comment below to the Task Force on Charter Reform for the April 11 meeting of the Task Force, on campaign finance reform.

Thank you,

Kris Ockershauser

Dear Charter Reform Task Force Members:

I was one of the many citizens of Pasadena who objected to the Council's effort in 2021 to circumvent state limits and continue to impose no limits on campaign finance contributions to the Mayor and City Council Members.

I am one of the many citizens who continue to want only the voters to make any campaign limits, and on the November ballot. It's the Pasadena Way.

Thank you,

Kris Ockershauser  
91105

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: April 11, 2024 Charter Reform Task Force Mtg

---

From: Julie McKune  
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:12:44 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: April 11, 2024 Charter Reform Task Force Mtg

[You don't often get email from <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<[https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010263](https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263)>.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Let the voters decide. I strongly support these ideas. We need changes, for example:

\*Yes Term limits

\*Use rank choice voting for vacancies on the council \*Establish lower campaign contribution limits, current \$5,500 is too high, big money in politics is legal corruption/bribery! Restore trust now \*Improve democracy, government that represents, less wasteful of taxpayers dollars, less negative campaigns

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,  
Julie Romero McKune  
Resident 68 yrs

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: for Task Force re Campaign Finance limits

---

**From:** Ellen Finkelpearl  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:27:40 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** for Task Force re Campaign Finance limits

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear members of the Charter Reform Task Force,

I am writing to urge you to recommend that the issue of campaign contribution limits be taken to the voters on the ballot in November. This is an issue that the community feels very strongly about, as demonstrated by the outpouring of outrage when, in 2021, the City Council proposed that, contrary to new limits on California statewide campaign contributions, Pasadena City Council and Mayoral candidates could accept unlimited contributions. I am appending the petition with signatures below, which is also presumably part of the city council archival records.

Although, thankfully, that proposal is no longer being considered, the state limit of \$5500 per contributor (designed for statewide races) is absurdly high and inconsistent with the limits that cities of comparable size in California have instated. When neighboring Alhambra took the issue to voters a few years ago, a limit of \$250 per contributor was set (that is also the limit for Berkeley). While that may well be too low, Torrance, for example, set a limit of \$1000. When Jonathan Mehta Stein of Common Cause spoke to the City Council in 2021 during the controversy mentioned above, he suggested that \$1000 might be a good limit for a city the size of Pasadena. He also stated that the issue of "independent expenditures" is not the problem that some allege. (A recording of that session should also be available in the archives.) I urge you to recommend to the City Council that they send to the voters an initiative that the limit should be set in the Charter at \$1000 (with some clause for adjustment for inflation).

It should be obvious that a) when large contributions are made, the donors have special interests in their candidate being elected. Personally, I do not have \$5500 to donate to anyone! Even if the elected candidate is not swayed by the generosity of the high donor, there may be the appearance of favoritism which creates an ugly political landscape. Also, b) lower limits should allow newer candidates, without connections to wealthy donors to have a chance at gaining a seat. Presumably, we all want new blood on the city council and we would like to see a broader cross-section of the city being represented. Finally, c) there should be no need for vast expenditures in a local city race. Candidates should be able to reach many of their constituents by going door to door and having their supporters do the same. This also gives the candidate a better knowledge of their district. We all dislike the constant flyers that arrive at our

doors (which are not recyclable, by the way) and I will not mention what happened in the last election cycle with some flyers....

This issue is important and needs to be taken to the voters!

Thank you for your attention and thank you for serving on the Task Force.

Ellen Finkelpearl

Pasadena

Here is a link to the petition that was sent around the last time this issue arose. Most of it is still relevant to this case.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LqBjnhyxAb-uf1UNo5jcUBifiYSG91dZz9HrHaKNU6I/edit>



## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: April 11, 2024 Pasadena Charter Study Task Force – Public Comment, Agenda 3 (Let the Voters Decide on Campaign Contribution Limits)  
**Attachments:** 20211021\_Open-Letter-re-Campaign-Finance-Reform.pdf; 20211021\_PasadenaNow\_We-Get-Letters.pdf

---

**From:** Una Jost  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:41:24 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** April 11, 2024 Pasadena Charter Study Task Force – Public Comment, Agenda 3 (Let the Voters Decide on Campaign Contribution Limits)

You don't often get email from :

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear members of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force:

It has been brought to my attention that our City of Pasadena is in the midst of reviewing and amending its Charter, and that a task force appointed by the councilmembers is examining several issues, one of which is possible limits on campaign contributions to city council and mayoral candidates.

It appears in reviewing today's agenda that the Task Force seems unaware that there was a tremendous public outcry in 2021 when the council tried to circumvent state limits and continue to impose NO limits on such contributions.

For your reference, please see attached the October 2021 "Open Letter to Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers to lead Pasadena's Fight for a Truly Inclusive Government by Implementing Urgently Needed Campaign Finance Reform" that was submitted ahead of the council's October 18, 2021 meeting urging the councilmembers to

**(i) RESCIND** the Council's August 16 vote instructing the preparation of an ordinance codifying into law unlimited campaign contributions from donors to city candidates (exploiting a loophole in state law that allows local jurisdictions to circumvent the default state donor limit, which is currently \$4,900 per contributor to city candidates); and

**(ii) PLACE** reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns, in keeping with sensible surrounding cities like Los Angeles, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, as well as dozens of local jurisdictions across Southern California. (For example, Los Angeles with a population of almost 4 million has a \$800 limit as of 2020, in contrast to Pasadena with a population of about 140,000.)

Written in strong opposition to the council's then proposed ordinance to codify NO limits on campaign contributions, the coalition of Open Letter signers includes:

- 134 Pasadena residents;
- 52 concerned residents from 15 nearby cities; and
- 10 community groups.

The October 2021 Open Letter was also published in Pasadena Now under the heading "*We Get Letters: Community Leaders, Advocates, and Residents Urge Mayor, Council to Pass Campaign Finance Reform Measure,*" available at <https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/we-get-letters-open-letter-to-pasadena-mayor-victor-gordo-and-city-councilmembers-to-lead-pasadenas-fight-for-a-truly-inclusive-government-by-implementing-urgently-needed-campaign-finance-re>, a copy of which is also attached for your reference.

Although the council's then proposed ordinance to codify NO limits on campaign contributions has been dropped, it appears that the Task Force is currently poised to codify the state limit of \$5500 per contributor, which seems excessive for a city council race in a moderately sized city such as ours, with elections run by district rather than citywide. Cities of comparable size have imposed much lower limits, e.g. Torrance with \$1000, Berkeley with \$250.

As the October 2021 Open Letter notes:

"Stricter limits would

- (i) provide incentives to candidates to build a broader base of smaller contributors to be viable;
- (ii) empower smaller donors as well as expand the pool of potential candidates to include those with no ties to big money thus enabling wider representation among the populace; and
- (iii) induce greater candidate-constituent interaction and messaging, as opposed to the current practice of blanketing a district with cookie-cutter political mailers.

It is for this reason that nonprofit public interest government reform organizations working to strengthen democracy, such as Campaign Legal Center, Brennan Center, Public Citizen, Common Cause, and California Clean Money Campaign, are all in consensus that in order to restore fairness to our political system, the passing and enforcing of strong campaign finance reforms is urgently needed to help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people, including:

- placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns;
- complete transparency of campaign spending; and
- public financing of elections.

I urge the Task Force to recommend to the council that the council take steps to **place** reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns, in keeping with sensible surrounding cities like Los Angeles, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, as well as dozens of local jurisdictions across Southern California. As you may recall, Pasadenans voted on several Pasadena Charter reforms in the recent March 5, 2024 primary election. I thus urge the Task Force to recommend to the council to allow the voters to decide on campaign finance limits, not the councilmembers, and that such vote should be on this November's ballot.

Doing so would engender trust in Pasadena city leaders and candidates and help create a City that is truly more inclusive of everyone.

Kind regards,

~ Una Lee Jost, Resident of Pasadena, District 4

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:50 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: PUBLIC COMMENT: Charter Study Task Force Meeting 4/11/24

---

**From:** Tina Fredericks  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:49:53 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT: Charter Study Task Force Meeting 4/11/24

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠]** CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hi Charter Study Task Force,

Please include this for public record for 4/11/24 Charter Study Task Force Meeting and please send a copy to each member of the Charter Study Task Force:

I'm Tina Fredericks, a mother of two teenage girls. I am a School Board Trustee of Pasadena Unified School District since 2020. My views on contribution limits are mine alone and do not represent the view of the Board as a whole. I make decisions for approximately 14,000 K-12 students, 65% or over 9000 of whom are socio-economically disadvantaged. Many of our families struggle to put a roof over their head and food on the table. Many of our students and families live in Pasadena. Lowering the contribution limit closer to what our families can afford would ensure that a campaign must rely on more small dollar donations. The economic disparity of the families in the City of Pasadena are wide. The voter turnout for the 2024 primaries was 30-40% This low turnout shows that the constituency is not engaged in the political process. Lowering the campaign limit would address voter apathy. It's the responsibility of the candidate to excite the voter, give them a reason to vote by putting forth a campaign platform that represents the needs of the constituents.

The contribution limit for the City of Los Angeles for each city council member donor is \$900. Each district represents 90,000 - 160,000 voters.

Each Pasadena City Council member who represents at most one eighth of the number of voters than a City of Los Angeles district, certainly their contribution limit should not exceed \$900.

Reducing the limit would encourage candidates to engage with more constituents. If a campaign needs to raise at least \$50,000, for a campaign limit of \$900, it would take 56 donors at \$900 to raise \$50,000

I suggest a donor limit of no more than \$900 in alignment and commensurate with City of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tina Fredericks

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
APRIL 25, 2024**

**ITEM 2  
STAFF REPORT**



To: Pasadena Charter Study Task Force

From: Jay Trevino, Director  
Al Zelinka, Director  
Shauna Clark, Special Advisor

Subject: Follow up on Campaign Contribution Limits

Date: April 25, 2024

---

## **Background**

The Task Force considered contribution limits on March 28, 2024. After deliberations, a motion was made and seconded to recommend leaving Pasadena's default limits in place. However, the vote was not concluded because a member of the Task Force asked Baker Tilly for data on the comparison cities to see if there is a causal connection between low limits and independent expenditures.

### ***Advocating for low contribution limits***

The topic of lowering contribution limits was initially discussed by the City Council and the Legislative Policy Committee when AB 571 was signed into law. Prior to AB 571, the City of Pasadena had no contribution limits and the City Council sought to maintain the status quo of no limits. However, due to strong opposition by members of the public and representatives of Common Cause, the City Council took no action and allowed statewide campaign contribution limits to take effect. When Charter Study topics were being finalized, the Council asked the Task Force to study the issue and provide a recommendation on whether the City should change its contribution limits.

Common Cause and community advocates have asserted that capping donations would decrease the disparity in campaign funding. There is a common belief that low limits reduce the fundraising advantage of incumbents by forcing them to reach out to a broader pool of smaller donors. It is the position of these groups that the City should adopt even lower limits than those required by AB 571.

Baker Tilly found studies recommending lowering contribution limits in federal and state elections to reduce the influence of large donors with elected officials. We did not find one proving a direct connection between lowering limits and larger candidate pools.

### ***Opposing low limits***

The counterpoint is that lowering contribution limits will not level out the financial resources available to candidates because of Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs). The coffers of IECs will expand because they provide a legal avenue for donors to give unlimited funds to support or oppose candidates for local races. Those funds can boost or overwhelm a candidate's presence with voters through the purchase of communications including mailers, advertising, and social media posts. Neither the State of California nor any local government has the power to rein in independent expenditures. As a result, monies from large donors will continue to influence the political landscape.

### **The importance of Transparency**

One argument in favor of higher limits is that they continue the contribution connection between donor and candidate, which makes elections more transparent. In Pasadena, as with other cities that follow default state limits, transactions up to \$5,500 appear on the candidate's financial disclosure reports. The City Clerk makes those reports available online and accessible to the public. In cities with low limits, a \$5,500 donation would be made to an IEC, in which case the names and amounts given by donors can be obscured through a series of legal maneuvers. Many observers would be unaware that an independent group is buying ads and paying for mailers on behalf of a campaign they have been following.

Transparency improves the application of anti-corruption safeguards such as the Taxpayer Protection Act and the Levine Act. Preventing an advantage gained through political contributions relies on knowing who donors and recipients are. Because donors can take cover by contributing to PACs that donate to IECs, the elected official could be unaware and inadvertently vote on a contributor's project. As previously mentioned, IECs operate independently of candidates so there is no campaign "contribution."<sup>1</sup>

### ***Methodology for Comparative Analysis before and after Contribution Limits***

The first step in finding a causal connection between limits and independent expenditures in the comparison cities was to find the date each comparison city adopted contribution limits. Eight cities had local contribution limits, but six adopted them last century. (see column 4 in table 1). Baker Tilly decided to use Burbank because the adoption of low limits occurred closest to AB 571.

---

<sup>1</sup> State law forbids coordinating independent expenditures with a campaign or officeholder.

Table 1. Comparison Cities – Contribution Limits and Adoption Dates

City	Population	Contribution Limits	Adoption date
<b>Pasadena</b>	<b>136,988</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>AB 571</b>
Anaheim	328,580	\$2,500	1999
Berkeley	123,562	\$ 250	1974
Burbank	104,535	\$ 500	2020
Glendale	191,284	\$1,340	2008
Long Beach	458,222	\$ 500	1994
Santa Ana	299,630	\$1,000	1992
Santa Barbara	85,418	\$5,500	AB 571
Santa Monica	91,720	\$ 410	1992
Torrance	143,057	\$1,000	1992

Finding cause and effect requires selecting a control group, identifying an intervention, and choosing a variable group. In this study, the control group is campaign spending in 2017, the intervention is the adoption of contribution limits, and the variable is the campaign expenditures in 2022.

Data collection was consistent for both groups. Baker Tilly researched campaign and independent expenditures of candidates within four months before and one month after each election cycle. We combined independent expenditures attributed to a candidate with campaign expenditures, then inserted colors in the place of names.

Table 2. Burbank election expenditures before and after the adoption of the \$500 contribution limit

Election Year 2017 – Control Group				Election Year 2022 – Variable Group			
Name	Transactions	Spent	Average	Name	Transactions	Spent	Average
Mr. Red	13	\$1,711	\$132	Ms. Violet	235	\$76,110	\$324
Mr. Orange	109	\$23,480	\$215	Ms. Gold	42	\$9,517	\$227
Mr. Yellow	16	\$2,400	\$150	Ms. Black	170	\$71,975	\$423
Mr. Blue	51	\$14,050	\$275	Mr. White	74	\$13,625	\$184
Ms. Green	55	\$11,195	\$204	Ms. Green	96	\$32,582	\$339
Ms. Indigo	34	\$11,101	\$327				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>\$63,937</b>	<b>\$230</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>\$203,809</b>	<b>\$330</b>
<b>Average per campaign</b>		<b>\$10,656</b>		<b>Average per campaign</b>		<b>\$40,762</b>	

Table notes:

1. The table is divided in half. The left side is for election year 2017 and the right side is for year 2022
2. The “Transactions” columns show the number of expenditures made by candidates and by IECs
3. The “Spent” columns show the combination of campaign funds and independent expenditures
4. The “Average” columns show the money spent, divided by the number of transactions for an average
5. The bottom row is the average money spent per candidate—in other words, the average “cost” of a campaign during the 2017 and 2022 election cycles.

There were 278 transactions in 2017. In 2022, with one fewer candidate, transactions more than doubled to 617. The average transaction rose from \$230 to \$330. In 2017,

there were six candidates and each campaign cost \$10,656 on average. In 2022, the average campaign cost was \$40,672. Ms. Green ran twice. In the first race she spent \$11,000 and in the second, \$32,000. In the 2022 election cycle, one IEC spent \$34,000 to support Ms. Black.

### *Independent Expenditures in the State of California*

One case study cannot prove a causal relationship between contribution limits and diversion of donor monies to Independent Expenditure Committees, so we looked for more data. Table 3 presents an overview of independent expenditures on behalf of candidates from 2001 to 2024. To be clear, the data presented here pertains to all races – state, county, and local. The numbers are rounded.

Table 3. Increase in IEC donations for all candidates from 2001 to 2024

	2001-2002	Inflation adjusted	Actual 2023-2024	Actual over adjusted	Percentage increase
Total amount of expenditures made on behalf of candidates	\$9,300,000	\$14,197,000	\$45,000,000	\$30,803,000	217%
Average amount of each transaction	\$5,500	\$8,400	\$28,100	\$19,700	235%

Source: The Secretary of State's CalAccess website

In election cycle 2001-2002, IECs reportedly spent \$9.3 million on behalf of candidates. The average transaction (expenditure) was \$5,500. In 2023-2024, IECs spent \$45.0 million on candidate races for an approximate average of \$28,100 per transaction. How much of that increase was due to inflation? The \$9.3 million of 2001 adjusted for inflation would be \$14,197,000 in 2024. If \$5,500 in 2001 were adjusted by inflation, it would be \$8,400. The table compares 2001, expenditures adjusted for inflation, with 2024 expenditures. Over 23 years, total independent expenditures supporting or opposing candidates grew by 217% and the average transaction increased by 235%.

### **Why did IEC expenditures grow?**

By 2021, the State of California, all 482 cities, and fifty-eight counties had limits either by adoption or default. We think that AB 571 had an impact. Prior to that, many cities and counties had no contribution limits, but contribution limits cannot be the only reason that independent expenditures are increasing. There has been a rise in politically charged issues that have brought in new donors to local campaigns. Issues such as retail cannabis, homelessness, rent control and tenants' rights, as well as public safety, social justice, and union participation have all had an impact on politics and political spending.

### **Expenditure Limits**

The best and perhaps only way to level the playing field is to adopt expenditure limits. The problem is the Buckley v. Valeo decision of 1976. In Buckley, the Supreme Court



found that limits on individuals' independent expenditures violate the First Amendment.

There are jurisdictions that have voluntary spending limits. They provide incentives for agreeing to limits. These may include higher single contribution limits, matching funds, and notification to the voters that the candidate is participating in the program. The City of Santa Clara provides an array of incentives to candidates who agree to curb spending and not to accept large donations.<sup>2</sup>

### *Summing up the points and counter points*

The following comments are not the opinions of Baker Tilly. They reflect statements by others and studies we read.

Advantages of adopting Low Limits	Advantages of retaining the Default Limit
Low limits give the appearance that a city wants to invite more challengers into local races	Campaign spending caps alone, without public financing, do not significantly impact election competitiveness
Low limits help allay public concerns about the influences of large donors, making voters more confident that elected officials will represent their constituents rather than special interests	Although building a broad base is a worthy goal, a working-class person or a parent who cannot afford the time to go door to door will find it hard to collect enough small donations to be competitive
Low limits encourage candidates to build broader bases of support	The current limits increase transparency by making it easy to see how campaigns are being funded
Low limits are credited for reducing the overall expenditures made in local campaigns	Low limits cannot curtail total spending because IECs are not concerned about the cost of elections
	The adoption of lower limits would require the City to create new policy and process for enforcement of the lower limits and the Political Reform Act, which could lead to politicization of City staff

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.santaclaraca.gov/our-city/departments-a-f/city-clerk-s-office/voluntary-campaign-expenditure-limit>

**Observations:**

- Both can be true – low limits bring challengers into local races, and low limits drive donations to Independent Expenditure Committees
- Low limits do not ensure challengers will win their elections
- Given the recent political climate, there may be no contribution limit high enough to discourage donors from funding IECs
- Limits help allay public concerns about the influence of money but have not proven to reduce corruption in cities like Los Angeles
- Big donors and IECs do not always favor incumbents
- The assertion that capping donations would decrease the disparity in campaign funding cannot be true until jurisdictions can cap independent expenditures
- IECs do not always support incumbents. In Los Angeles, the police union spent \$100,000 and a real estate company put in \$400,000 to defeat the same incumbent councilmember.<sup>3</sup>

**Sample Recommendations** (copied from the March 28 report)

- A. No action
- B. Recommend retaining the FPPC default limits
- C. Recommend that the Mayor and Council enact an ordinance (or Charter Amendment) adopting campaign contribution limits in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Mayor's race, and \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Council races, per election, including provisions for adjusting those limits in odd-numbered years by the regional CPI

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2024-02-10/la-on-the-record-big-spending-in-los-angeles-elections-l-a-on-the-record>



# Do Contribution Limits Increase IEs?

## *State Regulation of Local Campaign Finance and its Impact on Independent Expenditures*

By Zoe Klingmann  
Prepared for California Common Cause  
December 14, 2023



### Executive summary

This report analyzes the impacts of Assembly Bill 571, which set default contribution limits for all local elections in California. We compare campaign spending during the 2018 and 2022 elections to evaluate whether the new limits caused an increase in independent expenditures. Looking at a sample of large- and medium-population cities in California, we find no evidence that independent expenditures have increased among cities affected by AB 571. At the same time, a comparison group of cities that were unaffected by AB 571 did see an increase in independent spending. These findings suggest that the new contribution limits have not led to a change in independent expenditures, though the sample size is small.

### Background

Before 2021, local governments in California set their own campaign contribution limits for local political races. Many did not set any limits at all. As of 2016, less than a quarter of cities (109 cities) had limits on contributions, with per-election amounts ranging from \$100 to \$4,200.<sup>1</sup>

In 2019, the California state legislature adopted Assembly Bill 571 (Stats. 2019, Ch. 556, AB 571 Mullin), which set “default” contribution limits for local elections. In all cities and counties where there was not already a local contribution limit, donors would be restricted to a maximum of \$4,700 per candidate per election.<sup>2</sup> Cities that

<sup>1</sup> Nicolas Heidorn, “No Limits: Campaign Contributions in Local Elections” (Common Cause), accessed October 1, 2023, <https://www.commoncause.org/california/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2018/06/CA-Contribution-Limits-Report-Apr-2016.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> This amount is the same as the contribution limit for candidates in state legislative races. It adjusts biennially to the consumer price index. <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/state-contribution-limits.html>

already had their own contribution limits were not affected.<sup>3</sup> The bill went into effect in January 2021.

While contribution limits enjoy broad support among the public, critics have raised concerns about their potential unintended consequences, arguing that limits on contributions simply lead donors to funnel their money into independent spending. Unlike contributions, independent expenditures cannot be legally limited or prohibited according to U.S. Supreme Court precedent. Such spending is often considered to be less accountable and less transparent than contributions to and spending by candidates.<sup>4</sup>

## Methodology

In order to analyze the impact of AB 571, we track election spending in California cities between the 2018 elections and the 2022 elections, the first election after the law went into effect.<sup>5</sup> We compare the trend in cities affected by AB 571 to the trend in cities unaffected by AB 571 to ensure that any changes were not caused by unrelated factors like statewide political trends.

Due to the challenges of collecting data about local campaign finance, we focused data collection on the largest cities, where we would most expect to see the impacts of the new limits. The sample includes cities with a population of over 150,000 where data was available<sup>6</sup>, as well as a sample of cities with populations between 50,000 and 150,000.

For each city in the sample, we matched a “control city” with similar government structure (at-large vs. district elections, strong mayor vs. council-manager system), population size, and level of independent expenditures per candidate at baseline. These control cities had contribution limits in affect both before and after the passage of AB 571, with amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,650 per election, and were unaffected by its passage.

We collected data from publicly available Fair Political Practices Commission filings, recording the amount of spending or contributions for the calendar year that included the election.<sup>7</sup> A full list of the matched sample cities and descriptive statistics can be found in the Appendix.

---

3 The bill does not preempt cities from setting their own limits that are lower or higher than that statewide default. After the passage of AB 571, 33 cities subsequently passed ordinances setting their own campaign finance limits (17 with higher or no limits, the rest with lower limits). These cities have been excluded from analysis.

4 For example: Ben Christopher and Sameea Kamal, “A Gusher of Campaign Cash: Industry Groups Give Big in California Legislative Races,” *CalMatters*, November 3, 2022, <http://calmatters.org/politics/2022/11/california-campaign-finance-industry-legislature/>.

5 A few cities use off-year elections for city positions. For these cities, we collected data for the 2017/2021 election and for the 2019/2023 elections.

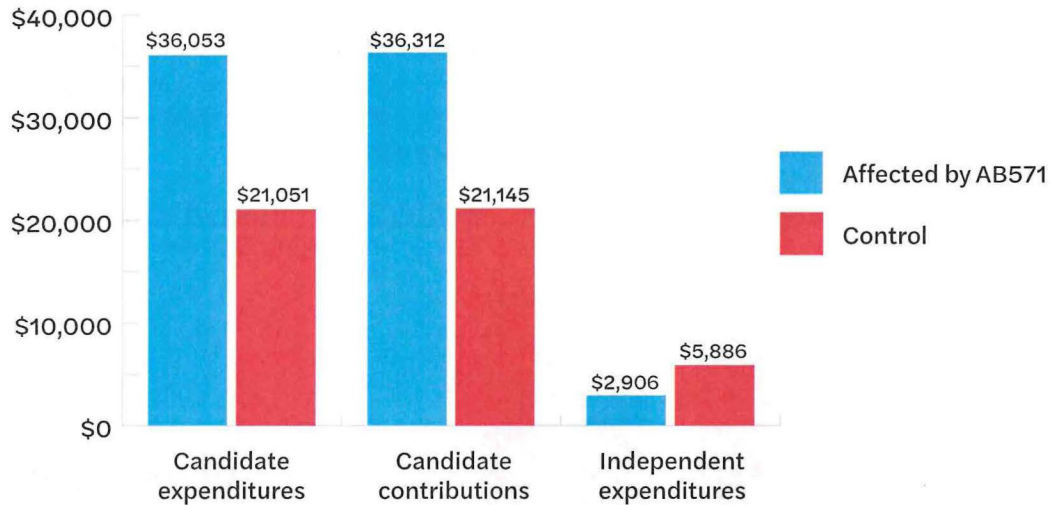
6 Starting in 2021, cities were required to post campaign finance forms on their website (Stats. 2020, Ch. 214, AB 2151 Gallagher). However, posting campaign finance information from prior elections remains optional, and we were unable to collect data from cities without forms from the 2018 election.

7 We used data only from races that recurred across both election years (e.g., money spent running for the Council District 1 seat in 2018 and 2022).

## Descriptive statistics

**Average spending and contributions.** Across the two election periods, the average candidate spent about \$28,552, while there was an average of \$4,396 per candidate in independent expenditures. The cities that were affected by AB 571 had higher candidate contributions and expenditures over the two years. This difference may be explained by the fact that the control cities had stricter contribution limits in place during both election cycles, but could also reflect differences in political culture or election competitiveness between the two groups of cities.

Average Campaign Spending and Contributions (matched sample)



**Spending across cities and elections.** The amount of independent expenditures varied widely. Nearly half of all races (46%) had no independent expenditures at all. Every election, with the exception of Lake Forest in 2018, had more candidate spending than independent expenditures. (For a complete list of cities in this study, see this report's Appendix.)

### City Elections with Highest Independent Expenditures per Candidate

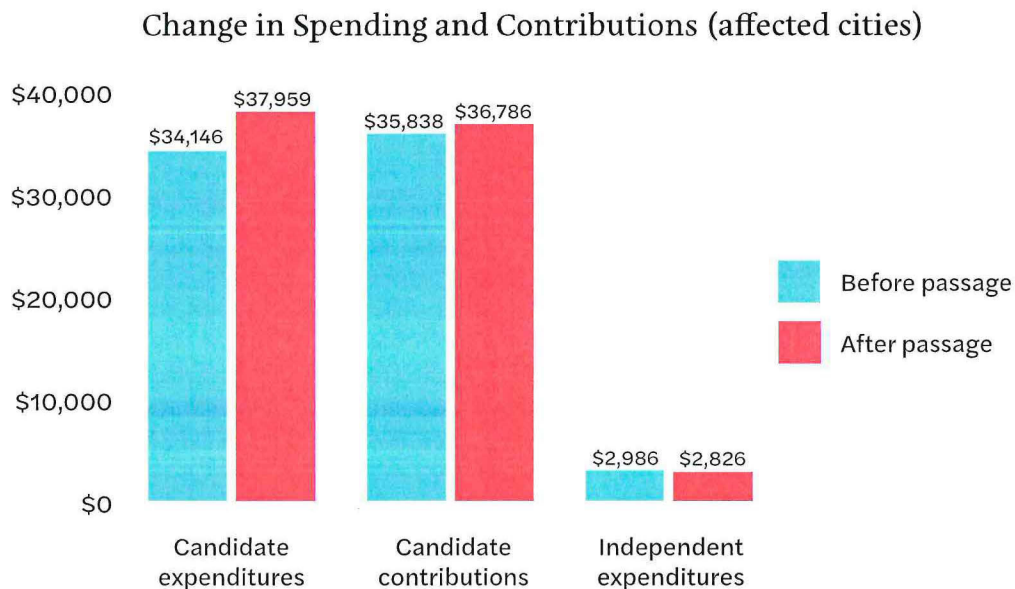
City	Election year	Number of candidates	IEs per candidate	Ratio of IEs to candidate spending
Chula Vista	2022	20	\$56,194	0.88
Sacramento	2022	13	\$28,821	0.29
Lake Forest	2018	5	\$23,877	2.29
Encinitas	2018	6	\$8,466	0.47
San Bernardino	2022	15	\$7,763	0.11
Chula Vista	2018	14	\$7,498	0.23
Alameda	2022	9	\$7,365	0.35
Oceanside	2022	10	\$6,639	0.32
West Covina	2022	12	\$5,087	0.57
Encinitas	2022	10	\$4,730	0.26

The number of candidates per election ranged from two to twenty. On average, the cities affected by AB 571 and the control cities had about the same number of candidates per open seat (2.9). However, the control cities had more seats open for election (3.3 vs. 2.5).

The elections with the highest independent expenditures per candidates also tended to have high numbers of candidates running for office, probably reflecting that these elections were more competitive. Because there was variation in the number of candidates and the number of seats up per election, the analysis below discusses the amount of spending or contributions per candidate to allow for direct comparison.

## Impacts of AB 571

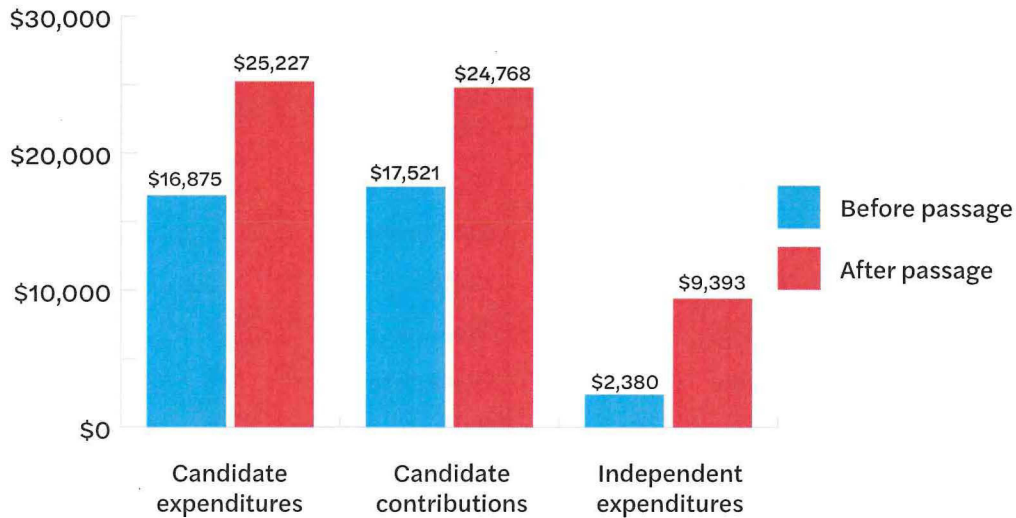
**Independent expenditures changed very little among cities affected by AB 571.** In the election before the passage of AB 571, committees in treated cities spent an average of \$2,986 per candidate in independent expenditures. After the law went into effect, they spent an average of \$2,826. The chart below shows spending and contributions before and after the passage of AB 571 in these cities.



Candidate contributions and expenditures among cities affected by AB 571 also stayed relatively steady, though expenditures appear to have gone up slightly. This may suggest that the new contribution limit is not binding for most contributors in these cities, since we might expect to see a reduction in contributions if donors were changing their behavior in response. However, more analysis with contributor-level data would be required to draw conclusions about how AB 571 affected individual contributions.

**Cities not affected by AB 571 did see an increase in independent expenditures.** Before the passage of AB 571, committees in cities that already had contribution limits spent an average of \$2,380 per candidate, which more than doubled to \$9,383 per candidate in the following election. These cities also saw candidate contributions and expenditures increasing, so this may suggest a larger trend of more competitive elections among these cities.

## Change in Spending and Contributions (control cities)



### Discussion

This analysis suggests that new local contribution limits have not led to an increase in independent expenditures among large cities in California. Cities affected by the new limits saw no increase in independent spending. There were increases in independent spending only among cities unaffected by AB 571.

There are several sources of uncertainty in this data. This is a small sample size (n=22) due to the lack of available data for many cities, and most of the differences displayed in this report do not reach statistical significance. However, expanding the sample would require including cities with smaller populations, which may be even less likely to see impacts from AB 571 limits.

In addition, these conclusions may not generalize to elections with lower contribution limits. The limits imposed by AB 571 are relatively high—a donor giving the \$4700 maximum to the average candidate in this data would be funding about a quarter of their total campaign budget—and may not be binding for many contributors. It is not clear that the same would be true for elections with stricter contribution limits. More analysis would be required to understand how AB 571 affected individual donors and how lower limits may operate in other contexts.

## Appendix

### Cities Included in Matched Sample

Affected by AB 571	Control cities
Alameda	Dublin
Bakersfield	Sacramento
Chino Hills	Watsonville
Eastvale	Santee
Lake Forest	Encinitas
Oceanside	Santa Rosa
Rancho Cucamonga	Fremont
San Bernardino	Chula Vista
Santa Barbara	Redondo Beach
Sunnyvale	West Covina
Tracy	Milpitas

### Matched City Sample Descriptive Statistics

	Affected by AB 571 (n=11)	Control cities (n=11)
Mean population (2020)	147,623	156,149
Mean IEs per candidate at baseline	\$2,986	\$2,326
Mean races per year	2.5	3.3
Mean percentage white (2020)	36.0%	36.5%
Mean percentage Hispanic (2020)	35.0%	31.0%
Mean median income (2019)	\$92,883	\$99,112
Proportion in northern California	27%	45%





OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk *mj*  
**DATE:** April 25, 2024  
**RE:** Requested Data on Independent Expenditures in other cities

**CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The matter of Campaign Contribution Limits was first discussed by the Charter Study Task Force on March 28, 2024, with the members requesting additional information on the effects of independent expenditures in recent elections in peer cities that have adopted campaign contribution limits more restrictive than the state limits set by AB571.

To address this request, City staff is providing the attached spreadsheets with information provided on contributions and expenditures made and received by City Council candidates, as well as expenditures made by Independent Expenditure Committees in support and opposition to each candidate. This data was collected from the following cities (and election cycles):

- Anaheim for the 2020 and 2022 Election Cycles
- Burbank for the 2020 and 2022 Election Cycles
- Irvine for the 2020 and 2022 Election Cycles
- Santa Ana for the 2020 and 2022 Election Cycles

Data for Pasadena's campaign finance activities is provided for the 2020, 2022, and 2024 Election Cycles for comparative purposes. The recent 2024 Election Cycle data is incomplete as the filings for the period covering February 18, 2024 through June 30, 2024 is not due until July 31, 2024.

The above cities were chosen randomly by staff, as they are often used as comparative cities by Pasadena for various employee and administrative studies. These cities also utilize the NetFile campaign filing system, which is used by Pasadena and is familiar to City staff.

Following are some observations regarding transparency issues and the process for compiling the data provided in the attached spreadsheets:

- The method of filing (submitted paper forms vs. electronically filed forms) affects the summary reports generated by the system, whereby data contained on paper filed forms are not captured in the summary reports
- Amendments to reports also affect the accuracy of summary reports, in some cases causing double reporting for the same transaction
- Candidate Committee expenditures for unsuccessful candidates includes end of election cycle activity, including disbursement of remaining campaign funds in order to close the campaign bank account and terminate the committee – this affected expenditure totals for some candidates

Staff provides this memo and related materials for information only. Staff is available to respond to questions and to provide further information on the requested data collected and presented with the memorandum.

**CITY OF ANAHEIM - 2020 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2020 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
D1 - Ryan Balius	\$ 9,000	\$ 17,140	\$ -	\$ -
D1 - Denise Barnes	\$ 20,045	\$ 18,908	\$ -	\$ 148,279
<b>D1 - Jose Diaz</b>	\$ 55,585	\$ 79,690	\$ 317,202	\$ -
D4 - Julie Burnette	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - Ron Kring	\$ -	\$ 825	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - Annemarie Randle-Trejo	\$ 11,383	\$ 8,883	\$ -	\$ 106,926
D4 - Jeanine Robbins	\$ 6,674	\$ 9,446	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D4 - Avelino Valencia III</b>	\$ 119,425	\$ 102,093	\$ 469,552	\$ -
D5 - Kenneth Batiste	\$ 12,271	\$ 18,562	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D5 - Stephen Faessel</b>	\$ 87,751	\$ 147,558	\$ 545,162	\$ -
D5 - Ana R. Martinez	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D5 - Sabrina Quezada	\$ 7,389	\$ 8,280	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 329,523</b>	<b>\$ 411,385</b>	<b>\$ 1,331,916</b>	<b>\$ 255,205</b>

\*Note - J. Burnette and A. Martinez only filed 501, no other statements

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

<b>Contribution Limit: \$2,100</b>	<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$ 411,385
	<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 1,587,121
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 1,998,506</u>
	<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	21%
	<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	79%

**CITY OF ANAHEIM - 2022 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2022 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
D2 - Rodolfo Goana	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D2 - Rida Hamida	\$ 13,151	\$ 12,114	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D2 - Carlos Leon</b>	\$ 62,704	\$ 48,487	\$ 80,375	\$ 21,975
D2 - Gloria Ma'ae	\$ 104,520	\$ 104,376	\$ 488,634	\$ -
D3 - Alkamalee "Al" Jabbar	\$ 78,443	\$ 113,128	\$ 37,412	\$ -
D3 - Tony Martin	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D3 - Robert Nelson	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D3 - Natalie Rubalcava</b>	\$ 134,766	\$ 150,240	\$ 516,137	\$ -
D6 - Hari Lal	\$ 76,958	\$ 102,869	\$ -	\$ 5,668
<b>D6 - Natalie Meeks</b>	\$ 80,012	\$ 75,487	\$ 657,770	\$ -
<b>M - Ashleigh Aitken</b>	\$ 331,213	\$ 497,187	\$ 364,939	\$ 270,310
M - Lorri Galloway	\$ 38,530	\$ 47,985	\$ 134,683	\$ -
M - Dick Lopez	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
M - Trevor O'Neil	\$ 296,129	\$ 301,099	\$ 27,968	\$ -
M - Harry Sidhu	\$ 35,449	\$ 305,449	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 1,251,875	\$ 1,758,421	\$ 2,307,918	\$ 297,953

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

\*Note - R.Goana, D. Lopez, T. Martin, and R. Nelson only filed 501, no other statements

	<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$ 1,758,421
<b>Contribution Limit: \$2,200</b>	<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 2,605,871
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 4,364,292</u>
	<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	40%
	<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	60%

**CITY OF BURBANK - 2020 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2020 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
<b>Konstantine Anthony</b>	\$ 52,820	\$ 56,277	\$ -	\$ -
Linda Bessin	\$ 15,144	\$ 15,995	\$ -	\$ -
Michael Gogin	\$ 8,320	\$ 8,845	\$ -	\$ -
Paul Herman	\$ 53,167	\$ 53,167	\$ 15,727	\$ -
Sharis Manokian	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Timothy Murphy	\$ 17,670	\$ 14,519	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Nicolas Schultz</b>	\$ 36,185	\$ 42,709	\$ -	\$ -
Tamala Takahashi	\$ 24,725	\$ 29,128	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 208,031	\$ 220,640	\$ 15,727	\$ -

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

**Contribution Limit: \$500**

<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$ 220,640
<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 15,727
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 236,367</u>

<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	93%
<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	7%

**CITY OF BURBANK - 2022 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2022 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
Carmen Helligar	\$ 10,442	\$ 5,560	\$ 10,355	\$ -
<b>Zizette Mullins</b>	\$ 80,772	\$ 72,788	\$ 45,221	\$ -
<b>Nicole Perez</b>	\$ 41,760	\$ 44,607	\$ 62,459	\$ 23,446
Christopher Rizzotti	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sharon Springer	\$ 33,006	\$ 33,394	\$ 10,355	\$ -
<b>Talama Takahashi</b>	\$ 17,902	\$ 19,729	\$ 34,865	\$ -
	\$ 183,882	\$ 176,078	\$ 163,255	\$ 23,446

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

<b>Contribution Limit: \$500</b>	<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$ 176,078
	<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 186,701
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 362,779</u>
	<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	49%
	<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	51%

**CITY OF IRVINE - 2020 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2020 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
<b>Larry Agran</b>	\$ 34,225	\$ 90,093	\$ -	\$ 108,941
Laura Bratton	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Michael Carroll</b>	\$ 37,460	\$ 159,062	\$ 278,650	\$ -
Christina Dillard	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Melissa Fox	\$ 167	\$ 512	\$ -	\$ -
Anshul Garg	\$ 1,010	\$ 3,343	\$ -	\$ -
Dylan Green	\$ 1,254	\$ 1,254	\$ -	\$ -
Diana Jiang	\$ 16,756	\$ 167,723	\$ -	\$ -
Lauren Johnson-Norris	\$ 67,943	\$ 99,714	\$ 2,500	\$ -
<b>Tammy Kim</b>	\$ 65,856	\$ 98,266	\$ 13,613	\$ 122,816
Hai Liang	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mark Newgent	\$ 14,923	\$ 14,944	\$ -	\$ -
Carrie O'Malley	\$ 22,192	\$ 70,869	\$ 11,011	\$ -
John Park	\$ 56,923	\$ 56,923	\$ 18,025	\$ -
Abigail Pole	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
M - Gang Chen	\$ -	\$ 276	\$ -	\$ -
M - Katherine Diagle	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
M - Luis Huang	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>M - Farrah Khan</b>	\$ 132,355	\$ 132,405	\$ 12,065	\$ -
M - Christina Shea	\$ 37,616	\$ 54,026	\$ 178,492	\$ -
	\$ 488,680	\$ 949,410	\$ 514,356	\$ 231,757

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

\*Note - 5 candidates filed 501s and/or nothing to report

	<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$ 949,410
	<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 746,113
<b>Contribution Limit: \$530</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 1,695,523</u>

<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	56%
<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	44%

**CITY OF IRVINE - 2022 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2022 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
<b>CC - Larry Agran</b>	\$ 41,953	\$ 41,629	\$ -	\$ 80,247
CC - Anshul Garg	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
CC - Scott Hansen	\$ 3,325	\$ 22,877	\$ 14,998	-
CC - Anthony Kuo	\$ 64,594	\$ 86,043	\$ 173,476	-
CC - John Park	\$ 49,559	\$ 65,413	\$ 133,321	-
CC - Navid Sadigh	\$ 1,265	\$ 2,122	\$ -	-
CC - Christina Shea	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
<b>CC - Kathleen Treseder</b>	\$ 39,502	\$ 139,690	\$ 14,526	\$ 22,700
M - Tom Chomyn	\$ 9,501	\$ 11,877	\$ -	-
M - Katherine Diagle	\$ 925	\$ 1,785	\$ -	-
M - Luis Huang	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
<b>M - Farrah Khan</b>	\$ 45,780	\$ 110,957	\$ 71,867	-
M - Branda Lin	\$ 53,349	\$ 53,349	\$ -	\$ 28,754
M - Simon Moon	\$ 72,501	\$ 72,501	\$ 4,529	-
	\$ 382,254	\$ 608,243	\$ 412,717	\$ 131,701

\*Note - C. Shea only filed 501, no other statements

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

	<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$ 608,243
<b>Contribution Limit: \$550</b>	<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 544,418
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,661</b>
	<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	53%
	<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	47%



**CITY OF SANTA ANA - 2020 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2020 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
D1 - Antonio Adame	\$ 24,793	\$ 28,568	\$ -	\$ -
D1 - Cynthia Contreras Leo	\$ 32,796	\$ 32,796	\$ 7,000	\$ -
D1 - Thomas Gordon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D1 - Thai Phan</b>	\$ 60,428	\$ 69,298	\$ 12,917	\$ 33,613
D3 - Jeffrey Katz	\$ 14,874	\$ 15,672	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D3 - Jessie Lopez</b>	\$ 22,092	\$ 28,360	\$ 18,910	\$ -
D3 - Jose Maduena	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D3 - Mark McLoughlin	\$ 48,072	\$ 102,005	\$ 26,622	\$ -
D3 - Danny Vega	\$ 929	\$ 3,632	\$ -	\$ -
D3 - Janelle Welker	\$ 12,117	\$ 32,079	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D5 - Johnathan Hernandez</b>	\$ 19,211	\$ 23,526	\$ 2,167	\$ -
D5 - Victor Mendez	\$ 6,334	\$ 7,194	\$ 10,123	\$ -
D5 - Juan Villegas	\$ 33,809	\$ 39,531	\$ 26,665	\$ -
M - Claudia Alvarez	\$ 70,842	\$ 78,118	\$ -	\$ 4,250
M - David Benavides	\$ -	\$ 1,150	\$ -	\$ -
M - George Collins	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
M - Cecilia Iglesias	\$ 35,007	\$ 41,507	\$ -	\$ 42,786
M - Mark Lopez	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>M - Vicente Sarmiento</b>	\$ 90,875	\$ 110,548	\$ 21,200	\$ 34,909
M - Jose Solorio	\$ 236,660	\$ 256,762	\$ 129,099	\$ -
	\$ 708,839	\$ 870,746	\$ 254,703	\$ 115,558

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

\*Note - T. Gordon, J. Maduena, G. Collins, and M. Lopez only filed 501s

\*IE Reports: \$181,515 Electronic \$188,746 Paper

<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$	870,746
<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$	370,261
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<u>1,241,007</u>

**Contribution Limit: \$1000**

<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	70%
<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	30%

**CITY OF SANTA ANA - 2022 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2022 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
D2 - Nileda Mendoza	\$ 48,242	\$ 32,167	\$ 200,187	\$ -
D2 - Luis Mier	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D2 - Benjamin Vasquez</b>	\$ 25,978	\$ 26,387	\$ -	\$ 7,641
<b>D4 - Phil Bacerra</b>	\$ 57,623	\$ 55,840	\$ 206,800	\$ -
D4 - Amalia Mejia	\$ 9,606	\$ 11,960	\$ -	\$ -
D6 - Manny Escamilla	\$ 28,680	\$ 31,127	\$ 1,771	\$ 18,167
<b>D6 - David Penalosa</b>	\$ 55,906	\$ 81,457	\$ 255,290	\$ -
<b>M - Valerie Amezcua</b>	\$ 80,568	\$ 80,504	\$ 414,370	\$ -
M - Mark Lopez	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
M - Jesse Nestor	\$ 225	\$ 1,667	\$ -	\$ -
M - Vicente Sarmiento	\$ -	\$ 27,656	\$ -	\$ 31,500
M - Jose Solorio	\$ 31,126	\$ 172,747	\$ -	\$ -
M - Sal Tinajero	\$ 39,574	\$ 93,341	\$ 2,628	\$ -
	\$ 377,528	\$ 614,853	\$ 1,081,046	\$ 57,308

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed  
 \*Note - M. Lopez, and L. Mier only filed 501s

<b>Total Spent by Candidate</b>	\$ 614,853
<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$ 1,138,354
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 1,753,207</u>

**Contribution Limit: \$1000**

<b>Percentage Spent by C</b>	35%
<b>Percentage Spent by IE</b>	65%

**CITY OF PASADENA - 2020 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2020 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
<b>D1 - Tyron Hampton</b>	\$ 1,000	\$ 8,155	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D2 - Felicia Williams</b>	\$ 41,853	\$ 56,106	\$ 8,099	\$ -
D2 - Bo Patatian	\$ 16,597	\$ 6,855	\$ -	\$ -
D2 - Tricia Keane	\$ 22,784	\$ 46,900	\$ -	\$ -
D2 - Kevin Litwin	\$ 6,200	\$ 8,495	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - Joe Baghdadlian	\$ 7,124	\$ 54,136	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - Charlotte Bland	\$ 34,538	\$ 35,813	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - Kevin Wheeler	\$ -	\$ 577	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D4 - Gene Masuda</b>	\$ 250	\$ 39,716	\$ 19,899	\$ -
D6 - Ryan Bell	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D6 - Tamerlin Godley	\$ 86,713	\$ 98,090	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D6 - Steve Madison</b>	\$ 95,275	\$ 127,272	\$ 22,147	\$ -
<b>M - Victor Gordo*</b>	\$ 572,076	\$ 642,385	\$ -	\$ -
M - Jason Hardin	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
M - Major Williams	\$ 7,828	\$ 8,886	\$ -	\$ -
M - Terry Tornek*	\$ 314,300	\$ 363,190	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 1,206,538	\$ 1,496,576	\$ 50,145	\$ -

\*Note - Mayoral Amounts Incorporate Run-Off

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$	1,496,576
<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$	50,145
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<u>1,546,721</u>

<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	97%
<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	3%

**CITY OF PASADENA - 2022 ELECTION CYCLE**

<b>2022 Election Cycle Candidates</b>	<b>Contributions Received</b>	<b>Expenditures Made</b>	<b>IE in Support</b>	<b>IE in Opposition</b>
<b>D3 - John Kennedy</b>	\$ 101,759	\$ 290,065	\$ 26,135	\$ -
D3 - Brandon Lamar	\$ 5,375	\$ 7,998	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D5 - Jessica Rivas</b>	\$ 9,545	\$ 17,759	\$ -	\$ -
D7 - Ciran Hadjian	\$ 66,412	\$ 69,772	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D7 - Jason Lyon</b>	\$ 65,006	\$ 104,201	\$ 30,050	\$ -
D7 - Allen Shay	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,999	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 249,097	\$ 494,794	\$ 56,185	\$ -

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed

<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$	494,794
<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$	56,185
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<u>550,979</u>

<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	90%
<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	10%

**CITY OF PASADENA - 2024 ELECTION CYCLE**

2024 Election Cycle Candidates	Contributions Received	Expenditures Made		IE in Support	IE in Opposition	
<b>D1 - Tyron Hampton</b>	\$	6,758	\$	2,684	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D2 - Rick Cole</b>	\$	30,519	\$	34,610	\$ -	\$ -
D2 - Aaron Millam	\$	3,000	\$	3,060	\$ -	\$ -
D2 - Felicia Williams	\$	36,924	\$	92,213	\$ 23,149	\$ -
<b>D3 - Justin Jones</b>	\$	17,446	\$	33,786	\$ 9,718	\$ -
D3 - Brandon Lamar	\$	14,225	\$	21,761	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - John Doyle	\$	6,633	\$	12,453	\$ -	\$ -
D4 - Jonathan Horton	\$	10,442	\$	25,971	\$ -	\$ -
<b>D4 - Gene Masuda</b>	\$	20,500	\$	28,488	\$ 13,088	\$ -
<b>D6 - Steve Madison</b>	\$	1,000	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
<b>M - Victor Gordo</b>	\$	43,820	\$	85,894	\$ -	\$ -
M - Allen Shay	\$	100	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
	\$	191,367	\$	340,920	\$ 45,955	\$ -

<b>Total Spent by Candidates</b>	\$	340,920
<b>Total Spent by IEC's</b>	\$	45,955
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<u>386,875</u>

<b>Percentage Spent by Candidates</b>	88%
<b>Percentage Spent by IEC's</b>	12%

\*Note - all paper filings reviewed  
 \*Note - final filings are not due until July 31, 2024

### CANDIDATE AND IEC EXPENDITURES - 2020

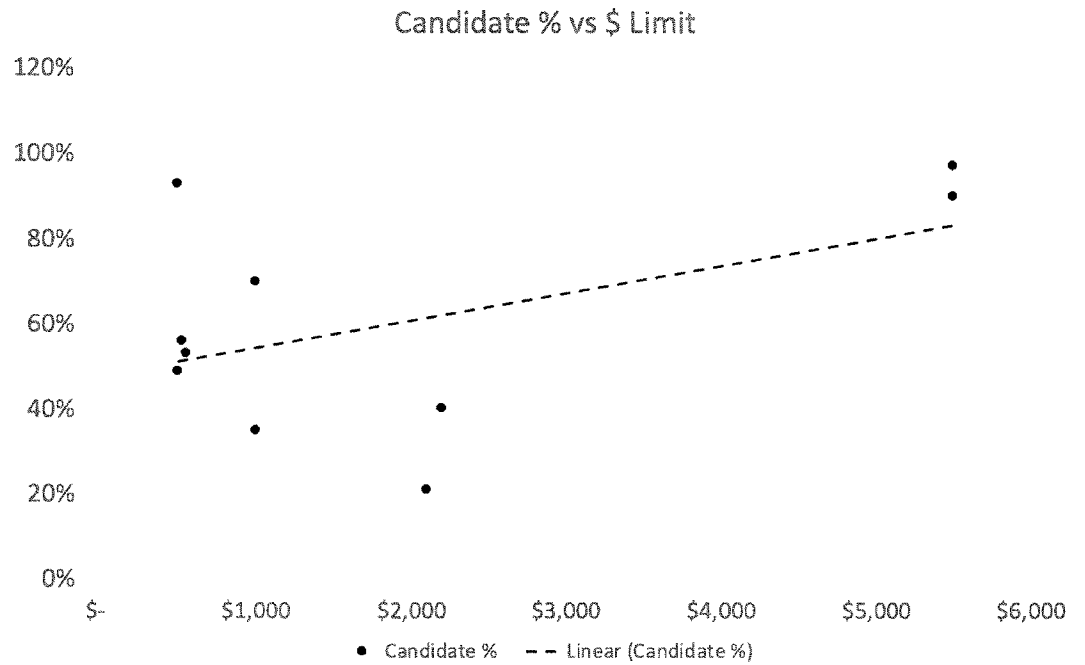
Total Expenditures by Candidates 2020	\$	2,452,181
Total Expenditures by IEC's 2020	\$	<u>2,719,222</u>
TOTAL	\$	5,171,403
Percentage (Candidates)		47%
Percentage (Independent Expenditures)		53%

### CANDIDATE AND IEC EXPENDITURES - 2022

Total Expenditures by Candidates 2022	\$	3,157,595
Total Expenditures by IEC's 2022	\$	<u>4,499,854</u>
TOTAL	\$	7,657,449
Percentage (Candidates)		41%
Percentage (Independent Expenditures)		59%

\*Note: The above totals are for the comparative cities with lower contribution limits (excludes Pasadena)

	Limit	Candidate %
Anaheim 2020	\$2,100	21%
Anaheim 2022	\$2,200	40%
Burbank 2020	\$ 500	93%
Burbank 2022	\$ 500	49%
Irvine 2020	\$ 530	56%
Irvine 2022	\$ 550	53%
Santa Anna 2020	\$1,000	70%
Santa Anna 2022	\$1,000	35%
Pasadena 2020	\$5,500	97%
Pasadena 2022	\$5,500	90%



# CORRESPONDENCE

## Item 2



## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:37 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 4/25/2024

---

**From:** Denise  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:37:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 4/25/2024

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[A]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I'd like to submit these comments for the upcoming Charter meeting this Thursday. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Denise

Gentlepersons:

Thank you for serving on the Charter Commission. This important task is so needed in Pasadena, thank you for your service.

I wanted to make a few comments to help guide your decisions this coming Thursday April 25, 2024.

**Is the current \$5,500 contribution limit too high?** Yes, it is.

I request the city council place reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns the same way sensible cities such as Los Angeles, Alhambra and South Pasadena have. Los Angeles, with a population of almost 4 million people has a limit of \$800 in contrast to Pasadena with a much, much smaller population of fewer than 140,000 people.

Expert Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of Common Cause spoke to the City Council a few years back. For approximately 20 minutes he gave an exhaustive account of why we have contribution limits, and what other cities have done, as well as the three reasons why contribution limits are essential. 1) Quid pro quo: you don't want to give someone a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be beholden to them; 2) legalized corruption: even if it's not officially bribery, there's a "subtle tilt toward the person who donated." Donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated; and lastly, 3) Perceived corruption: 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

Mr. Mehta Stein mentioned that the average donation for cities our size is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. He thought even \$4900 was too high. He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much. Some argue that Independent Expenditures cause candidates to have a need for large donations. However, a handful of people could decide to donate the maximum and easily make up for the independent expenditure amounts we see in Pasadena.

Additionally, transparency in terms of full disclosure laws will go a long way in restoring faith in our democracy here in Pasadena.

To restore fairness to our political system, the passage and enforcement of strong campaign finance reforms that help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people is urgently needed, including placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns, complete transparency of campaign spending, and public financing of elections.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise Munro Robb, Ph.D.  
Professor, Pierce College; and Joshua's Mommy

"Those Who Can Make You Believe Absurdities Can Make You Commit Atrocities" (Possibly Voltaire)

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:59 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Public comments on Thursday Mtg 4/25

---

From: Julie McKune  
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:58:31 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Public comments on Thursday Mtg 4/25

[You don't often get email from . Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<[https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010263](https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263)>.

Dear City Council Members,

Charter Reform Task Force Mtg, 6pm  
Item 2.

I support campaign finance contribution limits, (not \$5500), if the limit is too high it creates a barrier, and it lets big money gain power (corruption, bribery) and control of our community.

We need reasonable campaign contribution limits, term limits, and ranked choice voting.

I support placing this issue on the ballot for voters to decide.

Regards,

Julie McKune

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:32 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Campaign spending

---

From: Lyssa Axeen  
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:31:57 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Campaign spending

[You don't often get email from <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ] Learn why this is important at

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<[https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010263](https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263)>.

-----  
Keep the limit for campaigns at \$5,500!  
Alison Axeen

Pasadena, Ca  
Sent from my iPhone

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:03 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: April 25 Council meeting on campaign contribution limits

---

**From:** Mark Maier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:02:51 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** April 25 Council meeting on campaign contribution limits

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Councilmembers,

I urge you to reduce the current campaign contribution limit to \$1000. Pasadena is fortunate to have relatively small council districts in which candidates can meet in person with constituents. Large campaign contributions work against this practice by encouraging mass mailings. Independent contributions will remain but we should not sacrifice the perfect for the good.

Mark Maier

Pasadena

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:26 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: For the Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force Meeting Tonight

---

**From:** Maureen Johnston <[maureen.johnston@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:maureen.johnston@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:25:23 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <[cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** For the Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force Meeting Tonight

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

### CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY COMMENTS TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE April 25, 2024

Dear Task Force Members: My name is Maureen Johnston and I am providing a prepared statement from Martha Zavala, President of the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area.

#### CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

We support campaign finance limits that are more comprehensive and offer more protection from dark money than the State law provides.

We advocate for a much lower limit than the maximum allowed under California law – capped at \$1000.

It is in the public's interest and your interests to prevent corruption, or the appearance of corruption, which results from the real or imagined influence of large contributions on the conduct or actions of candidates elected to office.

We believe that low campaign contribution limits:

- Provide opportunity for all citizens to become candidates for City office unhindered by a need to meet exorbitant campaign costs thus fostering more competitive campaigns;
- Decrease the cost of running an effective campaign and decreases money's influence in politics;
- Produce small donor campaigns that encourage greater electorate participation in political and government processes;

- Help ensure that all city residents are fairly and equally represented by council persons of their districts; and
- Place a premium on messaging, qualifications, and good governance rather than on fundraising and power brokering.

#### INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

We urge you to address independent expenditures (IEs). ***The primary means for combating IEs is transparency.*** Require disclosure of all original sources of funding and make the information readily available to residents on the city's website.

Key concepts and recommendations such as those under, "***The future of local campaign finance reform***" are explored in Common Cause's thorough analysis of municipal campaign reforms, *Local Dollars and Local Democracy*.

<https://www.commoncause.org/california/wpcontent/uploads/sites/29/2024/03/CA-Municipal-Index-Reportv3-Final.pdf> Thank you for your attention.

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:46 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: LIMIT campaign financing

---

**From:** Donna Sider  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:45:37 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** LIMIT campaign financing

You don't often get email from [earn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

I favor MUCH lower limits than the state default. The state default limit is designed for state races, not for cities the size of Pasadena. Smaller municipalities were encouraged to set their own (presumably lower) limits when the state limit was set. Cities of comparable size have limits at e.g. \$1000 for Torrance. Alhambra set theirs at \$250 after an initiative sent to voters.

There was a great public outcry a few years ago when the city was determined to set NO limits on contributions. Clearly, the people of Pasadena want lower limits.

Allowing such high limits gives an advantage to those with connections to the wealthy. Lower limits allow for those without such connections to have a chance of winning.

Candidates should be incentivized to run a grass-roots campaign and meet their potential constituents as Rick Cole modeled, rather than sending out piles of expensive unrecyclable flyers.

Donna Sider  
D2



## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Campaign Finance Contribution Limits

---

From: Julie Schoen  
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:09:21 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Campaign Finance Contribution Limits

[You don't often get email from <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]  
Learn why this is important at

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

-----  
To: Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force

I support a reduction to the campaign contribution limit in the city of Pasadena. This is much too high and undemocratic!

Sincerely,  
Julie Schoen

Pasadena, CA

Sent from my iPhone

## Jomsky, Mark

---

**From:** Paul Novak <pnovak2028@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 6:05 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Cc:** Bagneris, Michele; Souto, Alexander; Rad, Javan; Soo, Christine  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Charter Task Force Agenda - Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

[⚠] **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Mark:

I regret that I am unable to attend this Thursday's meeting (April 25th), either in-person or virtually.

When Item 2 is discussed, I would ask that you read this comment into the record:

Statement of Paul Novak:

I apologize that I am unable to attend tonight's meeting of the Task Force, due to a previously-scheduled work commitment.

With respect to Item 2, I recommend the Task Force take "no action" relative to imposing new campaign contribution limits, for the following reasons:

1. Very few cities and counties in California have adopted contribution limits lower than the State limits.
2. Establishing lower limits would require the City Clerk to hire additional staff, monitor all reporting, and respond to complaints. The City of Los Angeles, for example, has a staff of more than a dozen employees in its ethics commission administering campaign contributions.
3. Reducing the amount of campaign contributions from individuals would increase the influence of those who contribute to independent expenditure committees.

The combination of these negative results are not offset by the good which lower term limits would allegedly yield. I have read all correspondence to the Task Force, and I find the benefits therein to be significantly overstated.

Thank you for considering my input in my absence.

- Paul Novak

On Mon, Apr 22, 2024 at 3:38 PM Jomsky, Mark <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)> wrote:

Good afternoon Task Force Members,

Attached and linked below is the Charter Study Task Force agenda and materials for Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. Please note that there will be

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
APRIL 25, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT  
AND  
CORRESPONDENCE  
FROM 4/11/24**



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk *MJ*  
**DATE:** April 11, 2024 (updated)  
**RE:** Status Report on City Council Assigned Charter Study Topics and Possible Direction to Consultant Team and City Staff on Preparation of Final Report

The Charter Study Task Force, appointed by the City Council in November 2023, has held six meetings since December 9, 2023 to discuss the following list of assigned Council topics comprising the scope of the Task Force's work:

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections, and review the Charter requirements pertaining to a vacancy in the office of the Mayor as it relates to the role of the Vice Mayor position (City Charter Section 404)
- Review Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (City Charter Sections 401 and 407)
- Consider Mayor and City Council Term Limits
- Review Timing of Mayoral Election (City Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- Consider City Council Compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)
- Consider Campaign Contribution Limits

Each topic has been considered and discussed by the Task Force at least once over the course of the adopted meeting schedule. Provided below is a status report on each topic, the motion and votes taken by the Task Force, and any pending/unresolved issues that should be considered as this effort comes to conclusion.

**DISCUSSION ON VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

This topic was discussed on January 20, 2024, February 7, 2024, and February 22, 2024.

On February 22, 2024, the Task Force discussion on this matter concluded. Following are adopted motions related to this issue:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to maintain the 75-day period for a City Council vacancy appointment process, eliminate the Charter provision that stipulates that a Council District vacancy will be filled by lot, and amend Pasadena City Charter, Section 403, to include “death” as a cause of vacancy.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend the following verbiage for City Charter, Section 404.-Vacancy – Appointment, “...if the City Council fails to timely appoint a person to fill the vacancy, then the office shall be filled at a regular or special municipal election for the time remaining on the unexpired term, upon certification of the candidate that receives a majority of the votes cast for that office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies on the City Council.”:

AYES: Members Mejia, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Novak  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** Member Farhat spoke on the need for City staff to “to tighten up” the amended language in Section 404, and asked staff to bring back the matter at a future Charter Study Task Force meeting, and specifically when more Task Force members are present.

Regarding the matter of when to call a special election, or when to have the City Council make an appointment, the Task Force voted to approve an appointment process if two years or less remained on the unexpired term:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Novak, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, by recommending that the City Council conduct an appointment process if two years or less remained on an unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: Vice Chair Hatcher  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

Regarding the matter of residency requirement to seek the appointed office, the Task Force approved the following motion:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member McAustin, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, to include a residency requirement of at least six months for those seeking to be appointed to the City Council to fill a vacant unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**DISCUSSION ON VICE MAYOR APPOINTMENT PROCESS, TIMING OF VICE MAYOR ELECTION, LENGTH OF TERM TO SERVE AS VICE MAYOR, AND DUTIES RELATED TO VACANCY IN THE MAYOR’S OFFICE**

This topic was discussed on January 20, 2024.

Related to the appointment process for Vice Mayor, the timing of City Council’s selection of Vice Mayor, and the length of term of Vice Mayor, the Task Force’s motion was as follows:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council the selection of the Vice Mayor to occur on an annual basis with a term of one year, the Council to consider seniority and rotational participation when making the selection (not making either factor a requirement), and the selection of the Vice Mayor occurring at the City’s annual organizational meeting on the fifth Monday following the statewide General Election in even years, and the fifth Monday following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd years.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

In terms of the Charter provision which states that in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor’s position, the Vice Mayor shall assume the duties of the Mayor, the Task Force sought to make changes to ensure that the City Council would act deliberatively to select from among the remaining members of the City Council someone to assume the duties of the Mayor. The Task Force also determined that the selected Councilmember would serve in the capacity of Mayor Pro Temp, not having the Vice Mayor automatically assume the role of Mayor, until the vacancy is filled in the next election. Following is the motion and vote of the Task Force:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to create a Mayor Pro Tem position in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor’s position, with the Council to select from among the remaining members a Mayor Pro Tem to serve in the role of Mayor on an interim basis (without having to relinquish their Council District seat) until the vacant position of Mayor is filled at a future election (timing to be determined).

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** The Task Force did not determine whether the vacancy provisions of the City Council would apply to a vacancy in the Mayor’s position, or if the vacancy should be filled at the next regularly scheduled City election (due to cost and turnout considerations).

**CONSIDERATION OF TERM LIMITS FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

This matter was discussed on February 7, 2024 and March 14, 2024. The Task Force’s motion was as follows:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend amendment(s) to the City Charter to (a) limit the Mayor’s position to three consecutive four-year terms, and limit each member of the City Council to three consecutive four-year terms for each district, with a partial term of less than two years not counting towards a full term, (b) grant the elected official, after a four-year hiatus, or after four years in another City Council elected office, eligibility to hold elected office for two additional four-year terms, and (c) set the effective date of term limits in 2026 for Council Districts, 3, 5, and 7, and in 2028 for the Mayor and Council Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher  
NOES: Members Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia  
ABSTAIN: None

As part of the discussion on Term Limits, members of the Task Force spoke in favor of adding a Council-driven information process to encourage more residents to run for public office, a formal on-boarding process for new Councilmembers, and robust record of the discussion of the Task Force to be provided to the City Council.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend to the City Council to adopt a formal Council-driven public information process to encourage more residents to run for public office and an onboarding process for new Councilmembers, and direct staff to include a robust description of the Task Force’s discussion regarding term limits, to be included in the Task Force’s Final Report, as well as part of the record provided to the City Council in its de novo review.

Member Salinas mentioned that the League of California Cities offers an onboarding program to educate and help new Councilmembers navigate their new roles.

Chair Chawkins suggested that staff recommend using existing programs, such as the one offered by League of California Cities, as a model for Pasadena to create their own onboarding process.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia  
ABSTAIN: None

**CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION, BROADLY, AS WELL AS DEDICATED CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (City Charter Section 405)**

This topic was original scheduled for March 14, 2024, but due to time-constraints, the item was rescheduled for March 28, 2024. Following are the adopted motions on this topic:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to: (1) recommend that the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee, and do so on a more regular basis; (2) recommend that the Committee discuss the issue of “family care” as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), and consider CPI increases, other factors to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and (3) direct City staff to provide the Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a brief summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes as background information.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Chair Chawkins  
ABSTAIN: None



**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member McCoy, to require by charter amendment that the City Council Compensation Committee shall meet not less than once every 5 years.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chair Chawkins

ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** Member Farhat requested that at the end of the Task Force's work, consideration be given to the total number of ballot measures resulting from this process, and possibly "repackage" the timing requirement of convening the Charter Compensation Committee as an ordinance rather than as a Charter Amendment measure.

### **CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE MAYOR'S ELECTION**

This matter was discussed on February 22, 2024, with a follow-up discussion occurring on April 11, 2024. The Task Force considered the issue of fairness and the political advantage that exists in terms of the timing of the Mayor's Election for Council Districts 3, 5, and 7 over Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6. As discussed by the Task Force, to compete for the Mayor's seat, Councilmembers from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 (that share the same election cycle with the Mayor) would have to forego seeking re-election to their Council seat if they were to pursue the Mayor's seat. Whereas, for Council District 3, 5, and 7, those Councilmembers do not face the same circumstances, and can run for the Mayor's seat without risk to their current elected position. Following discussion, the Task Force unanimously approved the following motion:

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council that no changes be made to the timing of the Mayoral election cycle. (Motion unanimously approved.) (Absent: Member Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher)

### **CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

This matter was discussed on March 28, 2024, and is scheduled for follow up on April 25, 2024.

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:00 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 4/11/2024

---

**From:** Denise  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:00:09 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 4/11/2024

You don't often get email from [arn why this is important](#)

 **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hi Mr. Jomsky,

Is it all right if I send my comments for the Charter meeting (this Thursday) directly to you or do I have to send them individually to each member?

Here are my comments:

Gentlepersons:

Thank you for serving on the Charter Commission. This important task is so needed in Pasadena, thank you for your service.

I wanted to make a few comments to help guide your decisions this coming Thursday April 11, 2024.

**1. Should Councilmembers have term limits.** Yes. The City of Los Angeles adopted term limits and has been all the better for it. Instead of having councilmembers serving for decades, we see fresh faces and some young people who are passionate about making changes in the city. This is not to say that all councilmembers who serve long terms do not serve in the best interest. But rather, the idea stemming from many places including ancient Greek democracy is that everyone should have a chance to serve - nothing could be more democratic. People tend not to run against incumbents and new people don't get a shot at serving the city.

**2. How should vacancies on the Council be handled?** I recommend a system of Instant Runoff Voting (aka Ranked Choice Voting) such as the system used in New York City since the charter amendment of 2019 for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President and City Council. San Francisco and many other cities and some states also use this to **save money, eliminate voter burnout**, and not require voters to come back for a runoff. **It also results in less negative campaigning** as you want to receive the second and third choice votes of those supporting any opponent.

I wrote my doctoral dissertation on ranked choice voting and I am readily available for consultation.

**3. Is the current \$5,500 contribution limit too high?** Yes, it is.

I request the city council place reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns the same way sensible cities such as Los Angeles, Alhambra and South Pasadena have. Los Angeles, with a population of almost 4 million people has a limit of \$800 in contrast to Pasadena with a much, much smaller population of fewer than 140,000 people.

Expert Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of Common Cause spoke to the City Council a few years back. For approximately 20 minutes he gave an exhaustive account of why we have contribution limits, and what other cities have done, as well as the three reasons why contribution limits are essential. 1) Quid pro quo: you don't want to give someone a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be beholden to them; 2) legalized corruption: even if it's not officially bribery, there's a "subtle tilt toward the person who donated." Donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated; and lastly, 3) Perceived corruption: 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

Mr. Mehta Stein mentioned that the average donation for cities our size is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. He thought even \$4900 was too high. He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much. Some argue that Independent Expenditures cause candidates to have a need for large donations. However, a handful of people could decide to donate the maximum and easily make up for the independent expenditure amounts we see in Pasadena.

Additionally, transparency in terms of full disclosure laws will go a long way in restoring faith in our democracy here in Pasadena.

To restore fairness to our political system, the passage and enforcement of strong campaign finance reforms that help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people is urgently needed, including placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns, complete transparency of campaign spending, and public financing of elections.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise Munro Robb, Ph.D.  
Professor, Pierce College; and Joshua's Mommy

"Those Who Can Make You Believe Absurdities Can Make You  
Commit Atrocities" (Possibly Voltaire)

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:09 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: [Public Comment] Charter Reform Task Force - Thu 4/11 meeting

---

**From:** Wesley Reutimann  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:08:08 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** [Public Comment] Charter Reform Task Force - Thu 4/11 meeting

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Reform Task Force Members,

As a local household that has voted in Pasadena elections for almost two decades now, we have observed firsthand how the lack of campaign contribution limits has influenced local Council races.

A community the size of Pasadena, with relatively small Council districts, should adopt a reasonable contribution limit of \$250-\$1,000 per election cycle. Communities across California have adopted such standards in recent years. Pasadena can and should do so, too.

According to the most recent CA Common Cause report on the subject, there are at least 109 cities and 15 counties in California that have adopted local campaign contribution limits, with an average (median) city council individual contribution limit of \$500. These include the neighboring cities of Burbank (\$400), Glendale (\$1,000), Los Angeles (\$700), and Alhambra (\$250).

Thank you,

**Wesley Reutimann**  
Pasadena 91103

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter Reform Tax Force comment for April 11

---

**From:** Anne Schiller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:36:01 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Charter Reform Tax Force comment for April 11

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

I write in favor of a much lower campaign finance limit such as \$1,000.

We have relatively small city council districts in which campaigns can take place on a personal basis. Limiting campaign contributions will reduce the use of uninformative mass mailings and encourage meetings with candidates.

Sincerely,  
Anne Schiller

Pasadena 91104

## Jomsky, Mark

---

**om:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:15 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Comments for April 11 Charter Task Force meeting

---

**From:** Gloria Newton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:15:03 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Comments for April 11 Charter Task Force meeting

You don't often get email from . [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠]** **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Charter Task Force,

Thank you for your hard work in addressing the document that governs the way our city operates.

I'd like to make two comments about matters under discussion.

1. Campaign Contribution Limits: In 2021 there was a large public outcry against the Council's proposal that there be no limit to per-person contributions. I'm glad that proposal was dropped, but even going with the state limit of \$5500 is too high and will give an unfair advantage to candidates with ties to wealthy donors. Whether we acknowledge it or not, money equals voice, and in a city like Pasadena, which already has a wide income gap, it's important to set policies that make sure all residents are represented and have their voices heard. Pasadena should choose a limit more in line with other cities of our size, such as Torrance (\$1000 limit) and Berkeley (\$250 limit). In addition, Pasadena voters should set this policy, not the city council, so like Measures R, S, and T, we should be able to vote on the recommendations by the Task Force on the November ballot. Please incorporate these ideas into your recommendations.

2. Term limits: I am in favor of term limits for council members. I understand the value of having experienced council members serving, but the pattern in our city has shown incumbent candidates are far more likely to be elected than their opponents. I've lived in this city for 36 years, and in my time here, no incumbent has been unseated by a challenger in an election. Term limits do not have to be short - 4 terms of 4 years each would allow a council member to serve for 16 years, which is plenty of time to learn the job, take actions that affect change and make a difference in one's district. After 16 years, it seems fair to allow other candidates to fill the offices.

Thank you again for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Newton  
District 5 resident

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:25 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment for Task Force on Charter ReformCC

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:24:24 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Task Force on Charter ReformCC

You don't often get email from [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mark Jomsky:

Please distribute my comment below to the Task Force on Charter Reform for the April 11 meeting of the Task Force, on campaign finance reform.

Thank you,

Kris Ockershauser

Dear Charter Reform Task Force Members:

I was one of the many citizens of Pasadena who objected to the Council's effort in 2021 to circumvent state limits and continue to impose no limits on campaign finance contributions to the Mayor and City Council Members.

I am one of the many citizens who continue to want only the voters to make any campaign limits, and on the November ballot. It's the Pasadena Way.

Thank you,

Kris Ockershauser  
91105

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: April 11, 2024 Charter Reform Task Force Mtg

---

From: Julie McKune  
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:12:44 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: April 11, 2024 Charter Reform Task Force Mtg

[You don't often get email from cityclerk. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<[https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010263](https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263)>.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Let the voters decide. I strongly support these ideas. We need changes, for example:

\*Yes Term limits

\*Use rank choice voting for vacancies on the council \*Establish lower campaign contribution limits, current \$5,500 is too high, big money in politics is legal corruption/bribery! Restore trust now \*Improve democracy, government that represents, less wasteful of taxpayers dollars, less negative campaigns

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,  
Julie Romero McKune  
Resident 68 yrs



## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: for Task Force re Campaign Finance limits

---

**From:** Ellen Finkelpearl  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:27:40 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** for Task Force re Campaign Finance limits

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear members of the Charter Reform Task Force,

I am writing to urge you to recommend that the issue of campaign contribution limits be taken to the voters on the ballot in November. This is an issue that the community feels very strongly about, as demonstrated by the outpouring of outrage when, in 2021, the City Council proposed that, contrary to new limits on California statewide campaign contributions, Pasadena City Council and Mayoral candidates could accept unlimited contributions. I am appending the petition with signatures below, which is also presumably part of the city council archival records.

Although, thankfully, that proposal is no longer being considered, the state limit of \$5500 per contributor (designed for statewide races) is absurdly high and inconsistent with the limits that cities of comparable size in California have instated. When neighboring Alhambra took the issue to voters a few years ago, a limit of \$250 per contributor was set (that is also the limit for Berkeley). While that may well be too low, Torrance, for example, set a limit of \$1000. When Jonathan Mehta Stein of Common Cause spoke to the City Council in 2021 during the controversy mentioned above, he suggested that \$1000 might be a good limit for a city the size of Pasadena. He also stated that the issue of "independent expenditures" is not the problem that some allege. (A recording of that session should also be available in the archives.) I urge you to recommend to the City Council that they send to the voters an initiative that the limit should be set in the Charter at \$1000 (with some clause for adjustment for inflation).

It should be obvious that a) when large contributions are made, the donors have special interests in their candidate being elected. Personally, I do not have \$5500 to donate to anyone! Even if the elected candidate is not swayed by the generosity of the high donor, there may be the appearance of favoritism which creates an ugly political landscape. Also, b) lower limits should allow newer candidates, without connections to wealthy donors to have a chance at gaining a seat. Presumably, we all want new blood on the city council and we would like to see a broader cross-section of the city being represented. Finally, c) there should be no need for vast expenditures in a local city race. Candidates should be able to reach many of their constituents by going door to door and having their supporters do the same. This also gives the candidate a better knowledge of their district. We all dislike the constant flyers that arrive at our

doors (which are not recyclable, by the way) and I will not mention what happened in the last election cycle with some flyers....

This issue is important and needs to be taken to the voters!

Thank you for your attention and thank you for serving on the Task Force.

Ellen Finkelpearl

Pasadena

Here is a link to the petition that was sent around the last time this issue arose. Most of it is still relevant to this case.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LqBjnhyxAb-uf1UNo5jcUBifiYSG91dZz9HrHaKNu6I/edit>

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: April 11, 2024 Pasadena Charter Study Task Force – Public Comment, Agenda 3 (Let the Voters Decide on Campaign Contribution Limits)  
**Attachments:** 20211021\_Open-Letter-re-Campaign-Finance-Reform.pdf; 20211021\_PasadenaNow\_We-Get-Letters.pdf

---

**From:** Una Jost  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:41:24 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** April 11, 2024 Pasadena Charter Study Task Force – Public Comment, Agenda 3 (Let the Voters Decide on Campaign Contribution Limits)

You don't often get email from :

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear members of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force:

It has been brought to my attention that our City of Pasadena is in the midst of reviewing and amending its Charter, and that a task force appointed by the councilmembers is examining several issues, one of which is possible limits on campaign contributions to city council and mayoral candidates.

It appears in reviewing today's agenda that the Task Force seems unaware that there was a tremendous public outcry in 2021 when the council tried to circumvent state limits and continue to impose NO limits on such contributions.

For your reference, please see attached the October 2021 "*Open Letter to Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers to lead Pasadena's Fight for a Truly Inclusive Government by Implementing Urgently Needed Campaign Finance Reform*" that was submitted ahead of the council's October 18, 2021 meeting urging the councilmembers to

**(i) RESCIND** the Council's August 16 vote instructing the preparation of an ordinance codifying into law unlimited campaign contributions from donors to city candidates (exploiting a loophole in state law that allows local jurisdictions to circumvent the default state donor limit, which is currently \$4,900 per contributor to city candidates); and

**(ii) PLACE** reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns, in keeping with sensible surrounding cities like Los Angeles, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, as well as dozens of local jurisdictions across Southern California. (For example, Los Angeles with a population of almost 4 million has a \$800 limit as of 2020, in contrast to Pasadena with a population of about 140,000.)

Written in strong opposition to the council's then proposed ordinance to codify NO limits on campaign contributions, the coalition of Open Letter signers includes:

- 134 Pasadena residents;
- 52 concerned residents from 15 nearby cities; and
- 10 community groups.

The October 2021 Open Letter was also published in Pasadena Now under the heading "*We Get Letters: Community Leaders, Advocates, and Residents Urge Mayor, Council to Pass Campaign Finance Reform Measure*," available at <https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/we-get-letters-open-letter-to-pasadena-mayor-victor-gordo-and-city-councilmembers-to-lead-pasadenas-fight-for-a-truly-inclusive-government-by-implementing-urgently-needed-campaign-finance-re>, a copy of which is also attached for your reference.

Although the council's then proposed ordinance to codify NO limits on campaign contributions has been dropped, it appears that the Task Force is currently poised to codify the state limit of \$5500 per contributor, which seems excessive for a city council race in a moderately sized city such as ours, with elections run by district rather than citywide. Cities of comparable size have imposed much lower limits, e.g. Torrance with \$1000, Berkeley with \$250.

As the October 2021 Open Letter notes:

"Stricter limits would

- (i) provide incentives to candidates to build a broader base of smaller contributors to be viable;
- (ii) empower smaller donors as well as expand the pool of potential candidates to include those with no ties to big money thus enabling wider representation among the populace; and
- (iii) induce greater candidate-constituent interaction and messaging, as opposed to the current practice of blanketing a district with cookie-cutter political mailers.

It is for this reason that nonprofit public interest government reform organizations working to strengthen democracy, such as Campaign Legal Center, Brennan Center, Public Citizen, Common Cause, and California Clean Money Campaign, are all in consensus that in order to restore fairness to our political system, the passing and enforcing of strong campaign finance reforms is urgently needed to help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people, including:

- placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns;
- complete transparency of campaign spending; and
- public financing of elections.

I urge the Task Force to recommend to the council that the council take steps to **place** reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns, in keeping with sensible surrounding cities like Los Angeles, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, as well as dozens of local jurisdictions across Southern California. As you may recall, Pasadenans voted on several Pasadena Charter reforms in the recent March 5, 2024 primary election. I thus urge the Task Force to recommend to the council to allow the voters to decide on campaign finance limits, not the councilmembers, and that such vote should be on this November's ballot.

Doing so would engender trust in Pasadena city leaders and candidates and help create a City that is truly more inclusive of everyone.

Kind regards,

~ Una Lee Jost, Resident of Pasadena, District 4

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:50 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: PUBLIC COMMENT: Charter Study Task Force Meeting 4/11/24

---

**From:** Tina Fredericks  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:49:53 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT: Charter Study Task Force Meeting 4/11/24

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hi Charter Study Task Force,

Please include this for public record for 4/11/24 Charter Study Task Force Meeting and please send a copy to each member of the Charter Study Task Force:

I'm Tina Fredericks, a mother of two teenage girls. I am a School Board Trustee of Pasadena Unified School District since 2020. My views on contribution limits are mine alone and do not represent the view of the Board as a whole. I make decisions for approximately 14,000 K-12 students, 65% or over 9000 of whom are socio-economically disadvantaged. Many of our families struggle to put a roof over their head and food on the table. Many of our students and families live in Pasadena. Lowering the contribution limit closer to what our families can afford would ensure that a campaign must rely on more small dollar donations. The economic disparity of the families in the City of Pasadena are wide. The voter turnout for the 2024 primaries was 30-40% This low turnout shows that the constituency is not engaged in the political process. Lowering the campaign limit would address voter apathy. It's the responsibility of the candidate to excite the voter, give them a reason to vote by putting forth a campaign platform that represents the needs of the constituents.

The contribution limit for the City of Los Angeles for each city council member donor is \$900. Each district represents 90,000 - 160,000 voters.

Each Pasadena City Council member who represents at most one eighth of the number of voters than a City of Los Angeles district, certainly their contribution limit should not exceed \$900.

Reducing the limit would encourage candidates to engage with more constituents. If a campaign needs to raise at least \$50,000, for a campaign limit of \$900, it would take 56 donors at \$900 to raise \$50,000

I suggest a donor limit of no more than \$900 in alignment and commensurate with City of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tina Fredericks

Mother of two

\*Pasadena Unified School District

Board Trustee Area 6

\*Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, President 2023-present

\*for identification purposes only

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MAY 09, 2024**

**ITEM 2  
STAFF REPORT**



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members

**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk 

**DATE:** May 9, 2024

**RE:** **CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS** – Follow-up Information Requested by Task Force at the April 25, 2024 Meeting

At the April 25, 2024 Charter Study Task Force meeting, the Task Force requested additional information on the issue of campaign contribution limits prior to making a recommendation to the City Council on the issue. Following are staff's and consultant's responses to the requested information:

**Request: Can staff provide a cost estimate for City Attorney/City Prosecutor enforcement of campaign contribution limits?**

Depending on the level of campaign contribution limits, the periodic/cyclical nature of Mayoral and City Council campaigns (and, in turn, campaign fundraising/activities), the nature and volume of complaints that arise, and the investigation required, the staff time needed to review and pursue administrative, civil, and/or criminal enforcement actions could vary significantly. It is likely that current staffing could handle such enforcement, initially, with further review of the need based on the matters referred for handling. Part-time staff costs for a Deputy City Attorney could range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year, at a minimum.



**Request:** Determine whether there is additional data available from the California Secretary of State’s Office to contextualize the table provided by Baker Tilly in their report and presentation on campaign contribution limits to determine what happened in the aggregate? If so, provide an aggregate of the campaign contributions and expenditures by all candidates over the same period?

*Increase in IEC donations for all candidates from 2001 to 2024*

	2001-2002	Inflation adjusted	Actual 2023-2024	Actual over adjusted	Percentage increase
Total amount of expenditures made on behalf of candidates	\$9,300,000	\$14,197,000	\$45,000,000	\$30,803,000	217%
Average amount of each transaction	\$5,500	\$8,400	\$28,100	\$19,700	235%

Source: The Secretary of State’s CalAccess website

In response to Baker Tilly’s request for the aggregated information, the California Secretary of State does not compile candidate campaign contributions or expenditure totals. Therefore, the answer to this inquiry is no, there is no additional data available that is responsive to this request.

**Request:** Provide information on how Political Action Committees (PACs) and Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs) report contributions received. What are the contribution and expenditure limits for PACs/IECs?

In terms of understanding how PACs and IECs report contributions received, it is important to understand the difference between these two political entities. In short, a PAC is a committee organized to receive contributions from third parties and to make contributions and expenditures directly to and on behalf of candidates and elected officials. Direct contributions and expenditures (i.e., direct monetary, as well as in-kind contributions and expenditures) made by PACs are subject to established campaign contribution limits. There are Large and Small PACs, with varying rules related to limits each entity can receive in contributions and limits each entity can expend in support of a candidate. PACs can also make independent expenditures in support or opposition to local candidates. Such independent expenditures are **not** subject to campaign contribution limits as they are made directly without the knowledge or coordination of the candidate being supported or opposed.

An IEC is a type of PAC whose purpose is to make independent expenditures in support or opposition of candidates. Other PACs may contribute to IECs, instead of, or in addition to, making their own independent expenditures, as well as direct contributions. In addition, businesses or individuals may contribute to IECs as well. Unlike other PACs, IECs are not subject to contribution or expenditure limits, as their activities are independent of candidates and committees they support or oppose. According to the CalChamber Political Action Handbook, “IECs provide businesses and business organizations with the freedom to take an even larger leadership role in the election process.”

In Manual 6 of the Fair Political Practices Commission, an IEC is defined as follows: “An individual or entity (e.g., corporation, firm, business, or proprietorship) that makes one or more independent expenditures to pay for a communication totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year that is not coordinated with the affected candidate or committee, qualifies as a committee and must file reports under the Act.”

In speaking with the Fair Political Practices Commission, campaign finance disclosure reports that are filed by PACs and IECs, must occur within the jurisdiction where they are most active, as defined as follows:

A state committee makes contributions or expenditures to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in state elections, or in more than one county; it does not make more than 70 percent of its contributions or expenditures in a single local jurisdiction. State contributions include contributions to other state general purpose committees. All political party committees (including county central committees) are state committees.

A county committee makes more than 70 percent of its contributions or expenditures to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in a single county, or in more than one jurisdiction within one county. This includes contributions to other general purpose committees in the same county.

A city committee makes more than 70 percent of its contributions or expenditures to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in a single city, or in one consolidated city and county. This includes contributions to other city general purpose committees in the same city.

Depending on the activity of a PAC or IEC (as detailed above), each entity is required to file semi-annual and pre-election filings with either the Secretary of State (State PAC/IEC), County Registrar of Voters (County PAC/IEC), or City Clerk (City PAC/IEC). These reports (Form 460's) provide information on all the activities of the PAC/IEC during the reporting period, including contributions received and expenditures made by the PAC/IEC. These posted filings are where the public can review records of contributions to determine who is funding the PAC or IEC. Unfortunately, depending on the type of PAC/IEC, the majority of expenditures made in a local jurisdiction vs. across the state or county, it is not always clear where the public can go to find such records/filings.

In addition to the expanded reports that occur on a semi-annual and pre-election basis, all PACs and IECs are also subject to filing late contribution and expenditure reports of \$1,000 or more (Form 496's – due usually within 24-hours). These reports are to be filed within the active jurisdiction during the final 90-day period prior to the election. Any contributions or expenditures made outside this window are not subject to immediate disclosure but will be disclosed in semi-annual filings prior to the election. Lastly, PACs/IECs must aggregate the total spent in support or opposition of a candidate as part of the Form 496 filings.

As was stated previously during the April 25, 2024 Charter Study Task Force discussion, the method of filing by the PAC/IEC affects the transparency of the information contained in the filing. Information filed electronically via NetFile affects the public's ability to generate summary reports. If filed by hardcopy (paper), the information is not captured in these summary reports

### Contribution Limits for PACs

2023-2024 Contribution Limits for City and County Candidates in Cities and Counties That Have Not Enacted Limits		
Person (individual, business entity, committee/PAC)	Small Contributor Committee	Political Party
\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500

### Contribution and Expenditure Limits for IECs

- May accept unlimited contributions from any source;
- May make unlimited expenditures independent of the candidate it is support or opposing;

**Request: Provide Independent Expenditure activity from comparable cities that follow state default limits of \$5,500 to determine the level of independent expenditures occurring in such jurisdictions.**

Staff reviewed online filings for the following similarly sized local jurisdictions:

41	<a href="#">Fullerton</a>	142,280
42	<a href="#">Visalia</a>	141,466
43	<a href="#">Orange</a>	138,728
44	<a href="#">Pasadena</a>	137,554
45	<a href="#">Victorville</a>	134,417
46	<a href="#">Santa Clara</a>	128,058
47	<a href="#">Thousand Oaks</a>	126,532

In reviewing each of the online filings for the above cities, following are the observations for each city:

- Fullerton: Campaign contribution limits - \$5,500 (state limits) – Data posted via Laserfiche, organized by candidate, paper filed statements; independent

expenditure activities appear to be limited, with one PAC spending approximately \$10,000 in support of one candidate in the 2022 election cycle.

- Visalia: Campaign contribution limits - \$5,500 (state limits) – No campaign finance disclosure statements posted online.
- Orange: Campaign contribution limits - \$1,000 for Mayor and City Council – limited information available online for the 2020 election cycle (2 of 14 postings able to be viewed). 2022 election cycle information more robust, with Atlas PAC spending approximately \$28,000 to oppose a Mayoral candidate. Electronic data for IEs totals almost \$54,000.
- Victorville: Campaign contribution limits - \$5,500 (state limits) – No independent expenditures reported online in 2020 or 2022 election cycle.
- Thousand Oaks: Campaign Contribution limits - \$750 – Data posted via Laserfiche, organized by candidate, only hardcopy (paper) filed statements available.

Santa Clara: Voluntary Campaign Expenditure Limit – Following is information taken from Santa Clara’s website:

The decision of whether or not to participate in the program is made at the time of filing the nomination papers. If candidate agrees to an At-Large expenditure limit of \$46,420 or Council District Expenditure Limit of \$25,000: The single source contribution amount goes from \$310 to \$630.

- City pays 1/2 the cost of the candidate's statement of qualifications printed in the ballot pamphlet.
  - The sample ballot will designate the candidate was a participant in the Voluntary Campaign Expenditure Limit program.
  - The fact of a candidate's participation will be publicly disseminated in a newspaper of general circulation, on the City's website, government access cable television channel, and posted in the City's public libraries.
  - Withdrawal from the program is permitted (within 72 hours of the date nomination forms are to be filed) - if a rival candidate indicates when filing nomination papers they will not participate in the program.
  - Withdrawal from the program is permitted if a rival candidate violates the \$40,500 expenditure ceiling.
- Independent Expenditures made in Santa Clara in 2020 - \$351,711 – Made by 2 Labor PACs
  - Independent Expenditures made in Santa Clara in 2022 - \$4,765,726 – Professional Football Owner’s Business sponsored several PACs in support and opposition to candidates for Santa Clara City Council, and was responsible for spending the vast majority of the total amount of independent expenditures made during the 2022 election cycle.

**Request: What are the legal limitations on prohibiting Councilmembers from voting on collective bargaining (labor union) agreements if the member received campaign contributions from the labor union?**

Generally speaking, cities may adopt rules to supplement the Political Reform Act pursuant to Government Code Section 81013. However, as discussed at prior Task Force meetings, campaign contributions from organizations enjoy some Constitutional First Amendment protections. As such, limitations on Councilmembers’ participation after receipt of campaign contributions by labor unions – especially without a corresponding limitation of other contributions, such as groups that might advocate on the opposite side of labor unions – may be heavily scrutinized, if challenged, due to the free speech issues involved. The Councilmember recusal requirements of the Levine Act are not triggered by collective bargaining agreements, pursuant to Government Code Section 84308(a)(5). Additionally, the Taxpayer Protection Amendment, which covers “public benefits,” specifically excludes collective bargaining agreements from the definition of a “public benefit.” TPA Guidelines, subdivision (l)(B).

**Request: How much are labor unions spending on City Council campaigns (direct contributions and independent expenditures)?**

Based on information from electronically filed campaign statements and corresponding summary reports, the following table provides an estimated breakdown of direct contributions and independent expenditures made by labor unions in Pasadena elections held in 2020, 2022, and 2024. Staff identifies this data as “estimated” as the information does not include data reported on paper-filed reports. The purpose of the table is to provide the Task Force with basic figures of how much money was spent by contributors identified as labor, and is not represented by staff as a definitive total. Also, please note that included in the total of the direct contributions are reported dollar amounts for non-monetary/in-kind contributions made to candidates.

City of Pasadena – Contribution and IE Activity for Labor Organizations			
Election Year	Direct Contributions	Independent Exp.	Total
2020	\$385,640	\$57,673	\$443,313
2022	\$53,200	\$56,185	\$109,385
2024*	\$128,500	\$45,954	\$174,454

\* Reporting for 2024 cycle not yet complete.

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Item 2

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:49 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 5/9/24

---

**From:** Denise  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:48:31 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Comments to be read at the Charter Commission Meeting this Thursday 5/9/24

You don't often get email from [cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

**[A] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you **know** the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I'd like to submit these comments for the upcoming Charter meeting this Thursday. Thank you for your consideration.

I may not be able to speak on Thursday, but in case I am, can you tell me how to submit a speaker card? I couldn't find the link. It would be on zoom. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Denise

Gentlepersons:

Thank you for serving on the Charter Commission. This important task is so needed in Pasadena, thank you for your service.

I wanted to make a few comments to help guide your decisions this coming Thursday May 9, 2024.

**Is the current \$5,500 contribution limit too high? Yes, it is.**

I request the city council place reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns the same way sensible cities such as Los Angeles, Alhambra and South Pasadena have. Los Angeles, with a population of almost 4 million people has a limit of \$800 in contrast to Pasadena with a much, much smaller population of fewer than 140,000 people.

Expert Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of Common Cause spoke to the City Council a few years back. For approximately 20 minutes he gave an exhaustive account of why we have contribution limits, and what other cities have done, as well as the three reasons why contribution limits are essential. 1) Quid pro quo: you don't want to give someone a \$50,000 check and have the councilmember be beholden to them; 2) legalized corruption: even if it's not officially bribery, there's a "subtle tilt toward the person who donated." Donors are heard more, get more meetings, have more contact with the person to whom they donated; and lastly, 3) Perceived corruption: 77% of all Americans support contribution limits to create more trust in our democracy and credibility among the candidates.

Mr. Mehta Stein mentioned that the average donation for cities our size is \$1,000. Many have limits of \$250. He thought even \$4900 was too high. He discussed the dangers of having too little money (hard to compete) as well as too much. Some argue that Independent Expenditures cause candidates to have a need for large donations. However, a handful of people could decide to donate the maximum and easily make up for the independent expenditure amounts we see in Pasadena.

Additionally, transparency in terms of full disclosure laws will go a long way in restoring faith in our democracy here in Pasadena.

To restore fairness to our political system, the passage and enforcement of strong campaign finance reforms that help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people is urgently needed, including placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns, complete transparency of campaign spending, and public financing of elections.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise Munro Robb, Ph.D.  
Professor, Pierce College; and Joshua's Mommy

"Those Who Can Make You Believe Absurdities Can Make You Commit Atrocities" (Possibly Voltaire)





## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 7:20 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter task force may 9 public comment

---

From: Melissa M.  
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 7:19:42 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Charter task force may 9 public comment

[You don't often get email from <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ] [Learn why this is important at](#)

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

-----  
)  
Hello

Please do not accept a \$5000+ donation limit in the city of Pasadena. It is unacceptable and unnecessary. The public will look more favorably on a bold move to reduce the cap to \$500 per donation than to use the excuse for status quo just because of independent expenditures. Do the right thing and join the rest of the SGV and the 21st century of getting money out of politics immediately right here in Pasadena. Everyone regardless of political party will love you for it.

Thank you.

Melissa Michelson

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:02 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Charter study task force mtg, May 9, 6pm

---

From: Julie McKune  
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:01:52 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Charter study task force mtg, May 9, 6pm

[You don't often get email from <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ] Learn why this is important at

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KBO010263" on the DoIT portal.

Public Comments/correspondence

Dear Charter Study Task Force members, Mark Jomsky, and staff,

I support changing the Campaign Contribution Limits. I oppose the current amount of \$5,500. We need lower limits in Pasadena. Let's build and create trust in our community. I propose lower limits, for example, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000.

Why not let the voters decide on this issue?

How should elections be funded?

In this time let's make changes in Pasadena. Consider how elections will be in the future. Do we want more citizen involvement/participation? Let's be inclusive. Local government is where all voices are valued, right? ( Isn't that why you are holding all these public mtgs all across Pasadena? West & East Pasadena?)

Regards,

Ms Julie McKune

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 12:23 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: comment for May 9 Charter Task Force meeting: limit campaign contributions

---

**From:** Gloria Newton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 12:23:02 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** comment for May 9 Charter Task Force meeting: limit campaign contributions

You don't often get email from

[Learn why this is important](#)

**[⚠] CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

Dear Members of the Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force:

I wish to express my support of proposals that create limits for per-person campaign contributions.

Whether we acknowledge it or not, money equals voice, and voice equals power. In a city like Pasadena, which already has a wide income gap, it's important to set policies that make sure all residents are represented and have their voices heard. Imagine what a mom or dad working for close to minimum wage would be able to contribute versus a professional with a six-figure income or a retired person benefiting from accrued generational wealth. A lower limit on campaign contributions would be one step in leveling this very uneven playing field.

Pasadena should choose a limit more in line with other cities of our size, such as Torrance (\$1000 limit) and Berkeley (\$250 limit). In addition, Pasadena voters should set this policy, not the city council, so like Measures R, S, and T, we should be able to vote on the recommendations by the Task Force on the November ballot. Please incorporate these ideas into your recommendations.

(On a purely selfish note, if these limits result in candidates having less money in campaign coffers, I might be spared the annoying and wasteful overabundance of mailers sent to our homes every campaign season.)

Thank you for your service on this task force and your attention to the voices of Pasadena citizens.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Newton  
District 5, 91106

\*\*\*\*\*

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**


---

**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John  
**Subject:** FW: Campaign contributions

---

From: cindy clark-schnuelle  
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:40:34 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
To: cityclerk  
Subject: Campaign contributions

[You don't often get email from . Learn why this is important at  
<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[  ] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. For more information about the Phish Alert Button view article "KB0010263" on the DoIT portal.

-----  
As a resident of Pasadena, I support campaign contribution limits for city council members and all other elected offices.  
Regards,  
Cindy Clark Schnuelle  
Sent from my iPhone


**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MAY 09, 2024**

**ITEM 3  
STAFF REPORT**



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair, and Task Force Members  
**FROM:** Mark Jomsky, City Clerk   
**DATE:** May 9, 2024 (updated)  
**RE:** Status Report on City Council Assigned Charter Study Topics and Consideration of Possible Action on Pending Issues

The Charter Study Task Force, appointed by the City Council in November 2023, has held six meetings since December 9, 2023 to discuss the following list of assigned Council topics comprising the scope of the Task Force's work:

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections, and review the Charter requirements pertaining to a vacancy in the office of the Mayor as it relates to the role of the Vice Mayor position (City Charter Section 404)
- Review Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (City Charter Sections 401 and 407)
- Consider Mayor and City Council Term Limits
- Review Timing of Mayoral Election (City Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- Consider City Council Compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)
- Consider Campaign Contribution Limits

Each topic has been considered and discussed by the Task Force at least once over the course of the adopted meeting schedule. Provided below is a status report on each topic, the motion and votes taken by the Task Force, and any pending/unresolved issues that should be considered as this effort comes to conclusion.

**DISCUSSION ON VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OPTIONS FOR AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY**

This topic was discussed on January 20, 2024, February 7, 2024, and February 22, 2024.

On February 22, 2024, the Task Force discussion on this matter concluded. Following are adopted motions related to this issue:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to maintain the 75-day period for a City Council vacancy appointment process, eliminate the Charter provision that stipulates that a Council District vacancy will be filled by lot, and amend Pasadena City Charter, Section 403, to include “death” as a cause of vacancy.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend the following verbiage for City Charter, Section 404.-Vacancy – Appointment, “...if the City Council fails to timely appoint a person to fill the vacancy, then the office shall be filled at a regular or special municipal election for the time remaining on the unexpired term, upon certification of the candidate that receives a majority of the votes cast for that office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies on the City Council.”:

AYES: Members Mejia, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Novak  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** Member Farhat spoke on the need for City staff to “to tighten up” the amended language in Section 404, and asked staff to bring back the matter at a future Charter Study Task Force meeting, and specifically when more Task Force members are present.

Regarding the matter of when to call a special election, or when to have the City Council make an appointment, the Task Force voted to approve an appointment process if two years or less remained on the unexpired term:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Novak, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, by recommending that the City Council conduct an appointment process if two years or less remained on an unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: Vice Chair Hatcher  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

Regarding the matter of residency requirement to seek the appointed office, the Task Force approved the following motion:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member McAustin, to amend City Charter Section 404. – Vacancy – Appointment, to include a residency requirement of at least six months for those seeking to be appointed to the City Council to fill a vacant unexpired term:

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, McCoy, Wilson  
ABSTAIN: None

**DISCUSSION ON VICE MAYOR APPOINTMENT PROCESS, TIMING OF VICE MAYOR ELECTION, LENGTH OF TERM TO SERVE AS VICE MAYOR, AND DUTIES RELATED TO VACANCY IN THE MAYOR’S OFFICE**

This topic was discussed on January 20, 2024.

Related to the appointment process for Vice Mayor, the timing of City Council’s selection of Vice Mayor, and the length of term of Vice Mayor, the Task Force’s motion was as follows:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council the selection of the Vice Mayor to occur on an annual basis with a term of one year, the Council to consider seniority and rotational participation when making the selection (not making either factor a requirement), and the selection of the Vice Mayor occurring at the City’s annual organizational meeting on the fifth Monday following the statewide General Election in even years, and the fifth Monday following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd years.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

In terms of the Charter provision which states that in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor’s position, the Vice Mayor shall assume the duties of the Mayor, the Task Force sought to make changes to ensure that the City Council would act deliberatively to select from among the remaining members of the City Council someone to assume the duties of the Mayor. The Task Force also determined that the selected Councilmember would serve in the capacity of Mayor Pro Temp, not having the Vice Mayor automatically assume the role of Mayor, until the vacancy is filled in the next election. Following is the motion and vote of the Task Force:



**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Salinas, seconded by Member Farhat, to recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to create a Mayor Pro Tem position in the event of a vacancy in the Mayor's position, with the Council to select from among the remaining members a Mayor Pro Tem to serve in the role of Mayor on an interim basis (without having to relinquish their Council District seat) until the vacant position of Mayor is filled at a future election (timing to be determined).

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** The Task Force did not determine whether the vacancy provisions of the City Council would apply to a vacancy in the Mayor's position, or if the vacancy should be filled at the next regularly scheduled City election (due to cost and turnout considerations).

#### **CONSIDERATION OF TERM LIMITS FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

This matter was discussed on February 7, 2024 and March 14, 2024. The Task Force's motion was as follows:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend amendment(s) to the City Charter to (a) limit the Mayor's position to three consecutive four-year terms, and limit each member of the City Council to three consecutive four-year terms for each district, with a partial term of less than two years not counting towards a full term, (b) grant the elected official, after a four-year hiatus, or after four years in another City Council elected office, eligibility to hold elected office for two additional four-year terms, and (c) set the effective date of term limits in 2026 for Council Districts, 3, 5, and 7, and in 2028 for the Mayor and Council Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher

NOES: Members Novak, Salinas, Chair Chawkins

ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia

ABSTAIN: None

As part of the discussion on Term Limits, members of the Task Force spoke in favor of adding a Council-driven information process to encourage more residents to run for public office, a formal on-boarding process for new Councilmembers, and robust record of the discussion of the Task Force to be provided to the City Council.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Vice Chair Hatcher, to recommend to the City Council to adopt a formal Council-driven public information process to encourage more residents to run for public office and an onboarding process for new Councilmembers, and direct staff to include a robust description of the Task Force's discussion regarding term limits, to be included in the Task Force's Final Report, as well as part of the record provided to the City Council in its de novo review.

Member Salinas mentioned that the League of California Cities offers an onboarding program to educate and help new Councilmembers navigate their new roles.

Chair Chawkins suggested that staff recommend using existing programs, such as the one offered by League of California Cities, as a model for Pasadena to create their own onboarding process.

AYES: Members Farhat, McAustin, McCoy, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher, Chair Chawkins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Members Kennedy, Mejia  
ABSTAIN: None

**CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION, BROADLY, AS WELL AS DEDICATED CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (City Charter Section 405)**

This topic was original scheduled for March 14, 2024, but due to time-constraints, the item was rescheduled for March 28, 2024. Following are the adopted motions on this topic:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Farhat, seconded by Member Salinas, to: (1) recommend that the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee, and do so on a more regular basis; (2) recommend that the Committee discuss the issue of "family care" as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), and consider CPI increases, other factors to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and (3) direct City staff to provide the Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a brief summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes as background information.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Chair Chawkins  
ABSTAIN: None

**MOTION:** It was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member McCoy, to require by charter amendment that the City Council Compensation Committee shall meet not less than once every 5 years.

AYES: Members Farhat, Kennedy, McAustin, McCoy, Mejia, Novak, Salinas, Wilson, Vice Chair Hatcher

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chair Chawkins

ABSTAIN: None

**Pending Issue:** Member Farhat requested that at the end of the Task Force’s work, consideration be given to the total number of ballot measures resulting from this process, and possibly “repackage” the timing requirement of convening the Charter Compensation Committee as an ordinance rather than as a Charter Amendment measure.

### **CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE MAYOR’S ELECTION**

This matter was discussed on February 22, 2024, with a follow-up discussion occurring on April 11, 2024. The Task Force considered the issue of fairness and the political advantage that exists in terms of the timing of the Mayor’s Election for Council Districts 3, 5, and 7 over Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6. As discussed by the Task Force, to compete for the Mayor’s seat, Councilmembers from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 (that share the same election cycle with the Mayor) would have to forego seeking re-election to their Council seat if they were to pursue the Mayor’s seat. Whereas, for Council District 3, 5, and 7, those Councilmembers do not face the same circumstances, and can run for the Mayor’s seat without risk to their current elected position. Following discussion, the Task Force unanimously approved the following motion:

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Novak, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend to the City Council that no changes be made to the timing of the Mayoral election cycle. (Motion unanimously approved.) (Absent: Member Salinas, Vice Chair Hatcher)

### **CONSIDERATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

This matter was discussed on March 28, 2024 and April 25, 2024, and is scheduled for follow up on May 9, 2024.

The Charter Study Task Force requested additional information regarding the following subsequent matters: 1) the cost of having City staff enforce campaign contribution limits; 2) contextualization of data presented in Table 3 of the Baker Tilly report to determine campaign contributions/expenditures in aggregate to better understand what occurred over the time period; 3) how IECs report contributions received, and the contribution and expenditure limits for IECs and PACs; 4) information from comparably sized cities (in terms of population) that utilize State default campaign contribution limits

and the correlation with independent expenditure activity occurring in those jurisdictions; 5) information on any policies that prohibit elected officials from voting on labor contracts if they have accepted campaign contributions from that labor union; and 6) the total amounts contributed and spent by labor unions in Pasadena City elections.

**ACTIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION:**

- Campaign Contribution Limits – Approved Recommendation Needed from the Task Force
- Voting Majority Requirements During Vacancy – Reduce “five affirmative votes” to “affirmative votes of the majority” when a vacancy occurs:
  - Apply to Council vacancy appointment vote only
  - Apply to Council vacancy and all regular business
  - Apply comprehensively, including Council vacancy, regular business, and Mayor Pro Tem selection (in the event of Mayoral Vacancy)
- Council Compensation – Consider total package of measures for the November 2024 Election Ballot, and whether requiring the formation of a Council Compensation Committee as a Charter Amendment should be reconsidered as an ordinance

**CHARTER STUDY  
TASK FORCE  
MAY 09, 2024**

**ITEM 4  
STAFF REPORT**

**DRAFT – MAY 9, 2024**

**First Draft - Pasadena Charter Study Task Force  
Recommendations to the Mayor and Council**



May 9, 2024

Ken Chawkins  
Chair, Charter Study Task Force  
100 North Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mr. Chawkins

Baker Tilly is pleased to transmit the first draft of the report from the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force to the Mayor and Council.

The report includes the recommended Charter language for three matters dealing the governance: Council Vacancies, Vice Mayor, and Term Limits. The report includes recommendations on three additional topics that do not require a Charter amendment. Those are Timing of the Mayoral Elections, Campaign Contribution Limits, and Mayor/Council Compensation. The subject areas are in separate sections. There is a list of all recommendations at the end of the draft.

As the report was drafted for the May 9<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting, any actions occurring after that date will be added to the next draft.

Sincerely,

Jay Trevino, Director  
Baker Tilly LLP

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Scope of Work.....	1
City Charters.....	2
<b>The Charter Study Task Force and Support Team .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Pasadena City Charter Study Task Force Members.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>City Officials.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Baker Tilly LLP.....</i>	<i>3</i>
Task Force Meetings and Objectives .....	4
<b>City Council Vacancies .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Background .....	5
Task Force Deliberations on City Council Vacancies.....	5
Recommended Charter Language on Council Vacancies .....	6
<b>Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Background .....	8
Task Force Deliberations on the Vice Mayor .....	8
Recommended Charter Language on the Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem .....	9
<b>Term Limits for the Mayor and Council .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Background .....	10
Task Force Deliberations on Term Limits.....	10
Recommended Charter Language on Term Limits .....	11
<b>Timing of Mayoral Elections .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Background .....	13
Task Force Deliberations on the Timing of Mayoral Elections .....	13
Task Force Recommendation .....	14
<b>Campaign Contribution Limits .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Background .....	15
Task Force Deliberations on Campaign Contribution Limits .....	15
Task Force Decision on Campaign Contribution Limits .....	17
<b>Compensation.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Background .....	18
<i>State Law on Council Compensation .....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Charter Section 405 and Municipal Code Sections 2.05.210 and 2.05.220.....</i>	<i>18</i>
Task Force Deliberations on Compensation .....	19
Task Force Recommendations on Compensation .....	19



---

<b>Ranked Choice Voting .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Bios of Task Force Members .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Recommended Charter Language .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Filling a Council Vacancy .....	23
Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore.....	23
Term Limits for the Mayor and Council .....	24
<b>Recommendations That Do Not Require Charter Amendments.....</b>	<b>25</b>
Timing of the Mayor’s Election .....	25
Campaign Contribution Limits .....	25
Mayor/Council Compensation.....	25
<b>Redline Version of Recommended Charter Language .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Clean Copy of Recommended Charter Language .....</b>	<b>32</b>

## Introduction

### *Scope of Work*

In October 2023, the Mayor and Council of the City of Pasadena created a City Charter Study Task Force. The scope of work included examining and making recommendations on the following topics:

- Vacancy Appointment Process for Mayor and City Council - Consider options for allowing Special Elections
- Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (Charter Sections 401 and 407))
- Term Limits for the Mayor and City Council
- Campaign Contribution Limits
- Timing of Mayoral Election (Charter Sections 401 and 406)
- City Council Compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated childcare and eldercare allowances for members of the City Council (City Charter Section 405)

Keeping in mind the possibility of voter fatigue, the Task Force was to determine whether to amend the Charter or offer alternatives in relation to any of the subjects above and to present the recommendations in priority order to the City Council in May/June. The Task Force was also asked to include the ballot questions and precise wording of any modification as it would appear in the Charter.

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the Task Force and includes one section for each subject. The Task Force is offering Charter language on three topics: Council Vacancies, the Vice Mayor, and Term Limits, and general recommendations on the other three topics, Compensation, Campaign Contribution Limits, and the Timing of Mayoral Elections. The last three do not involve Charter amendments. The report also includes an overview of ranked choice voting (RCV). Although it was not within the assigned scope, ranked choice voting is included because it was mentioned in connection with other topics.

Exhibits begin with the bios of the members of the Task Force, a list of all recommendations, a redline version of proposed Charter language, a clean version, and the following:

(select from the following) —Task Force minutes, City Clerk reports, Baker Tilly reports, PowerPoint presentations,

## ***City Charters***

The California Constitution authorizes the adoption of a city charter and provides such a charter has the force and effect of state law. Specifically, the "home rule" provision affirmatively grants charter cities supremacy over "municipal affairs" while the state of California retains authority over statewide matters. The primary advantage of a charter is that it affords greater authority for a city's governance than that provided by state law for general law cities. A charter city can make decisions on elections, terms of office, compensation, and governance structure to name a few.

The Pasadena City Charter was adopted in 1901. Today, Pasadena is one of approximately 121 cities in California with its own Charter. The remaining 360+ cities are known as general law cities.

Charters are often referred to as a city's constitution, but compared to the United States Constitution, municipal charters adjust more easily to the changing needs of a community. Charter amendments require a municipal election and are approved by a majority of votes cast. The Pasadena City Charter has been amended fifty-five times, on average, once every two years since adoption. The most recent amendments were approved on March 5, 2024.

## The Charter Study Task Force and Support Team

On November 13, 2023, the Mayor and each Councilmember appointed the following members of the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force.

Pasadena City Charter Study Task Force Members	
Ken Chawkins, Chair	District 6
Marcus Hatcher, Vice Chair	District 3
Vince Farhat	Mayor's appointee
Lena Louis Kennedy	District 1
Margaret McAustin	District 2
Liberty McCoy	District 5
Paul Novak	District 4
Diana Carbajal Mejia	At large
Raul Salinas	At large
Andy Wilson	District 7

Note: The full bio of each Task Force member is included in the Appendix.

### City Officials

City Clerk Mark Jomsky was in charge of managing the workflow and keeping the project on schedule. He and his staff performed research, authored reports, and handled the administrative work of the Task Force including agendas and minutes, and scheduling and adhering to all public meeting requirements such as the Brown Act. The City Clerk's Office maintained a website with up-to-date information about the activities of the Task Force.

City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Bagneris and her staff attended all meetings to provide legal advice. Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager, represented the City Manager's Office.

### Baker Tilly LLP

The City of Pasadena engaged Baker Tilly LLP to advise the Task Force and support the City Clerk. The team included Director Jay Trevino, Special Advisor, Shauna Clark, and Director Al Zelinka, all from Baker Tilly's Public Sector Advisory group. [Public Sector Advisory](#) Baker Tilly prepared the workplan and attended all task force meetings. They wrote statistical and analytical reports, including the final report, and assisted in administrative support.

## ***Task Force Meetings and Objectives***

The Task Force held an organizational meeting on December 9, 2023, where Ken Chawkins was appointed Chair and Marcus Hatcher was appointed Vice Chair. The City Clerk presented the scope of work and the timelines. City Attorney Bagneris gave a presentation on the powers of Charter cities.

The December 9 meeting was followed by a meeting on January 20, 2024, then two meetings per month thereafter. Each meeting focused on thorough examination and discussion of the assigned topic, with every subject undergoing at least two rounds of research and deliberation.

Aware that their decisions could have a lasting impact on Pasadena and its constituents, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force closely analyzed each subject in context with other aspects of the Pasadena Charter and state law. They considered the impetus behind assigned topics, studied the experiences of other cities, and sought out best practices in municipal governance.

The Task Force invited discourse among all members. They read and listened to public comments. The Task Force agreed that the essential features of a charter must be in harmony and resisted adding layers of complexity. They recognized that the best recommendation has little value if the public does not approve it.

The Task Force remained mindful that changing the Charter might not be the best approach to the assigned topic, so they considered alternatives. They asked, "Can this be addressed by an ordinance or other policy?" "Is there really a problem that should be put before the voters?"

## City Council Vacancies

**Consider the vacancy appointment process for members of the city council and options for amending the Charter to call for a special election to fill a vacancy**

### ***Background***

In June 2022, the Honorable John Kennedy was re-elected to his third term as the District 3 Councilmember. He passed away in July 2022 before his second term ended. In September 2022, on a five-two vote, the City Council appointed Mr. Justin Jones to complete Councilmember Kennedy's second term. During and after the selection process a variety of concerns were raised about the appointment process and the inability of District residents to vote on the appointment.

City Council vacancies are defined in Charter Section 403 and filled according to Section 404, which authorizes the remaining members of the Council to appoint a successor within 75 days of the vacancy. If an appointment is not made within the timeframe, the replacement is chosen by lot. Whether selected by appointment or by lot, the person holds office until the next election.

### ***Task Force Deliberations on City Council Vacancies***

The Task Force discussed Charter Sections 403 and 404 on January 20, 2024, February 7, 2024, and February 22, 2024. They reviewed state codes and compared the charters and municipal codes of nine cities that were selected by City staff. Although triggered by different timing or circumstances, every general law city and the nine comparison cities have a mechanism for appointing a qualified voter to a vacant council seat. In general, special elections only occur if the council fails to appoint.

On February 22, 2024, City Clerk Mark Jomsky gave an in-depth presentation on the costs, timing, and methods for conducting special elections to fill a vacancy.

The Task Force discussed:

- Advantages and disadvantages of filling vacancies by appointment
- Whether the 75-day appointment period was too long

- The omission of “death” as cause of a vacancy
- The appropriate length of time for the Mayor and Council to fill a vacancy before an election is triggered
- Calling a special election in lieu of making an appointment
- Adopting an ordinance or other document to clearly define the steps the Council will follow leading up to an appointment
- Residency requirements
- Ranked choice voting
- The need for public outreach during the appointment process
- Appointment followed by election if the appointment is not made within the official period (currently 75 days)
- A process that allows the district or city residents to call an election by petition
- Concerns that filling appointments by special election would leave the district without representation for up to a year
- Appointing an interim or caretaker to serve the district until the outcome of a special election
- The Charter provision that requires the council to draw lots in the event they deadlock on an appointment

### ***Recommended Charter Language on Council Vacancies***

After discussing Council Vacancies over three meetings, the Task Force recommended the following Charter language

#### **Recommendation 1**

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy occurring. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies for Council District offices.

#### **Recommendation 2**

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining

members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such vacancy, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204. Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.



## Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

### Vice Mayor Appointment Process, Timing, and/or Length of Term (Charter Sections 401 and 407)

#### ***Background***

Per Charter Section 407 the Council chooses a Vice Mayor from among its members at each organizational meeting. Organizational meetings occur in December of odd years. The length of the Vice Mayor's term is not specified in the Charter, but as organizational meetings are two years apart, the Council often found it practical to appoint a Vice Mayor to serve two years. The Council had a tradition of selecting the most senior member who had not previously served as Vice Mayor.

As in most cities in California, a Mayor Pro Tempore (called a Vice Mayor in Pasadena) presides over meetings when the mayor is absent. When there is a vacancy, the council selects the successor from among its members. Based on current City Charter provisions, Pasadena's Vice Mayor can become Mayor without appointment, election, deliberation, public input, or the possibility of replacement. Charter Section 404 says in part that, in case of a mayoral vacancy, the vice mayor shall "...assume the duties of the office of the Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next regular general election..." The next general election could be two years later.

The automatic ascendancy of the Vice Mayor to Mayor was discussed by the Charter Study Task Force just two weeks after lengthy considerations on filling a vacancy on the Council. The Task Force sought to define a method for filling a Council vacancy that was fair and open. In contrast, Pasadena's Vice Mayor can become Mayor without appointment, election, deliberation, public input, or possibility of replacement

#### ***Task Force Deliberations on the Vice Mayor***

The following concepts were brought forth for discussion by Task Force members

- The process for choosing a Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem in other cities including by monthly rotation in Glendale

- Selecting an interim Mayor from among the members of the Council upon a vacancy
- The need for quick selection when filling a mayoral vacancy
- Appointing the Vice Mayor annually
- Choosing a basis for appointment of the Vice Mayor which could include but not require the selection to be made on the basis seniority or rotational position
- Choosing a member of the Council to fill a vacant Mayor's seat, but only until the next election
- Appointing a Mayor Pro Tem to assume the duties of Mayor if the seat becomes vacant
- Requiring five affirmative votes to select the Mayor Pro Tem

### ***Recommended Charter Language on the Vice Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem***

The Task Force voted to recommend changing the method for selecting a Vice Mayor and to create a Mayor Pro Tem

#### **Recommendation 3**

Section 407 – The Mayor Pro Tem

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tem who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor. (until the position is filled at the next election?)

#### **Recommendation 4**

Section 408. – The Vice Mayor

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence.

## Term Limits for the Mayor and Council

### Consider Term Limits for the Mayor and Council

#### *Background*

Charter Section 401 establishes four-year terms for the Mayor and the Council. There are no limits. By 2018, 123 of California's 482 cities (26%) and nine out the state's fifty-eight counties (16%) had term limits. Charter cities accounted for fifty-five (45%) of the 123 cities with term limits. There was a rapid uptick in the number of cities with term limits between 2018 and 2022 when voters in another 27 cities enacted them. Today, approximately 148 (31%) of California's 482 cities have term limits.

#### *Task Force Deliberations on Term Limits*

The Task Force discussed term limits on February 7 and March 14, 2024. On February 7, 2024, Baker Tilly reported on the nine comparison cities and found that Glendale, Long Beach, and Santa Monica have a three-term limit. Anaheim, Santa Barbara, and Torrance have a two-term limit. Torrance and Anaheim allow council members who have exhausted all terms to take a hiatus and run again.

During their deliberations, Task Force members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of term limits including the tradeoff between the election of new members and the loss of experienced and well-liked elected officials. They also discussed:

- The basis for term limits. Should it be the number of terms, the number of years, or a combination of both
- Should there be a lifetime ban on running for office once terms have been exhausted
- Should term limits be the same for the Mayor as for the Council
- An onboarding program for new Mayors and members of the Council
- Outreach to attract more people to run for office
- Does a partial term of less than two years count as a full term
- Does time away from elected office reset the clock? If so, how many years of absence are needed?
- When term limits would commence (proscriptive only)

On February 7, 2024, the Task Force asked Baker Tilly to locate officials in California cities with term limits to learn about their experiences before and after the conversation to term limits.

On March 14, 2024, Dr. Julian Gold, Mayor of Beverly Hills, and Michael MacDonald, City Clerk of Ventura, spoke via Zoom about the advent of term limits in their cities and answered questions of the Task Force. Dr. Gold reported that he was instrumental in putting term limits on the Beverly Hills ballot in 2022. The measure was adopted by 82% of voters. In both cities, there were council members who had been re-elected several times. This fact was part of the impetus for adopting term limits.

Mr. MacDonald reported he favors term limits but is facing a problem in Ventura. The most senior council member has been in office only three years. Term limits adopted in 2016 had created such turnover, there were no experienced council members to mentor new ones. Dr. Gold spoke about the availability of former council members in Beverly Hills to mentor and train electees.

Shauna Clark of Baker Tilly and City Clerk Jomsky reported on responses to surveys and other data collected from approximately 35 cities. Ms. Clark explained that impacts were difficult to determine because term limits in many municipalities were either too new or had been in place for so long that the initial perspectives were not available. She noted that based on reports provided by some cities with term limits, term limits brought more candidates into local elections.

It was noted that if term limits were adopted, they would not go into effect until the beginning of the next election cycle.

### ***Recommended Charter Language on Term Limits***

On March 14, the Task Force voted on limits of three four-year terms on the Council or as Mayor, and two four-year terms when allowing termed-out officials to run again after a hiatus.

#### **Recommendation 5**

No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve two additional four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-

year terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall constitute a four (4) year term for the purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

**Recommendation 6**

No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve an additional two four-year terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Mayor. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

**Note: The Mayoral limits section did not include: “Any term of elected service of two years or more shall constitute a four (4) year term for the purposes of this section”**

**Wasn't there an onboarding program??**

**The City Council will adopt a formal Council-driven public information process and an onboarding process for new Councilmembers, and direct staff to include a robust description of the Task Force's discussion regarding term limits, to be included in the Task Force's Final Report, as well as part of the record provided to the City Council in its de novo review.**

## Timing of Mayoral Elections

### Consider the Timing of Mayoral elections

#### *Background*

At the request of the Mayor and Council, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force examined the timing of Mayoral elections. Changing the terms or election dates of the Mayor's races would create opportunities for all Pasadena Councilmembers to seek the Mayor's seat without forfeiting their own.

In 1998, when the voters of Pasadena established the directly elected Mayor, they chose four-year terms, the same length as Council terms. The timing of the election for the first directly elected Mayor coincided with the election for District seats, 1, 2, 4 and 6. Councilmembers representing those districts are unable to run for the Mayor without forfeiting their District seat. Conversely, Councilmembers from Districts 3, 5, and 7 could run for Mayor every four years without the same risk.

#### *Task Force Deliberations on the Timing of Mayoral Elections*

The Task Force considered the timing of mayoral elections on February 22, 2024, and April 11, 2024. Some of the alternatives discussed in February were to change the length of the Mayor's Term from four to two or six years. Another was to move the Mayor's election off-cycle, to occur in odd rather than even years.

On April 11, 2024, reports from Baker Tilly and the City Clerk illustrated the costs and difficulties of holding the Mayor's election off cycle. Of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, only Redondo Beach and Whittier<sup>1</sup> hold elections that are not coordinated with county, statewide and federal elections. These cities had invested in the equipment needed to conduct an election, including voting machines and the computers and software for tallying the vote.

Chair Chawkins suggested that the Task Force consider conducting the Mayor's election during the primary and general elections of the City and have all other Council District elections occur during the November general

---

<sup>1</sup> Vernon was not included because it holds elections every year

elections as plurality voting elections (highest vote wins, with no run-off), thus allowing Councilmembers to compete for the Mayor's seat without having to forego running for their own District seat. City Clerk Jomsky gave a PowerPoint presentation on the details.

### ***Task Force Recommendation***

After further discussion, the Task Force made the following recommendation:

#### **Recommendation 7**

No changes be made to the Charter provisions on the timing of the Mayoral election cycle.

## Campaign Contribution Limits

### Consider Campaign Contribution Limits

#### *Background*

Campaign Contribution Limits (CCLs) cap the amount of money a candidate can receive from a single source during an election. AB 571, effective January 1, 2021, required cities and counties to adopt local contribution limits or default to the state limits, currently \$5,500. Prior to January 1, 2021, Pasadena and many cities in California had no contribution limits.

Contribution limits were discussed by the City Council and the Legislative Policy Committee when AB 571 was signed into law. The City Council sought to maintain the status quo of no limits. However, due to strong opposition by the public and Common Cause, the Council took no action thus allowing statewide campaign contribution limits to take effect.

When Charter Study topics were being finalized, the Council asked the Task Force to provide a recommendation on whether the City should change its contribution limits.

#### *Task Force Deliberations on Campaign Contribution Limits*

The Task Force discussed campaign contribution limits on March 28, April 25, and May 9. On April 11 and April 25, representatives from the League of Women Voters and various members of the public spoke in favor of lowering contribution limits to make elections more accessible. Written public comments stressed the position of Common Cause that campaign contribution limits help to ensure that candidates are not overly reliant on a few wealthy donors to finance their campaigns. With a cap on individual contributions, candidates must also build a broader base of smaller contributions to be viable.

The Task Force also heard that low limits would result in the diversion of donations to Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs). The Task Force asked Baker Tilly and staff to find a causal connection between low limits and independent expenditures. The Task Force also considered the impact of independent expenditures on anti-corruption measures.



### **Independent Expenditures**

An independent expenditure entails funding a communication expressly advocating for or against a clearly identified candidate, without coordination with said candidate or their affiliated entities. Unlike direct campaign contributions, independent expenditures face no financial limitations on contributions or expenditures.

Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs) play a significant role in electoral processes, operating outside the purview of candidates' campaigns. IECs spend money on behalf of, but not at the behest of candidates. Due to the 1976 Supreme Court decision *Valeo v Buckley*, no government can curtail or require more disclosure of independent expenditures without running afoul of the First Amendment.

On April 25, 2024, City Clerk Mark Jomsky presented data on independent expenditures in Burbank, Irvine, Anaheim, Pasadena and... Shauna Clark, Baker Tilly, presented data on Burbank and from the Secretary of State on independent expenditures in statewide elections. The data showed a rise in independent expenditures since the AB 571 mandate, but the sample size was too small to prove a causal connection to AB 571.

### **Anti-corruption Measures and Transparency**

The City Attorney explained recent legislation amending the Levine Act which prohibits parties of a proceeding from contributing more than \$250 to a council campaign during the pendency of a proceeding before the Council. The Levine Act also restricts councilmembers, and their respective agents, from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions above \$250 for the twelve months prior to a proceeding.

Task Force members strongly supported the Levine Act as well as Pasadena's Article XVII "Taxpayer Protection Act" (TPA). Both aim to prevent campaign contributions from influencing the actions of the Council. However, enforcement of anti-corruption measures relies on seeing the names of contributors and recipients. In Pasadena, transactions up to \$5,500 appear on the candidate's financial disclosure reports. In cities with low limits any donation exceeding the limit (some as low as \$250) would be made to an IEC, in which case the names and amounts given by donors could be obscured through a series of legal maneuvers. Many observers would be unaware that a third party was paying for ads and mailers on behalf of a candidate.

**Shifting the Campaign Disclosure Enforcement Burden to the City**

The Task Force asked about the consequences and cost of the City enforcing the campaign disclosure aspects of the Political Reform Act. It was noted that the City Clerk and the City Attorney/City Prosecutor would work together to investigate and enforce the campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act. This could place the City Clerk or the City Attorney in an adversarial role with an elected official or candidate and could compromise and politicize City staff in administering City elections.

**Insert info from Mark and Michelle about enforcement costs**

***Task Force Decision on Campaign Contribution Limits***

On May 9, 2024, the Task Forced decided

**Recommendation 9**

On May 9, 2024, the Task Force decided.....

## Compensation

### **Consider City Council compensation broadly, as well as dedicated to childcare and elder care allowances**

#### ***Background***

On March 14 and March 28, 2024, the Pasadena Charter Study Task Force examined Charter provisions on compensation for the Mayor and Council, including childcare and eldercare (aka Family Care).

Compensation as defined in Charter Section 405 and the Municipal Code includes:

- Salaries, (sometimes called wages or stipends)
- Benefits (Health and dental insurance, life insurance)
- General Office expenses (telecommunications, internet, childcare)
- One time office expenses for the purchase of a computer and mobile phone
- Out-of-pocket, reimbursable expenses which might include mileage or travel

#### **State Law on Council Compensation**

Article XI § 5 (b) of the State of California Constitution empowers charter cities to decide the compensation of elected officials. There are no limits. At present, the Mayor's monthly stipend is \$2,794 plus benefits and the Council's stipend totals \$1,830 plus benefits.

Compensation in general law cities is established by the government code and is linked to population. Traditionally, compensation for general law cities was minimal. SB 329, adopted in 2023, increased the base salary for elected officials in general law cities. Councilmembers in cities over 150,000 up to and including 250,000 in population can receive \$2,550 per month.

#### **Charter Section 405 and Municipal Code Sections 2.05.210 and 2.05.220**

The City of Pasadena's method for setting salaries and benefits for the Mayor and Council is set forth in the Charter and the implementation of salaries and benefits is in the Municipal Code.

- Charter Section 405 – Formation of a compensation committee that makes recommendations on salaries and benefits
- Municipal Code Section 2.05.210 – Incorporates recommendations from the Compensation Committee on stipends (salaries)
- Municipal Code Section 2.05.220 – Provisions on benefits and reimbursement

### ***Task Force Deliberations on Compensation***

During the two meetings where reports on compensation were presented, the Task Force discussed:

- Commitments of the Mayor and Council, recognizing the workload that averages twenty hours per week for a Council Member and more for the Mayor
- The salary setting process, including the appointment of a compensation committee
- Salary and benefit comparisons with other cities
- The fact that a compensation committee had not convened since 2000
- The advantages and disadvantages of changing the method for establishing salaries and benefits
- Council office staffing and salaries as compared to other cities
- Recommending that the Council appoint a compensation committee as soon as possible
- Keeping compensation low enough to avoid a full-time Mayor or Council

The Task Force discussed whether a compensation committee should be convened or whether the process should be changed. The City Attorney explained that per the Charter, compensation committees cannot be convened after October 1 of each year.

### ***Task Force Recommendations on Compensation***

The Task Force adopted the following by unanimous vote:

#### **Recommendation 10**

- (a) That the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee and do so on a more regular basis.

(b) That the Committee discuss the issue of "family care" as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), and consider CPI increases, other factors to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and

(c) Direct City staff to provide the Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes as background information.

## Ranked Choice Voting

Even though it was not part of the Scope of Work ranked choice voting (RCV) was discussed in at least three Task Force meetings. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, RCV combines the general election and the runoff by letting voters select—or “rank”—the candidates in order of preference. If no candidate receives 50% of the first-choice votes, the lowest-ranking candidate is eliminated, and their second-place votes are reallocated among the remaining candidates. The process repeats itself until a winner is selected. Variations of RCV exist for different types of elections, including races with multiple winners. Proponents say that RCV increases the civility of elections (opponents are less likely to attack one-another if attempting to garner 2nd and 3rd ranked votes from voters), reduces election costs, and cancels the lame-duck period between declaration of election results and start of new term.

On January 20, 2024, the Task Force asked for information on the mechanics and feasibility of RCV for runoff elections in Pasadena. The ability to use the RCV method depends on Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office, which conducts Pasadena's election, said that RCV is not an option at this time nor is it on the County's future work plan.

City staff contacted the City of Berkeley which has RCV elections for the Berkeley City Council. The County of Alameda has acquired a certified RCV system that it makes available to cities within its jurisdiction, including Berkeley. Berkeley uses RCV solely for city council elections. Berkeley voters receive two ballot types for the November election: the RCV ballot for City Council races and the regular statewide ballot for federal, state, and county races and measures including any from Berkeley. Berkeley staff said there are limited savings from using the RCV system but there appear to be benefits related to civility.

Berkeley is responsible for paying two bills for each election, the costs associated with RCV balloting, and the costs associated with the statewide ballot. Included in the RCV expenses are software costs, upgrades, and maintenance for the RCV voting system. Berkeley conducts voter education and outreach efforts to ensure voters are familiar with the RCV process.

While certainly related to the issue of calling special elections for vacancies on the City Council, RCV would be a new system and methodology for Pasadena voters and would need additional research and information as its own charter study topic. If the Task Force wanted to continue to pursue RCV as part of this process, at a minimum, the Task Force would need to request authority from the City Council.

---

## Bios of Task Force Members

Brief bio of each task force member

Ken

Marcus

Andy

Diana

Lena

Liberty

Margaret

Paul

Raul

Vince

---

## Recommended Charter Language

### *Filling a Council Vacancy*

#### **Recommendation 1                      Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy**

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy occurring. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies for Council District offices.

#### **Recommendation 2                      Special Election to Fill City Council Vacancy**

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such vacancy, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204. Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

### *Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore*

#### **Recommendation 3                      Mayor Pro Tempore**

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the remaining members of the Council shall, after such occurrence, elect a Mayor Pro Tem from among the remaining members of the City Council. The Mayor Pro Tem shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office is filled at the next general municipal election.



---

The assumption of the duties of the Mayor Pro Tem shall not require that the Mayor Pro Tem relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district.

**Recommendation 4                      Vice Mayor**

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, the Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence

***Term Limits for the Mayor and Council***

**Recommendation 5                      Council Term Limits**

No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve two additional four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall constitute a four (4) year term for the purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

**Recommendation 6                      Mayor Term Limits**

No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve an additional two four-year terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Mayor. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

---

## Recommendations That Do Not Require Charter Amendments

### *Timing of the Mayor's Election*

#### **Recommendation 7**

No changes be made to the Charter provisions on the timing of the Mayoral election cycle.

### *Campaign Contribution Limits*

#### **Recommendation 8**

(May 9 action)

### *Mayor/Council Compensation*

#### **Recommendation 9**

(a) That the City Council convene the Council Compensation Committee, and do so on a more regular basis;

(b) That the Committee discuss the issue of "family care" as a broader category than childcare (or eldercare), and consider CPI increases, other factors to support and promote diversity on the City Council, and revise methods of reimbursement to increase efficiency and transparency; and

(c) Direct City staff to provide the Committee with copies of the report from Baker Tilly, a summary of State Senate Bill 329, and the meeting minutes as background information.

## Redline Version of Recommended Charter Language

### ARTICLE IV - THE CITY COUNCIL

#### Section 401. - NUMBER AND TERM.

- A. There shall be a City Council consisting of a Mayor and seven Councilmembers. The seven Councilmembers shall be nominated and elected by district as provided in this Charter. Except as provided in subsection B, the term of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be four years.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, to transition to new election dates starting in 2018, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected in 2015 shall expire in December 2020 and the terms of office of Councilmembers elected in the year 2017 shall expire in December 2022.
- C. Beginning in the year 2020, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 shall commence in the year 2020 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2020, and the terms of office of the Councilmembers elected from Districts 3, 5, and 7 shall commence in the year 2022 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2022. The terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall commence at the time of the City's organizational meeting held on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election and until their respective successors are elected and have duly qualified.
- D. No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve an additional two- four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall constitute a four (4) year term for the purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.
- E. No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve an additional two- four-year terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Mayor. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

(Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.)

Section 402. - ELIGIBILITY.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a qualified elector of the City. Each Councilmember shall be a resident of the district from which the Member is elected or appointed.

(Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

Section 403. - VACANCY DEFINED.

If the Mayor shall cease to be a resident of the City or if any Councilmember shall cease to be a resident of the district, respectively, from which elected or appointed, or if either the Mayor or any Councilmember shall be absent without permission of the City Council from all regular City Council meetings within a period of 60 consecutive days from the last regular meeting attended, shall resign, shall be adjudged legally incompetent, shall be deceased, or shall be otherwise barred from holding office by reason of state or federal law, that office shall thereupon be declared vacant by a majority vote of the City Council.

(Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.)

Section 404. - VACANCY—APPOINTMENT OR SPECIAL ELECTION.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the remaining members of the Council shall, Vice Mayor shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election. after such occurrence, elect a Mayor Pro Tem from amongst the remaining members of the City Council. The Vice Mayor Pro Tem shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election. The assumption of the duties of the Vice Mayor Pro Tem shall not require that the Vice Mayor Pro Tem relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district. If a vacancy occurs among any other members of the City Council, the remaining members shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented district who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. If the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy, the replacement shall be chosen by lot.

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy occurring. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies for Council District offices.

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such vacancy, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204.

Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

(Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 405. - COMPENSATION.

Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City Council authorizing the formation of a Committee on City Councilmembers' Compensation ("the Committee"), each member of the City Council shall nominate one person to the Committee, subject to the approval of the City Council. The duties of the Committee shall be to study, take public input, and make recommendations regarding the compensation paid to members of the City Council and benefits to which the members of the City Council are entitled including, but not limited to, insurance, expense allowances and reimbursement. **The Council Compensation Committee shall be convened not less than once every five years.** **Note: this charter proposal was negated when the Task Force voted not to make a recommendation on compensation**

Each member of the Committee shall be an elector of the City. In making their nominations, City Councilmembers shall consider persons recommended by representatives of the fields of higher education, labor, business, and organizations reflecting the diversity of the City. No person shall be eligible for membership on the Committee who is, or within five years prior to his or her appointment was, an officer or employee of the City; or who has, within five years prior to his or her appointment, had any personal or business-related contractual relation with the City.

The nominee of the Mayor shall act as temporary chair of the Committee, with the power to fix the time and place of the Committee's first meeting. At such meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair and shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to conduct its business. The provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Committee. Records of the Committee shall be maintained as public records as provided by

---

State law. The Committee shall gather such information as it deems necessary to complete its duties, and prior to making its recommendation, shall hold at least one duly noticed public hearing for the purpose of seeking public input. The City Manager shall provide office space, staff assistance and supplies for the work of the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses pursuant to City ordinance.

Not later than October 1 of the year the Committee is appointed, the Committee shall submit to the City Council a report adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee recommending either that no change be made in the compensation paid to members of the City Council, or that change, either an increase or a decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If such report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee's recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The Committee shall cease to exist thirty (30) days after its report is submitted to the City Council.

The City Council may take no action on the recommendation, or it may, by ordinance, adjust the compensation paid to members of the City Council by an amount not to exceed the recommendations of the Committee. No action which increases the compensation of the City Council in excess of the level recommended by the Committee may be taken without a vote of the people. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to a recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote and shall be subject to referendum as provided in this Charter. Once compensation has been initially established as provided in this section, no increase in the annual compensation shall be greater than five percent for each calendar year following the operative date of the most recent change for the compensation. No more than one ordinance establishing the compensation of City Council members may be adopted in any two-calendar year period. Any compensation and benefits fixed as a result of this Section shall constitute full compensation for the services of the City Council member and the maximum benefits provided to the City Council member by the City.

Until such time as the City Council adopts an ordinance as provided herein, Councilmembers shall continue to receive the compensation in effect as of the effective date of the Section.

(Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective May 4, 1981.)

#### Section 406. - THE MAYOR.

The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the City at large for a term of four years, except as provided in Section 401 (B). The Mayor shall be a voting member of the City Council and shall preside at meetings of the City Council. The Mayor shall act as chief executive of the City in performing all acts required to be performed under the laws of the State of California and this Charter. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, by the Courts for the purpose of serving civil process and by the Governor of the State for military purposes. The Mayor shall have a voice and vote in all

proceedings of the City Council and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with his or her office.

(Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 407 – THE MAYOR PRO TEM

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tem who shall exercise the full-powers and perform the full duties of the Mayor .

#### Section 4087. - THE VICE MAYOR.

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence or disability.

(Sec. 4078 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 4078 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 4098. - POWERS VESTED IN THE CITY COUNCIL.

All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council subject to the provisions of this Charter and to the Constitution of the State of California. The City Council is empowered to carry into effect the provisions of this Charter, to execute the powers vested in the City, and to perform all duties and obligations imposed upon the City by State law.

(Sec. 408 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 4109. - OFFICERS APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council shall appoint and may remove the City Manager, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, and City Clerk.

The City Prosecutor shall prosecute misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of the law of the State and ordinances of the City.

(Sec. 4109 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

#### Section 4110. - ORGANIZATION OF CITY OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

The City Council shall, by ordinance, provide for the organization of all city operations and activities into functional units and may modify and change the organization from time to time. This organization shall be accomplished through the creation and establishment, by ordinance, of city departments, offices and agencies, advisory boards, commissions, and committees. In establishing departments, offices, agencies, boards, commissions and committees, the Council

---

shall provide for the functions, powers, and duties of each such department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee created.

The City Council may, by ordinance, abolish, consolidate, modify, or separate any department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee, and may assign, reassign, or modify any functions, powers, or duties.

(Sec. 4110 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

Section 4121. - PROHIBITIONS.

- (A) Neither the Mayor nor any City Council member shall be eligible to hold any paid office created by the City Council while a member thereof and until one year after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.
- (B) Except for purposes of inquiry, the Mayor, the City Council, and its members shall deal with the administrative service under the City Manager solely through the City Manager, and neither the Mayor, the City Council nor its members shall attempt to influence or to direct any subordinates of the City Manager.

(Sec. 4121 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

Section 4132. - OFFICIAL BONDS.

The City Council may, by ordinance, require any city officer or employee to give and execute to the City an official bonds for the faithful performance of official duties. The Premium therefor shall be paid by the City.

(Sec. 4132 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)



## Clean Copy of Recommended Charter Language

### ARTICLE IV - THE CITY COUNCIL

#### Section 401. - NUMBER AND TERM.

- A. There shall be a City Council consisting of a Mayor and seven Councilmembers. The seven Councilmembers shall be nominated and elected by district as provided in this Charter. Except as provided in subsection B, the term of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be four years.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, in order to transition to new election dates starting in 2018, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected in 2015 shall expire in December 2020 and the terms of office of Councilmembers elected in the year 2017 shall expire in December 2022.
- C. Beginning in the year 2020, the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 shall commence in the year 2020 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2020, and the terms of office of the Councilmembers elected from Districts 3, 5, and 7 shall commence in the year 2022 and in each fourth anniversary of the year 2022. The terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall commence at the time of the City's organizational meeting held on the fifth Monday following the statewide general election and until their respective successors are elected and have duly qualified.
- D. No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as a Councilmember. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Councilmember, a person may serve an additional two four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Councilmember. Any term of elected service of two years or more shall constitute a four (4) year term for the purposes of this section. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.
- E. No person may serve more than three consecutive four-year terms of office as Mayor. Following a period of hiatus of not less than four years away from the office of Mayor, a person may serve an additional two four-year terms in the office of Mayor. In no event shall any person serve more than five four-year terms in the office of Mayor. The limitation on the number of terms shall apply only to terms of office that began after January 1, 2025.

(Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 401 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.

#### Section 402. - ELIGIBILITY.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a qualified elector of the City. Each Councilmember shall be a resident of the district from which the Member is elected or appointed.

(Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 402 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

---

**Section 403. - VACANCY DEFINED.**

If the Mayor shall cease to be a resident of the City or if any Councilmember shall cease to be a resident of the district, respectively, from which elected or appointed, or if either the Mayor or any Councilmember shall be absent without permission of the City Council from all regular City Council meetings within a period of 60 consecutive days from the last regular meeting attended, shall resign, shall be adjudged legally incompetent, shall be deceased, or shall be otherwise barred from holding office by reason of state or federal law, that office shall thereupon be declared vacant by a majority vote of the City Council.

(Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 403 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective January 1, 1981.)

**Section 404. - VACANCY—APPOINTMENT OR SPECIAL ELECTION.**

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the remaining members of the Council shall, after such occurrence, elect a Mayor Pro Tem from amongst the remaining members of the City Council. The Mayor Pro Tem shall assume the duties of the office of Mayor until the office shall be filled at the next general municipal election. The assumption of the duties of the Mayor Pro Tem shall not require that the Mayor Pro Tem relinquish his or her seat as a Councilmember elected or appointed from a district.

If a vacancy occurs among any member of the City Council that represents a Council District, and less than two years remain on the unexpired term for that office, the remaining members of the City Council shall within 75 days after such occurrence appoint a qualified resident voter of the unrepresented Council District who shall hold office until the office is filled at the next general municipal election. Any person seeking an appointment to a Council District vacancy shall be a resident in the district for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days immediately preceding the vacancy occurring. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the process to fill vacancies for Council District offices.

If two or more years remain on the unexpired term, or if the City Council cannot agree on one person to fill the vacancy within 75 days of the vacancy occurring, the office shall be filled by special election. The special election shall be called by the remaining members of the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such vacancy, or at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the 75-day deadline. The special election shall be held on the next regularly established primary municipal, general municipal, district, county, or state election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, unless the Council chooses to call a special election at an earlier point in time. The unexpired term shall be filled in either the primary or general special election, upon certification of the election results where one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, consistent with City Charter Section 1204. Nothing herein provided shall limit the power of the City Council to provide by ordinance for the continuity of the City Government in the event of war, enemy-caused disaster, or common accident in which a majority of the members of the City Council are killed, missing, or injured so as to be unable to perform their duties.

(Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 404 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

**Section 405. - COMPENSATION.**

---

Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the City Council authorizing the formation of a Committee on City Councilmembers' Compensation ("the Committee"), each member of the City Council shall nominate one person to the Committee, subject to the approval of the City Council. The duties of the Committee shall be to study, take public input, and make recommendations regarding the compensation paid to members of the City Council and benefits to which the members of the City Council are entitled including, but not limited to, insurance, expense allowances and reimbursement. The Council Compensation Committee shall be convened not less than once every five years.

Each member of the Committee shall be an elector of the City. In making their nominations, City Councilmembers shall consider persons recommended by representatives of the fields of higher education, labor, business, and organizations reflecting the diversity of the City. No person shall be eligible for membership on the Committee who is, or within five years prior to his or her appointment was, an officer or employee of the City; or who has, within five years prior to his or her appointment, had any personal or business-related contractual relation with the City.

The nominee of the Mayor shall act as temporary chair of the Committee, with the power to fix the time and place of the Committee's first meeting. At such meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair and shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to conduct its business. The provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Committee. Records of the Committee shall be maintained as public records as provided by State law. The Committee shall gather such information as it deems necessary to complete its duties, and prior to making its recommendation, shall hold at least one duly noticed public hearing for the purpose of seeking public input. The City Manager shall provide office space, staff assistance and supplies for the work of the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses pursuant to City ordinance.

Not later than October 1 of the year the Committee is appointed, the Committee shall submit to the City Council a report adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee recommending either that no change be made in the compensation paid to members of the City Council, or that change, either an increase or a decrease, be made and the amount thereof. If such report is not timely submitted or is not adopted by a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee's recommendation shall be deemed to be a recommendation for no change. The Committee shall cease to exist thirty (30) days after its report is submitted to the City Council.

The City Council may take no action on the recommendation, or it may, by ordinance, adjust the compensation paid to members of the City Council by an amount not to exceed the recommendations of the Committee. No action which increases the compensation of the City Council in excess of the level recommended by the Committee may be taken without a vote of the people. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to a recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote and shall be subject to referendum as provided in this Charter. Once compensation has been initially established as provided in this section, no increase in the annual compensation shall be greater than five percent for each calendar year following the operative date of the most recent change for the compensation. No more than one ordinance establishing the compensation of City Council members may be adopted in any two-calendar year period. Any compensation and benefits fixed as a result of this Section shall constitute full compensation for the services of the City Council member and the maximum benefits provided to the City Council member by the City.

Until such time as the City Council adopts an ordinance as provided herein, Councilmembers shall continue to receive the compensation in effect as of the effective date of the Section.

---

(Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993:  
Sec. 405 amended by vote of the people 11-4-1980, effective May 4, 1981.)

**Section 406. - THE MAYOR.**

The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the City at large for a term of four years, except as provided in Section 401 (B). The Mayor shall be a voting member of the City Council and shall preside at meetings of the City Council. The Mayor shall act as chief executive of the City in performing all acts required to be performed under the laws of the State of California and this Charter. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, by the Courts for the purpose of serving civil process and by the Governor of the State for military purposes. The Mayor shall have a voice and vote in all proceedings of the City Council and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with his or her office.

(Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 6-5-2018: Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998:  
Sec. 406 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

**Section 407 – THE MAYOR PRO TEM**

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers, a Mayor Pro Tem who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor .

**Section 408. - THE VICE MAYOR.**

At its organizational meeting held annually in December, the City Council shall elect from among the Councilmembers a Vice Mayor who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during the latter's absence.

(Sec. 408 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 408 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

**Section 409. - POWERS VESTED IN THE CITY COUNCIL.**

All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council subject to the provisions of this Charter and to the Constitution of the State of California. The City Council is empowered to carry into effect the provisions of this Charter, to execute the powers vested in the City, and to perform all duties and obligations imposed upon the City by State law.

(Sec. 408 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

**Section 410. - OFFICERS APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL.**

The City Council shall appoint and may remove the City Manager, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, and City Clerk.

The City Prosecutor shall prosecute misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of the law of the State and ordinances of the City.

(Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

**Section 411. - ORGANIZATION OF CITY OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.**

The City Council shall, by ordinance, provide for the organization of all city operations and activities into functional units and may modify and change the organization from time to time. This organization shall be accomplished through the creation and establishment, by ordinance, of city departments, offices and agencies, advisory boards, commissions, and committees. In establishing departments, offices, agencies, boards, commissions and committees, the Council shall provide for the functions, powers, and duties of each such department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee created.

The City Council may, by ordinance, abolish, consolidate, modify, or separate any department, office, agency, board, commission, or committee, and may assign, reassign, or modify any functions, powers, or duties.

(Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993: Sec. 410 amended by vote of the people 6-8-1976, effective August 1, 1976.)

**Section 412. - PROHIBITIONS.**

- (A) Neither the Mayor nor any City Council member shall be eligible to hold any paid office created by the City Council while a member thereof and until one year after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.
- (B) Except for purposes of inquiry, the Mayor, the City Council, and its members shall deal with the administrative service under the City Manager solely through the City Manager, and neither the Mayor, the City Council nor its members shall attempt to influence or to direct any subordinates of the City Manager.

(Sec. 412 amended by vote of the people 11-3-1998: Sec. 411 amended by vote of the people 3-9-1993.)

## Task Force Membership – Biographies/Applications



**CITY OF PASADENA  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE  
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE**

RECEIVED

2023 SEP 28 PM 1:14

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. *Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.*

Applicant Name: Ken Chawkins

Home Address: Pasadena, CA 91105

Mailing Address: Pasadena, CA 91105

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: Immediately

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

X District Representative representing City Council District 6

At-large Representative City Council District \_\_\_\_\_

Mayoral Representative

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

Chair, Pasadena Media; Board Member, The Children's Partnership; Board Member, Coro Southern California, Task Force Member, Pasadena Charter Review (Citywide elected Mayor), Chair, Pasadena Unified School District - Districting; Board Member, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce; Founding Board Member, Leadership Pasadena; Board Member, Measure CC and TT (PUSD); Board Member, San Rafael Neighborhood Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

(See attached)

---

---

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

BA, UCLA - Political Science; MA, Claremont Graduate University - Public Policy;  
Coro Fellow - New York City

---

---

1. Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena? (If yes, please list dates/department) YES  NO

---

2. Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena? (If yes, please indicate name and relationship) YES  NO

---

3. Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force? (If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts) YES  NO

---

4. Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force? YES  NO

5. Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends? YES  NO



6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

I served on the Charter Reform Task Force that brought the Citywide elected Mayor to Pasadena. I Chaired the Task Force that brought District elections (from an at-large system) to Pasadena Unified School District. My Master's Thesis focused on the Commission Form of municipal government in California. I have been deeply involved in numerous civic activities in Pasadena and care deeply about issues that impact our system of self-governance. I have served on numerous boards/task forces and understand the responsibilities that go along with serving.

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

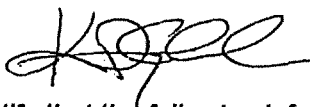
The Task Force should follow the direction of the City Council. The City Charter sets the rules for all governance issues in Pasadena. That said, the specific direction for this Task Force is determined by the City Council and the Task Force should be focused on those issues directly. Given the limited amount of time and resources we have, staying focused on the issues called out will be key to getting our work done and providing a quality product for the Council's consideration.

8. **In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

Given the dynamic nature of politics, it is very important to define clear and concise guidelines about transition of elected office. Additionally, given the increasing amount of time required to serve as Mayor and/or City Council, it is critical to determine if the City Charter allows for the recruitment and election of the City's best citizens. If the time and/or financial requirements keep good people from serving, the Task Force should consider ways to alleviate those restrictions. Additionally, it is important to consider whether/how we might limit the terms of office to allow for a required term limit option in the City Charter. These are critical elements to allow those who are governing the time and space to govern effectively.

9. **How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

What is critical for the Task Force is clarity. We must have a clear idea of what is being asked of us, sufficient staff support and a clear path to achieving our goals. While there are many other important issues to consider, the Task Force must stay focused on the issues at hand. Additionally, we would be best served to have Task Force meetings outside of City Hall. We must reach out to the residents of the city, engage their feedback and integrate that into the work we do. Rather than conjecture, we must gather information and ensure the community voices are heard.

Signature: 

Date: September 27, 2023

*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

Year of Birth: 1962 Gender: Male Ethnicity: White

If City resident, number of years: 27

# Ken Chawkins

, Pasadena, CA 91105

Ken Chawkins is Principal at Chawkins Communications Consulting, Inc. His current retained clients include **Gemini Motors** and **South Coast Air Quality Management District**. He is Project Lead for the **City of South Pasadena** in their transition to become the first city in the US with an all zero-emissions Police Force. He is a consultant with **National Demographics Corporation** helping public jurisdictions in California navigate the development of electoral maps. He teaches Stakeholder Engagement at **UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs**.

Chawkins served as the Government Relations Manager for **Air Products and Chemicals**, a world-leading Industrial Gases company. He acted as the principal liaison to local and state policymakers to advance company priorities and all growth platforms, with special focus on Hydrogen for Mobility and Carbon Capture and Sequestration. Additionally, Chawkins supported business development activities by developing advocacy campaign strategies, crafting appropriate and effective messaging, and planning and executing strategic government engagement plans. As Government Relations Manager, Chawkins designed and executed stakeholder engagement plans and managed overall communication strategies,

His work with **Southern California Gas Company** as Manager of Public Policy and Business Policy Manager relied on Chawkins' expertise within the energy/utility industry. SoCalGas is the largest national gas distribution company in the United States, and Chawkins was responsible for advancing the company's policy agenda with external stakeholders at the local and state governmental levels. Additionally, he framed the public engagement strategy and worked with various organizations and interest groups to build coalitions seeking the safe, clean and affordable use of natural gas as an energy source.

Chawkins started his journey in the Energy/Utility industry at **Southern California Edison** where he built a foundation of knowledge in one of the largest electric utilities in the country. Chawkins spent with Southern California Edison, starting as a region manager for public affairs, serving as Special Assistant to the CEO, managing a local district and overseeing corporate training units.

Chawkins is civically active in Southern California currently serving on the Board of The Children's Partnership, Chair of Pasadena Media, a trainer for Water Education for Latino Leaders and an advisor to the Glendale Education Foundation. He has previously served on many other boards, including Coro Southern California, Leadership Southern California, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Legacy Los Angeles, Environmental Leadership Institute and Sustain Southern California. Chawkins holds a BA in Political Science from UCLA, a MA in Public Policy from Claremont Graduate University and was a Coro Fellow in New York City in 1989. He lives in Pasadena with his wife, Dr. Lan Nguyen Chawkins and has two adult daughters, Dania and Emma.



CITY OF PASADENA
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.

RECEIVED
2005 OCT 16 PM 3:06
CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

Applicant Name: Marcus D. Hatcher
Home Address: , Pasadena CA 91104
Mailing Address: S/A
Email Address:
Business Phone: Date Available to Start: Immediately
Home Phone: S/A Cell Phone: S/A

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

X District Representative representing City Council District 3
At-large Representative City Council District
Mayoral Representative

Community Service – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

Democrats of Pasadena Foothills, PUSD School Site Council, Willard elementary PTA, District 1 PTA, SEIU Executive Board

Employment – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

See Attached

Education – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

See Attached

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please list dates/department)*

---

YES  NO

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)*

---

YES  NO

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)*

---

YES  NO

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?**

YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?**

YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

I have worked with public sector workers since 2004. I have professional knowledge of public sector management systems that are governed by elected boards/ councils. I have worked with various elected public sector boards/councils. I have drafted and or approved similar bylaws that oversee numerous non profit organizations.

---

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

I believe that the Task Force should consider issues that include; term limitations for elected officials, elected official compensation, elected official staffing, elected official employee status, and council relationships with adjacent agencies (ex. PUSD). The City of Pasadena has a budget and relevance in California and the US to support addressing these issues as comparable cities have chartered their cities to operate.

---

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

Simply put, the recommendations of this Task Force allows us to reimagine the City for our residence and prospective residents.

---

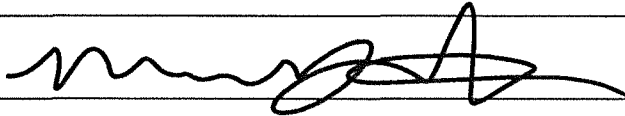
---

---

**9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

I believe that my combination of my professional experience, understanding of public sector objectives, commitment to our community, understanding of the expectations of our residents, and my leadership will help achieve the Task Force's goals.

Signature:



Date: 10/16/2023

I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

Year of Birth: 11/25/1974 Gender: M Ethnicity: Black

If City resident, number of years: 5

# Marcus D. Hatcher

Pasadena, CA 91104

---

**Objective** I am interested in working with my fellow resident, staff, s and officials that are equally committed to the future of our city.

**Profile**

- Ability to develop professional relationships throughout community
- Excellent understanding of contract interpretation and enforcement, policy development, and labor laws
- Ability to develop and execute management directives effectively
- Proven ability to effectively work with elected officials, management, staff, and workers
- Ability to successfully represent the head of an organization and the principles of the organization
- Ability to articulate vision and goals of an organization

**Education** B.A., Communication, University of Nevada Las Vegas

B.A., Education, University of Nevada Las Vegas

“How to do Arbitrations and Hearings”, Southwest Organizing School

“Negotiations Strategy and Tactics”, Southwest Organizing School

“How to be a Dynamic Trainer”, National Seminars Training

---

## Relevant Experience & Accomplishments

### Program Coordination

- Program Development and Oversight
- Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Contract Enforcement
- Conducted Arbitrations and Mediations
- Public Representative of the Organization
- Facilitated Public Sector Efficiency Initiatives
- Led Housing Authority Consolidation in Nevada
- Developed and Facilitated Focus Groups for Budget Crisis Resolutions
- Developed and Instructed Contract Interpretation Trainings
- Developed and Instructed Miscellaneous Trainings
- Developed Grievance Reduction Trainings
- Negotiated Agency Classification and Compensation
- Negotiated Compensation Market Adjustments
- Facilitated Layoff Alternatives
- Oversaw State and Local Lobbying Efforts
- Provided testimony to EMRB, PERB, NLRB, NERC, and EEOC
- Elected Representative of Organization

**Management/Supervision**

- Plan and Administer the Objectives of an Organization
- Develop and Oversee Departmental and Organizational Budgets
- Negotiate Collective Bargaining Agreements on behalf of Management
- Draft and execute vendor contracts
- Recruit, Train, Evaluate, and Correct Staff
- Directly Oversee Supervisors and Clerical Staff

---

**Employment**

**Chief Strategist, MDH Strategic Solutions**

*2017-Present*

Provide Labor Relations Consultation to Unions and Employers

Develop and Implement Strategies Aligned with Organizational Objectives

Serve as Chief Negotiator

Provide Labor Relations Training to Staff and Members

Assess Grievances and Grievance Structures

---

**Instructor, Los Angeles Community College, LATTC**

*2010-Present*

Develop Labor Relations Curriculum

Provide Instruction and Evaluation to Trade Tech Students

Complete Administrative Components of Grade Assignment

Adhere to all Policies and Procedures of the College

**Kaiser Division Director, SEIU-UHW**

2016-2017

Lead the Programmatic Work of 100 Departmental Staff (including supervisors, field staff, and clerical staff)

Develop and Maintain Labor/Management Relationship with Kaiser Permanente Executives

Develop Budget and Confirm budget for Departmental Staff – (approximately \$35 million/ annually)

Review and Confirm Budget for Kaiser Coalition of Unions – (approximately \$40 million/ annually)

Review and Confirm Budget for Kaiser Labor Management Partnership – (approximately \$80 million/ annually)

Serve as an Elected Leader of the Union

Provide Leadership and Reports to Executive Board

Serve as a Chairperson of the Kaiser Coalition of Unions

Serve as a Trustee of the Kaiser Labor Management Partnership

**Director of Representational Excellence, SEIU-UHW**

2011- 2016

Develop and Oversee Representation Program

Develop and Oversee Representational Leadership Program

Develop Member Leaders

Oversee all Arbitrations and Mediations

Drive Cost Effective Grievance Resolution

Oversee Web- based Grievance Tracker

Analyze Grievance-Based Data

Serve as Kaiser Arbitration Panelists

Oversee Kaiser and Dignity Contract Specialists

Provide Leadership and Reports to Executive Board

Chair Representational Excellence Program Committee



**Director of Representation and Negotiations, SEIU 721**

2010-2011

Serve as Chief Negotiator

Develop Union-Wide Principles for Bargaining

Manage Staff Responsible for Negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements

Assist in Training of Bargaining Teams

Manage Advocates Responsible for Contract Enforcement

Manage Civil Service Advocates

Manage In-house Counsel and Monitor Relationship with Contracted Firm

Serve as Liaison with Contracted Call Center

Assist with Training of Stewards

Develop Inclusive Representational Systems

Serve as a Part of Sr. Leadership Team

Execute Vision of Board and Executive Director

**Director of Government Affairs, SEIU Local 1107**

2008-2010

Oversee State and Local Lobbying

Oversee Political Staff

Develop and Maintain Relationships with Elected Officials and Political Candidates

Develop Detailed Political Plan

Negotiate Collective Bargaining Agreements

Execute Other Special Projects

**Employee Relations Manager, City of Las Vegas**

2008 - 2008

Oversee Employee Relations for City Employees

Train and Supervise Employee Relations Staff

Develop Mature Relationship with Departmental Leadership

Advise Departmental Leadership on Labor and/or Contract Related Issues

Conduct Workplace Investigations

Complete Summaries of Investigations

Recommend, Issue, Review or Rescind Discipline

**Director of Representation, SEIU Local 1107**

2004- 2008

Negotiate and Enforce Collective Bargaining Agreements  
Manage Staff Responsible for Negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements  
Oversee the Labor/Management Relationship for the Union  
Oversee Grievances and Arbitrations  
Develop Curriculum and Train Stewards  
Create and Maintain Systems to Track Grievances  
Represent the Principles of the Executive Director and organization  
Plan and Implement Objectives of the Organization

**Airport Transportation Specialist, Clark County Department of Aviation**

1997-2004

Enforce Traffic Regulations at and Around Airport  
Ensure compliance of FAA Security Standards

**Airport Operations Dispatcher, Clark County Department of Aviation**

1996-1997

Monitor and Operate a Variety of Systems Information Computers to  
Ascertain the Condition and Security of Airport Facilities and Equipment  
Notify Appropriate Responders in the Event of an Unusual or Apparent  
Emergency Situation

**Police Officer, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department**

1995-1996

- Enforce Local, State, and Federal laws through arrest and/ or Issuing Citations
- Respond to Criminal Related Calls to Evaluate and Act

**Police Cadet, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department**

1993-1995

- Assist Police/ Correctional Officers in Law Enforcement Through Report Writing and Other Assistance

**Volunteer Service**

Available Upon Request

**References**

Available Upon Request



CITY OF PASADENA
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

RECEIVED

NOV 25 11 49:07

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.

Applicant Name: Vince Farhat
Home Address: Pasadena, California 91105
Mailing Address: Pasadena, California 91105
Email Address:
Business Phone: Date Available to Start: October 1, 2023
Home Phone: Cell Phone:

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

- X District Representative representing City Council District Six
X At-large Representative City Council District Six
X Mayoral Representative

Community Service - List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

City of Pasadena Advisory Bodies

Rose Bowl Operating Company Audit Committee (community representative) (2020-Present)
Chair, Redistricting Task Force (2021)
Member, Civic Center Task Force (2018-2019)
Chair, Board of Zoning Appeals (2015-2017)
Member, Planning Commission (2012-2017)
Board of Directors, Pasadena Center Operating Company (2010-2012)
Chair, Transportation Advisory Commission (2003-2010)
Member, City Council Compensation Committee (2001)
Vice-Chair, Utility Advisory Commission (1999-2003)
Member, Charter Reform Task Force (1998-1999)

Non-Profit Organizations

Board of Directors, Greater Los Angeles Area Council, BSA (2020-Present)
Board Chair, St. Thomas More Society of Los Angeles (2021-Present)
Board of Governors, Beverly Hills Bar Association (2021-Present)
Executive Committee, Los Angeles County Bar Association Litigation Section (2015-2019)
Board of Directors, La Casita del Arroyo Foundation (2012-2015)
West Pasadena Residents' Association (President 2002-2004; Board of Directors 2000-2012)

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
NOV 25 11 49:07

---

---

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

Chair, White Collar Defense & Investigations Group, Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP (2020-Present)  
Adjunct Professor, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola Law School (2004-Present)  
Partner, Holland & Knight LLP (2011-2020)  
Assistant U.S. Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, Central District of California (2002-2011)  
Associate, Jones Day (1996-1998; 1999-2002)  
Judicial Law Clerk, United States District Court, Central District of California (1998-1999)  
Vice-President & General Manager, Sanjo Investments Commercial Real Estate (1991-1996)  
Commercial Real Estate Broker, Prudential Stevenson Real Estate (1989-1991)

Note: See LinkedIn profile for employment descriptions and duties: [www.linkedin.com/in/vincefahatjd/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/vincefahatjd/)

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

Juris Doctor (JD), Loyola Marymount University, Loyola Law School  
Master of Business Administration (MBA), Pepperdine University, Graziadio School of Business  
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in International Studies, American University, School of International Service  
State Bar of California License #183794

---

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please list dates/department) YES  NO

---

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please indicate name and relationship) YES  NO

---

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** (If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts) YES  NO

---

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?** Yes, I am aware of the time commitment. YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

My professional experience in law and government, together with 25 years of experience as a citizen commissioner in the City of Pasadena, qualifies me to serve on the Charter Study Task Force. In addition to my volunteer experience with non-profits and municipal advisory bodies, I previously served on the City of Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force that recommended the voter-approved charter amendments creating the position of the citywide elected Mayor. I also served on the City Council Compensation Committee after the elected Mayor position was created. My previous Pasadena charter reform and Council compensation experience would provide helpful context for the issues to be studied by this new advisory body.

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

The Charter Study Task Force will review and evaluate certain municipal governance topics set by the City Council at its meeting on September 18, 2023, provide recommendations to the Council on the appropriateness/necessity of each topic, and submit its findings as part of a final report to the Council by late May/early June 2024.

8. **In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

The City Council has directed the Task Force to study the following issues: (i) vacancy appointment process for Mayor and City Council, as well as options for special elections; (ii) Mayor and City Council term limits; (iii) review of timing of Mayoral election; (iv) review of Vice Mayor appointment process, timing, and/or length of term; (v) City Council compensation, broadly, as well as dedicated family care allowance for Councilmembers; and (vi) campaign contribution limits. Adhering to the City Council's clearly defined scope and charge will be critically important to the success of the Charter Study Task Force.

9. **How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

The City of Pasadena is committed to inclusion and transparency in all our affairs. As a citizen commissioner, I have always endeavored to work with community members and City staff in a respectful and collaborative manner, which would be helpful qualities in achieving the Charter Study Task Force's mission of reviewing the governance topics set by the City Council. I also have decades of experience complying with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, which is an important part of ensuring our public proceedings are transparent and open to everyone in our community. In addition, my prior charter reform and Council compensation experience would be useful in helping to achieve the Task Force's objectives as defined by the Council's approved scope and charge.

Signature:



Date: September 24, 2023

*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

**Year of Birth:** 1966      **Gender:** Male      **Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**If City resident, number of years:** 27



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

RECEIVED  
NOV -2 11:38:55  
CITY OF PASADENA

Applicant Name: Diana Carbajal Mejia

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Pasadena, Calif 91104

Mailing Address: Same as above

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: December 1, 2023

Home Phone: None Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

- District Representative** representing City Council District \_\_\_\_\_
- At-large Representative** City Council District \_\_\_\_\_
- Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

All Saints Church, (Pasadena) Vestry Board Member April 2012 - April 2016; Rector Search Committee, All Saints Church, 2015-2016; Co-Chair, California District Attorneys Association, Extradition Committee, 2017 - 2022; Project LEAD, Legal Education Facilitator (Los Angeles County) 2016 - 2019; Student Attendance Review Board, El Monte School District, 2003-2004.

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

See attached resume.

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

California State University Fullerton, B.A., Communications, Minor in Political Science, Dec. 1985; Loyola Law School, Juris Doctorate, May 1995; Admitted to California State Bar, November 1995.

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please list dates/department)* YES  NO

I have never worked for the City of Pasadena.

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)* YES  NO

I am not related to any employee, appointed or elected official.

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)* YES  NO

I am not aware of any potential conflicts.

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?** YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

My legal training and undergraduate course of study provide me with the education and background to serve as a task force committee member. Additionally, prior to becoming a prosecutor I worked for a law firm which represented government entities, such as the cities of Mentebello, Vernon, Commerce and various school school districts. As an associate at this law firm I attended city council meetings, planning commission and school board meetings and advised city and public entity clients on a wide range of legal issues. Additionally, in my work as a prosecutor, I drafted and proposed legislation involving bail reform and immigration. This experience is helpful in proposing potential legislation for voters to approve regarding charter reform.

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

The Charter Study Task Force should consider term limits as well as reforming the city charter to implement processes for filling vacancies on unexpired terms, including appointments, and calling for special elections. Campaign finances should also be considered.

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

The Task Force's scope and charge is important to proper and representative governance of the city. The Pasadena community must have have fair and duly elected representatives, therefore the Task Force's responsibility in examining this issue and proposing solutions is critical to our democratic process.

**9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

My experience in working collaboratively in researching issues and proposing solutions will assist the Task Force in accomplishing its charge. I have worked on important and potentially contentious issues such as bail reform, immigration, and church leadership, and have been successful in presenting research, offering solutions and drafting legislation and proposals.

Signature: Deana Cortez Mejia

Date: 11/1/2023

*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

Year of Birth: 1963 Gender: Female Ethnicity: Latina

If City resident, number of years: 4



# Diana M. Carbajal

Pasadena California 91104

## Skills

Licensed attorney with 28 years of practical experience primarily in the area of criminal law. Skills include motion writing, legal research, oral advocacy, personnel supervision and project management.

## Experience

May 2018 - March 2022

### **Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles** - *Deputy in Charge, Extradition Services Section*

- Managed the operation of the office's extradition unit which was responsible for returning fugitives from outside California and from foreign countries. Also worked with federal statutory schemes and interstate compacts to secure the return of prisoners serving sentences in federal and out-of-state prisons.
- Supervised staff attorneys, paralegals and legal support personnel tasked with extraditing fugitives, and staffing a court having exclusive jurisdiction over bail bond forfeiture motions.
- Chaired office committee tasked with analyzing and drafting legislation in support of bail reform and pre-trial release.
- Represented the office on a county-wide committee which was responsible for proposing and implementing a pilot program for releasing arrestees without bail.
- Handled a personal caseload of dozens of high profile criminal extradition matters involving both international and domestic fugitives.

July 2012- April 2018

### **Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles** - *Coordinator, Extradition Services Section*

- Assisted the Head Deputy of the Training Division to grow and manage the Extradition Services Section. During this period the Extradition Services Section added staffing, and increased its presence within the office and with law enforcement partners.
- Conducted office-wide attorney and staff training and law enforcement agency training.
- Developed a database to successfully manage an increasing caseload of both international and domestic extradition cases.
- Coordinated the launch of a county-wide program which centralized bail bond forfeiture matters to be heard in a downtown court with exclusive jurisdiction. Implemented LADA office-wide policies and procedure to staff and manage bail bond forfeiture matters.
- Reviewed and edited colleagues' work on extradition filings in international fugitive cases.

- Carried a personal caseload of dozens of high profile criminal extradition matters involving both international and domestic fugitives.
- Appeared in court regularly to handle various criminal extradition and bail bond forfeiture matters.

March 2005 - June 2012

**Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles** - *Deputy District Attorney, Extradition Services Section*

- Solo attorney handling dozens of international extradition matters.
- Briefed LADA management and colleagues on international extradition procedures and offered extradition strategies when new laws permitted extradition of fugitives.
- Worked with law enforcement agents and office colleagues in drafting and processing extradition documents including declarations, legal statements, documentary evidence and correspondence.
- Collaborated with US Attorneys at the Office of International Affairs for submission of international extradition requests to foreign countries.
- Advised colleagues on bail bond forfeiture cases including drafting motions for inclusion in office wide brief bank.
- Regularly appeared in court to handle various criminal extradition and bail bond forfeiture matters.

July 2003 - August 2004

**Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles** - *Deputy District Attorney, Abolish Chronic Truancy (ACT) Unit*

- Collaborated with county-wide school district administrators to implement and operate this grant-funded program aimed at reducing truancy and preventing crime.
- Conducted school-wide parent meetings advising on truancy consequences and counseled individual students and families to facilitate regular school attendance.
- Represented the District Attorney at School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings.
- Prosecuted individuals whose children were chronically truant.

February 2003 - July 2003

**Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles** - *Deputy District Attorney, Pomona Branch Office*

- Prosecuted defendants charged with various felony crimes, including assault, robbery, and domestic violence.

June 2002 - February 2003

**Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles** - *Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division, Eastlake*

- Adjudicated minors whose crimes included assaults, robberies, and sexual offenses.

July 2000 - June 2002

**Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles - Deputy District Attorney, Central Trials**

- Prosecuted defendants charged with various felony crimes, including murder, assault, robbery, and domestic violence.
- Investigated and responded to petitions for Writs of Habeas Corpus brought by convicted felons whose cases were implicated by police corruption uncovered during an investigation of the Los Angeles Police Department Rampart Division.

March 1999 - June 2000

**Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles - Deputy District Attorney, Misdemeanor and Preliminary Hearing Unit**

- Prosecuted defendants charged with various misdemeanor offenses.
- Conducted preliminary hearings.

May 1996 - February 1999

**Law Offices of Barbosa, Garcia and Barnes, Los Angeles - Associate**

- Represented public and government entity clients in civil litigation matters including, employment and labor disputes, tort and civil rights violations.
- Advised Los Angeles Unified School Board members and staff and faculty on the implementation of special education reforms mandated under the *Chanda Smith Consent Decree*.

## Education

August 1992- May 1995

**Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, California - *Juris Doctor***

August 1981-December 1985

**California State University Fullerton, Fullerton, California - *Bachelor of Arts, Communications; Minor, Political Science***

## Awards and Recognitions

*Calif. District Attorney Association, Co-Chair, Extradition & Foreign Prosecution Committee (2018-2022)*

*US Marshals Service 15 Most Wanted Fugitives - Capture of George Barraza*

*LAPD/Foreign Prosecution Liaison Unit - Capture of Guatemalan and Mexican Fugitives*

*Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Award for Establishment of Bail Bond Forfeiture Court*

*Project LEAD - Volunteer Facilitator*

***Admitted to the California State Bar, License number 181493***



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PASADENA  
OCT 19 11 33 AM

Applicant Name: Raul Francisco Salinas

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Pasadena CA 91106

Mailing Address: Same as above

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: Anytime

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

- District Representative** representing City Council District \_\_\_\_\_
- At-large Representative** City Council District \_\_\_\_\_
- XX Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

2005-2006 Member, Pasadena Task Force on Good Government; 2015 Pasadena Task Force on Financial Administration and Internal Controls; 2018- present, Board Member and General Counsel, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Washington, DC); 2002 – present, Board Member, Adventist Health White Memorial Medical Center; 2014-2022, Former Board Member and Chair, Habitat for Humanity for Greater Los Angeles; Former Board Member, San Gabriel Valley Council Boy Scouts of America Council (2008 – 2014 est.). Other former volunteer board of director memberships with include: La Plaza de Cultura y Artes (Los Angeles), The Women's Foundation (Oakland), Concordia Leadership Advisory Board (New York), Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Advisory Board (Baltimore), and Former Commissioner, California State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (San Francisco).

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

Partner in Charge, Los Angeles Office, Frost Brown Todd AlvaradoSmith (1/1/23 – present); Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office, AlvaradoSmith (8/96 – 12/31/22). Associate Attorney at Rogers & Wells ('93-96); McKenna & Fitting ('90-93; merged with Rogers & Wells); Barton Klugman ('88-90); Bonne Jones ('85-88).

---

---

---

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.  
Loyola Marymount University, BBA; Georgetown University Law Center, JD.

---

---

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please list dates/department)

YES  NO

---

I have not worked for the City as an employee, and for this reason the answer would be no. In full disclosure, from time to time, I have represented the City in legal matters in my capacity as outside legal counsel through my law firm. I am not representing the City at this time.

---

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please indicate name and relationship)

YES  NO

---

I am not related to any employee, or appointed or elected official, of the City

---

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** (If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)

YES  NO

---

I am not aware of any direct or indirect financial interest that relates to the task force which prohibits my voting on matters.

---

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?**

YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?**

YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

I have served on two prior task forces for the City. Among other legal practice areas, I have a municipal law

---

background. I have extensive experience in governance and ethics related topics.

**7. What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

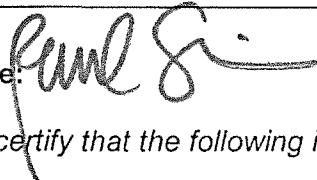
Those objectives and goals that are consistent with the scope and charge of the task force.

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

I understand that the task force will look to review various aspects of the City's charter to determine whether to recommend that portions thereof should be updated, deleted, or supplemented to address the current needs of the City, in a manner consistent with the charge set forth by the City Council.

**9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

I believe my training as an attorney, with more than 20 years of of municipal law experience, and my strong volunteer experience in community based organizations, may bring to the task force governance related experience that could serve to further the diversity and thought leadership necessary for a meaningful experience.

Signature: 

Date: 10/19/2023

*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

Year of Birth: 1960

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Latino

If City resident, number of years: 21



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

RECEIVED  
CITY OF PASADENA  
2009 OCT 29 AM 11:31

Applicant Name: Lena Louise Kennedy  
Pasadena, CA 91103

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
, Pasadena, CA 91114

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: 10-20-23

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

**District Representative** representing City Council District **1 Hon. Tyron Hampton**

**At-large Representative** City Council District \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

\_\_\_\_\_  
One Arroyo Foundation  
Los Angeles County Commission on Women and Girls

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

\_\_\_\_\_  
L. Kennedy & Associates Consulting  
CEO/President

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Blair High School, PCC, Swayer College, and UCLA [attended]  
Nonprofit management Certificate Indiana School of Philanthropy

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please list dates/department) Yes, 2019, Census

---

---

YES  NO

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please indicate name and relationship)

---

---

YES  NO

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** (If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)

---

---

YES  NO

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?**

YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?**

YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

*While I don't have experience with the City of Pasadena-specific Charter Study, I can provide insights, and I have a background and interest that would make me relevant for such a role. I possess a strong foundation in political science and public engagement and issues related to the review areas. I am aware of the governmental structures and the principles; my knowledge and experience in State Government have given me insights into the dynamics of local governance. Many municipalities share common challenges and principles, making this experience transferable. I can help identify best practices and assess the impact of potential changes.*

*I have a genuine passion for public service and a commitment to improving our communities, which is a crucial qualification. I am motivated to serve on the Charter Study Task Force to contribute my skills and knowledge to enhance the governance of Pasadena.*

*My experience working with elected demonstrates an understanding of the complexities of governance, including the importance of city charters. My experience allows me to work collaboratively with others and make informed decisions.*



*I approach governance matters with an objective and impartial mindset, ensuring that decisions are made in the community's best interests and adhering to legal and ethical standards. I represent my Councilmember and will present his views and values as I serve.*

*I have strong communication skills, essential for working within a task force, interacting with stakeholders, and presenting findings and recommendations to the public.*

**7. What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

*The goals and objectives to review the Charter Reform should be considered based on particular circumstances from community feedback and stakeholders affected by the charter. We should consider the fiscal impact on the City's Budget. Evaluate the existing charter and determine strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement. Our overarching goals should align with the City's Mission, Values, and long-term vision for the community. Transparency, accountability, and community engagement should be part of creating the goals and objectives.*

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

*Where I may have personal opinions, I can provide an objective perspective on the importance of the scope and charge of a Charter Study Task Force as approved and assigned by the City Council. The importance of the scope and charge of such a task force can be summarized as follows:*

*Clear goals and Objectives must be set for us to study and comply with.*

*The task force must know what specific issues or aspects of the city's charter they are meant to examine and potentially recommend changes.*

*We must be transparent in how we define the scope and charge of our assignment, that we are accountable in our work, and the public must understand the purpose and limitations of the study and what to expect from the outcomes.*

*We need a clear scope of our assignment to stay within the purview of our work and focus on the most pertinent issues, which will allow us to be effective. We do not want to expand beyond our purpose, and it is essential to maintain control of our study's objectives.*

*The scope and charge should include provisions for community engagement, ensuring that the public's input is considered in the study. This enhances the democratic process and gives residents a voice in charter revisions, and accountability is essential to ensure that the task force fulfills its mandate effectively. And, of course, we want to conduct our work and study in compliance with the city's laws and regulations.*

*The scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force are crucial in guiding the study process, maintaining transparency, and ensuring that the task force remains accountable to the City Council and the community it serves.*

9. **How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force’s objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council’s approved Scope and Charge?**

*First and foremost, I would thoroughly familiarize myself with the City Council's approved Scope and Charge. This document outlines the Charter Study Task Force's specific objectives, goals, and limitations.*

*I think having a Diverse and Informed group assembled to serve is essential.*

*I hope the city staff thought through the working process and developed a comprehensive Timeline/Work Plan outlining detailed outcomes, tasks, timelines, and responsibilities for the Task Force that position the Task Force to be successful in expected outcomes. This should include established clear Objectives, defined and measurable, aligned with the City Council’s Scope and Charge.*

*I would want the Charter Reform Task Forces to have the proper support team, and I hope we have legal experts/counsel to review our work, highly qualified Charter Reform Task Force Consultants to guide us in our decision-making process, and support staff to create our presentation to the City Council for approval and review. We want our final proposed changes to the city charter to ensure that any proposed changes to the city charter are legally sound and comply with state and federal laws.*

*I would include research and data showing successful Charter Reform Task Forces and their decision-making process by exploring best practices from other cities and municipalities that have successfully updated their charter. Gathering relevant data and information on the current city charter, best practices from other municipalities, and potential areas for improvement can provide valuable insights and guidance. Could you provide us with historical data on Pasadena City Charter Recommendations, which were not successful, and why?*

*Public Engagement is critical. Hold public hearings forums and gather input and feedback from residents. This ensures that the study reflects the needs and desires of the community, as this will be voted on in November 2024.*

*The Task Force will present its findings, recommendations, and a comprehensive report/proposal to the City Council for review and approval. As we develop recommendations, we want to work closely with our council members to ensure their understanding of the benefits and implications of the recommendations we will make and be prepared to address any questions or concerns raised by the City Council to make necessary revisions to the recommendations based on their feedback. We want our communication and recommendations to align with the Scope and Charge.*

*By aligning with the City Council's Scope and Charge, the Charter Study Task Force can effectively achieve its objectives and goals while ensuring a transparent and community-driven process.*

**Signature:** *Jena Louise Kennedy*

**Date:** 10-19-23

*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

**Year of Birth:** 1957 **Gender:** Female **Ethnicity:** Black

**If City resident, number of years:** 66



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PASADENA  
OCT - 3 PM 3:15

Applicant Name: Margaret McAustin

Home Address: Pasadena

Mailing Address: Pasadena

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: when needed

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

- District Representative** representing City Council District 2
- At-large Representative** City Council District \_\_\_\_\_
- Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

1998 Charter Reform Task Force, Pasadena

---

1993-1998 & 2005-2007 Pasadena Planning Commission

---

2007-2020 Pasadena City Council, District 2 Presently City appointee to RBAC

---

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

Retired

---



---



---

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

BA CSULA Business Administration/Economics

---

Paralegal

---



---

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please list dates/department)*

YES  NO

Only as a Councilmember

---

---

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)*

YES  NO

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)*

---

---

YES  NO

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?**

YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?**

YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

My previous experience on the Charter Reform Task force of 1998 gives me a unique understanding of the process, and my experience on the City Council gives me a unique understanding of the implications of Charter Reform Task Force decisions.

---

---

---

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

As directed by the City Council, including the possibly application of term limits, considerations for filling vacant seats on the City Council and compensation of Councilmembers .

---

---

---

---

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

As a city we need to ensure the voices of everyone are heard and the cost of being a councilmember is not so prohibitive in terms of time and money to allow only the wealthy and retired to participate in our civic government. Long encumbancies can act as a barrier to new members.

**9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force’s objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council’s approved Scope and Charge?**

As a member of the CRTF, my role would be to become informed by experts, staff and the public on the issues outlined by the Council and to act in furthernace of the best interests of the City. All recommendations are submitted for consideration by the Council.

**Signature:** /s/ Margaret McAustin

**Date:** 10/1/23

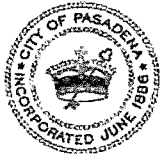
*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

**Year of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ethnicity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If City resident, number of years:** \_\_\_\_\_



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

Applicant Name: Paul A. Novak

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Pasadena, CA 91107

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Pasadena, CA 91107

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: Immediately

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PASADENA  
OCT 13 11:03:15

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

- District Representative** representing City Council District 4
- At-large Representative** City Council District 4
- Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

Former Commissioner, Board of Zoning Adjustments, City of Glendale, 1995-2003; Former President and Honorary Lifetime Member, Southern California Planning Congress (1996 to present); Advised Pasadena Transportation Department on street/speed improvements in Upper Hastings Ranch (2014-2015); and Former Board-Member, State of California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, & Geologists (2021-23).

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

Please see resume, attached.

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

Master of Real Estate Development, University of Southern California; Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Claremont McKenna College; and Member, American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), 1995 to present.

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please list dates/department)

YES  NO

~~Yes, but NOT as a City employee. I am a vendor (contractor) to the City of Pasadena Planning Department, where I serve as a Zoning Hearing Officer (retained originally in 2002)~~

---

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** (If yes, please indicate name and relationship)

YES  NO

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** (If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)

YES  NO

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?**

YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?**

YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

~~I have worked at the Federal (U.S. Congress), State (current position with LAFCO), and County (Los Angeles) levels of government. I manage a public agency with a \$1.7 million budget, so I am familiar with municipal procurement, budgeting, and management issues. As a former registered lobbyist (LA City and LA County), I am familiar with lobbying registration/reporting requirements. I have significant experience working in the public and private sectors, and I am comfortable working with stakeholders of varying perspectives.~~

---

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

~~The Task Force should consider how best to update a dated charter to reflect current conditions; ensure transparency~~

~~in all municipal administration, budgeting, and decision-making; protect the city's financial resources in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner; address issues surrounding the appropriate number of City Council districts; consider the Council's appointment process due to vacancy; explore the role of the Vice Mayor; identify appropriate increases to procurement limits which do not require City Council approval; consider whether the City should enact campaign contributions; and review Councilmember compensation.~~

---

8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?

The City Council would like to address the Council's appointment process due to vacancy, the role of the Vice Mayor, increases to procurement limits which do not require City Council approval, campaign contributions, and Councilmember compensation.

9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?

I would bring an open mind and a strong record of adhering to what is in the best interest of the public. In both my public sector work experience, as well as my work as a Hearing Officer, I have demonstrated the capacity to weigh varying perspectives, consider all relevant facts, and make decisions that are in the best interests of all relevant stakeholders.

Signature: 

Date: 10/03/2023

I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.

Year of Birth: 1964 Gender: Male Ethnicity: Caucasian

If City resident, number of years: 16



**Paul A. Novak, AICP**  
Pasadena, California

## **EXPERIENCE**

**Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles (LAFCO).** Serve as the principal staff advisor to the Commission; provide advice and assistance to local agency representatives, property-owners, and the general public concerning LAFCO procedures and policies; prepare annual budget. Pasadena, California. 2011 to present.

**Zoning Hearing Officer, City of Pasadena Planning & Permitting Department.** Review land-use applications, staff reports, and visit sites of proposed development projects; conduct public hearings relative to land-use permit applications; and serve as the decision-maker for proposed conditional use permit, hillside development permit, subdivision, variance, and zone change applications. Pasadena, California. 2002 to present.

**Hearing Officer, City of San Marino Planning and Building Department.** Review enforcement actions, city permits, staff reports, appeals, and additional documentation; conduct public hearings relative to appeals of city enforcement actions; and serve as the decision-maker for enforcement appeals. San Marino, California. 2020 to present.

**Senior Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.** Served as the Supervisor's liaison to the Departments of Beaches & Harbors, Local Agency Formation Commission, Public Works, and Regional Planning; as well as the Community Development Commission, Film L.A., and the County Sanitation Districts; worked with County staff and other public agency representatives to formulate and revise policies and procedures relative to aviation, economic development, land-use planning and zoning, permit processing, real estate development, solid waste; wastewater; water supply and quality; and assisted constituents and permit applicants with County agencies. Los Angeles, California. 2003 to 2010.

**Principal, Novak + Associates, Inc.** Secured land-use and zoning approvals (coastal development permits, conditional use permits (CUPs), General Plan amendments, subdivisions, variances, and zone changes) from cities, counties, and the California Coastal Commission for a range of clients, including AT&T, Boston Market, Hollywood Video, In-N-Out, Lennar Homes, Occidental College, Premier Homes, Salvation Army, Sprint, and Southern California Presbyterian Homes, Texaco, and Verizon. Los Angeles and Glendale, California. 1992 to 2003.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Board-Member; State of California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.** Appointed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. Sacramento, California. 2021 to 2023.

**Member, Protest Provisions Rewrite Working Group.** Served on a task force which recommended amendments to the protest provisions of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, under the auspices of the Assembly Local Government Committee (ALGC) and the Senate Governance & Finance Committee (SGFC). Appointees represented ALGC, SFGC, the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

(CALAFCO), the California Special Districts Association, the League of California Cities, and the County Supervisors Association of California. The Group's work led to the enactment of SB 938 (Hertzberg) in 2022, representing the most significant revision to the body of law governing LAFCOs in more than two decades. Sacramento, California. 2019 to 2022.

**Member, Upper Hastings Complete Streets Working Group.** Pasadena, California. 2014 to 2015.

**Commissioner, City of Glendale Board of Zoning Adjustments.** Glendale, California. 1995 to 2003.

### **UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTION**

**Adjunct Instructor, University of California Los Angeles Extension.** Taught a course (LAFCO: Planning and Regulating the Boundaries of Cities and Special Districts in California) to practicing professionals. Los Angeles, California. October 15, 2015; and February 22, 2018.

**Adjunct Instructor, University of California Davis Extension.** Taught a course (LAFCO: Planning and Regulating the Boundaries of Cities and Special Districts in California) to practicing professionals. Sacramento, California. March 13, 2015; and March 16, 2018.

**Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy,** Los Angeles, California, 2006 to 2016. Taught a course (The Approval Process) to graduate students in the Master of Real Estate Development (MRED) program. Los Angeles, California. 2006 to 2016.

### **AWARDS**

**California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Special Recognition** awarded to Paul Novak for "service on the Protest Provisions Working Group and for his dedication and years of work on SB 938 (Hertzberg)." October, 2022.

**Los Angeles Chapter of the American Planning Association (LAAPA) Award of Excellence in the "Hard Won Victories" for "Rescuing the Sativa Water System: Ensuring safe, clean, affordable and accessible water for a Severely Disadvantaged Community"** awarded to LA LAFCO, the County of Los Angeles, and the State Water Resources Control Board. November, 2019.

**CALAFCO Government Leadership Achievement Award** awarded to LA LAFCO, the County of Los Angeles, and the State Water Resources Control Board, and "presented to a decision-making body at the city, county, special district, regional or state level which has furthered good government efforts in California" for the successful collaboration dissolving the Sativa County Water District. October, 2019.

**CALAFCO Outstanding LAFCO Professional Achievement Award** awarded to Paul Novak to "recognize an Executive Officer, Staff Analyst, or Legal Counsel for exemplary service during the past year." October, 2017.

**CALAFCO Most Effective Commission Achievement Award** awarded to LA LAFCO and “presented to an individual Commission [LAFCO] to recognize innovation, streamlining, and/or initiative in implementing LAFCO programs.” October 2017.

**CALAFCO Government Leadership Achievement Award** awarded to Imperial, Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego LAFCOs and “presented to a decision-making body [or bodies] at the city, county, special district, regional or state level which has furthered good government efforts in California” for joint work on soliciting audits, GIS mapping, and common training. October, 2016.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Guest Speaker, Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County.** Palmdale, California. May 18, 2023.

**Speaker and Moderator, CALAFCO University Webinar.** The Dirty Dozen: Things I Wish I Knew About the Act. February 23, 2023.

**Speaker, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** Mock Planning Commission Hearing. Newport Beach, California. October 21, 2022.

**Speaker, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs Seminar.** The Human Right to Water in Los Angeles County. Los Angeles, California. March 2, 2020.

**Moderator, California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Annual Conference.** It Takes a Village: State, County, and LAFCO Collaboration to Solve a Local Problem (Sativa County Water District). Sacramento, California. October 30, 2019.

**Keynote Speaker, San Gabriel Valley Water Association.** Sativa County Water District: LAFCO, Legislation, and Luck. Pomona, California. May 22, 2019.

**Speaker, CALAFCO Southern Region LAFCOs Quarterly Meeting.** LAFCOs and Municipal Service Reviews. San Diego, California. January 14, 2019.

**Presenter, California State Senate Environmental Quality Committee.** Invited speaker relative to proposed Assembly Bill 1577 (Gipson) concerning the Sativa County Water District. Sacramento, California. June 20, 2018.

**Keynote Speaker, Three Valleys Municipal Water District Leadership Breakfast.** What Public Officials Need to Know About LAFCO. Pomona, California. May 31, 2018.

**Speaker, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** Legislative Update: Legislative Impacts on LAFCOs. San Diego, California. October 27, 2017.

**Presenter, California State Senate Governance & Finance Committee** Invited speaker relative to proposed Senate Bill 634 (Wilk) concerning the consolidation of the Castaic Lake Water Agency and the Newhall County Water District. Sacramento, California. April 26, 2017.

**Speaker and Moderator, American Planning Association (APA) California Chapter Annual Conference.** City Incorporations in California: Case Studies and Prospects for New Cities. Pasadena, California. October 27, 2016.

**Speaker, CALAFCO Primer for Legislative Staffers.** Spheres of Influence and Municipal Service Reviews. Sacramento, California. November 12, 2015.

**Speaker and Moderator, League of California Cities Annual Conference.** What City Council Members Need to Know About LAFCO. San Jose, California. October 2, 2015.

**Speaker, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** CALAFCO Legislative Update: The Good, The Bad, and Everything In-between. Sacramento, California. September 4, 2015.

**Conference Organizer and Moderator, CALAFCO University.** LAFCOs and Litigation. Santa Ana, California. June 29, 2015.

**Guest Speaker, University of California Davis Extension, Planning in California: An Overview and Update.** "What Comes Next: Three Experts Look Forward." Los Angeles, California. June 18, 2015.

**Speaker, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** CALAFCO Legislative Update. Ontario, California. October 17, 2014.

**Speaker and Moderator, APA California Chapter Annual Conference.** What Planners Need to Know About LAFCO. Anaheim, California. September 15, 2014.

**Speaker, California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Conference.** "Can't We All Just Get Along? LAFCOs' Power to Initiate Changes of Organization Affecting Special Districts." Monterey, California. September 18, 2013.

**Moderator, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** California's Healthcare Districts Without Hospitals: Challenges and Opportunities. Lake Tahoe, California. August 29, 2013.

**Speaker and Moderator, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** Breaking Up is Hard to Do: Commission-Initiated Consolidations, Dissolutions, and Mergers. Lake Tahoe, California. August 29, 2013.

**Moderator, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** LAFCO's Role in the Oversight of Local Agencies. Monterey, California. October 4, 2012.

**Moderator, CALAFCO Annual Conference.** Next Generation of Municipal Service Reviews. Napa, California. September 1, 2011.

**Speaker, Coalition of California LAFCOs Media Relations Workshop.** Media Relations: War Stories and Strategies. Santa Ana, California. July 25, 2011.

## **EDUCATION**

**Master of Real Estate Development**, University of Southern California School of Urban & Regional Planning. Los Angeles, California.

**Bachelor of Arts**, Political Science, Latin and Departmental Honors, Claremont McKenna College. Claremont, California.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Baldwin Park Should Join 23 Other Cities for Protection Against Mosquitoes: Guest Commentary** with San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District General Manager Kenn Fujioka. San Gabriel Valley Tribune. May 8, 2016.

**Hiring a Planning Consultant**. Business Life. September-October, 1997.

**Housing Linkage Fees: Lessons for Los Angeles**. The Journal of Urban Planning and Development. September, 1993.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)**. Member, 1995 to present.

**American Planning Association (APA)**. Los Angeles Chapter Board of Directors, 1988-89. Member, 1988 to present.

**California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO)**. Deputy Executive Officer, 2014 to 2016; Member, Legislative Committee, 2011 to 2021; Planning Committee Chair, 2015 Annual Staff Workshop; Host Committee Chair, 2016 Annual Staff Workshop.

**National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)**. Member, 2021 to present.

**Southern California Planning Congress**. President, 1996, and Honorary lifetime member.



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

Applicant Name: Liberty McCoy \_\_\_\_\_, Pasadena, CA 91106

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pasadena, CA 91106

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PASADENA  
RECEIVED  
MAY 03 10 00 AM '10

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

- District Representative** representing City Council District 5
- At-large Representative** City Council District \_\_\_\_\_
- Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

- Pasadena Tenants Union – Solidarity Coordinator & Volunteer – 2001 - current
- Yes on H & Pasadena Tenant Justice Coalition – Volunteer Field Organizer – 2021-2022
- SCFLC Program & Professional Development Committee – (California) – 2018- 2020 – Vice-Chair & Chair

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

- Associate Professor, Research and Instruction Librarian, University of La Verne, 2011 to current
- Duties: Research, Instruction, Outreach, Engagement, Assessment, Planning, and Management

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

- Masters of Library and Information Science, University of Washington; December 2010

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please list dates/department)* YES  NO

I worked as a Page at the Pasadena library as a minor in 1995-1995 under my maiden name.

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)* YES  NO

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)* YES  NO

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?** YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**

I worked on a campaign (Yes on Measure H) that directly reformed the City Charter through the initiative process. In addition, I do volunteer work as a Solidarity Coordinator where I regularly engage with the Charter. Finally, I work as a Research Librarian and am a liaison to the Public Administration program where I regularly assist faculty and students with questions about governing and law.

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**

The Charter Study Task Force is tasked with several clarifications of election process and procedures, such as term limits, vacancy procedures and campaign finance issues. These are important concerns of citizens of

Pasadena and should be reflected in a reformed Charter. They are also tasked with looking into equity issues of representation, which are important for consideration for who can serve. As noted in Krebs, T. B., & Wagner, J. K. (2023). Women and Local Politics: How Different Offices Affect Female Candidacies. Political Research Quarterly, 76(3), 1293-1308. <https://doi.org.laverne.idm.oclc.org/10.1177/10659129221136805>

“Term limits may also affect female candidate emergence. In our data, 6,165 or 11.4% of candidate-office-years are for term-limited positions ... Research on city council elections shows that women are advantaged in term-limited positions ... research on state legislatures also shows that term limits positively impact female candidacies”. Charter reform is not just an issue of governance but an issue of considering the future of representation, and who will be next to be able to serve and govern Pasadena.

**8. In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

The City Charter is a document relied upon by City Council and the public, the scope and the charge if agreed on and approved would simplify certain processes, such as the annual Light and Power Fund transfer. Also, in considering new compensation considerations it would provide more equity balance for those who would like to serve on council, but have family considerations, such as elder or childcare obligations.

**9. How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force’s objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council’s approved Scope and Charge?**

I have worked in collaboration with a group to change the charter – Yes on H, and that was focused on our campaigns approved scope and change. Also, in my workplace and my volunteer work I have chaired, vice chaired or been a member of several committees that have successfully collaborated on documents, events, policy, and other reforms. I am aware of the objectives and the necessity of completing them in a timely manner and ready to begin the work.

---

---

---



Signature: 

Date: 10/9/23

I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

Year of Birth: 1978 Gender: Female Ethnicity: White

If City resident, number of years: 35

## **Liberty McCoy**

, Pasadena, CA 91106

### **Experience**

**Associate Professor, Librarian, Research and Instruction**      **2011 to current**  
University of La Verne, La Verne, California

#### Reference and Instruction:

- Provide reference services to students and faculty via multiple service points - virtual appointments, email, chat, text, phone, and in person.
- Teach library instruction classes primarily concentrated on graduate research methods and data.
- Create online guides for students and faculty, focusing on course resources, literature review, statistics and datasets, and government and business resources.

#### Outreach and Engagement:

- As part of a team created and coordinated MIRA, a national Makerspace conference now in its 5th year, and the Mini Maker Fair an event for student makers.
- Planned several Faculty Book Days, a panel event in the library for faculty authors to discuss their books or book chapters, and multiple virtual CASE days, a day for faculty, student researchers, and makers to present in a VR room or asynchronously.

#### Assessment and Planning:

- Co-lead the Library Data team - utilizing Springshare data tools to assess internal and external library data for planning. Create assessment tools and provide reports to the Learning Commons Director and other unit heads.
- Collect and evaluate library data on research and instruction.
- Coordinate collection management including the selection, evaluation, weeding, and disposition of electronic and physical materials
- Created a qualitative assessment of library survey data to assess outcomes.
- Assessed student feedback to create a new quiet study area.

#### Management:

- Oversee part of Makerspace operations including interfacing with faculty as Makerspace Liaison.
- Oversee library operations including supervision of student staff in the absence of supervisory circulation staff.
- Create, supervise and oversee the promotion and presentation of a variety of library events both curricular and co-curricular.

**Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, California**      **2011 to 2013**  
**Reference and Instruction Librarian (Distance)**

#### Reference and Instruction:

- Provided reference services to distance students through email, web conferencing, chat, and the phone.
- Created library instruction sessions for classes and individuals in the Psychology, Education, and Management departments.

Management and Technology:

- Managed the interlibrary loan and document delivery program.
- Assisted students with technical issues related to the web, databases, web conferencing, and electronic resources.

**California State University, Los Angeles, California**  
**Library Intern, Reference and Instruction**

**2010 to 2011**

Reference and Instruction:

- Provided reference and technical assistance to students and faculty at the reference desk.
- Taught business research classes and library instruction classes as part of the information literacy curriculum

**Paul Hastings, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Library Intern**

**2010**

Cataloging:

- Cataloged books and treatises using AACR2 and MARC bibliographic rules.
- Proofread MARC records for correct format and usage.

**Kaplan Test Prep & Admissions, Atlanta & Los Angeles**  
**Student Advisor and Tutor**

**2007 to 2010**

Management:

- Ensured excellence in all student experiences in the center, by advising students about their programs and responding to their concerns.
- Managed and trained part-time staff in center operations.

Instruction:

- Tutored students preparing for the SAT, ACT and the TOEFL
- Presented graduate and medical workshops and class start orientations to students.

**St. Jude Medical CRMD, Sylmar, CA**  
**Associate Librarian**

**2004 to 2006**

Reference:

- Conducted scientific, medical, marketing and legal research for dedicated staff including the global sales force, medical doctors, research scientists, and the legal and marketing departments.

Outreach and Engagement:

- Created specialized research presentations and workshops for the science, engineering, and marketing departments.
- Teamed with an internal web design group to build a new library web page.

Management:

- Managed the document and copyright clearance departments for the library.

## **Publications and Presentations**

Jennifer Esteron Cady, Karen Beavers, Amy Jiang & Liberty McCoy (2022) Developing a Meaningful Student Employment Experience for Students' Success on Campus, *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, DOI: [10.1080/13614533.2022.2122852](https://doi.org/10.1080/13614533.2022.2122852)

Durian, N., Beavers, K., McCoy, L., (2020, June 4-5.), *LibGuides For Equity and Inclusion* [Conference Presentation] CARL 2020 Conference., Online, United States.

Beavers, Karen, et al. "Establishing a maker culture beyond the makerspace." *Library Hi Tech* (2019).

Jiang, Amy, Beavers, Karen, McCoy, Liberty, Esteron, Jennifer "Incorporating Making Culture Into The Curriculum-Wilson Library's Journey". 2016. Presentation. *Library 2.016: Library as Classroom*.

Jiang, Amy and McCoy, Liberty contributed to Russell, G. S. A., & Bennett, D. B. (2016). 3D printing: A practical guide for librarians.

Jiang, A., Beavers, K., Cady, J. E., & McCoy, L. (2015). Re-positioning library technology support on Campus-Wilson Library's journey. *Library Hi Tech News*.

Esteron, J., Jiang, A., & McCoy, L. (2014, November). Expanding Library Services In an Outside the Library Poster presented at the annual meeting of the California Library Association, Oakland, CA.

## **Professional Associations and University Service**

SCELC Program & Professional Development Committee

Chair - 2019 - 2020 - Planned and coordinated the yearly conference and coordinated conference and professional development awards.

Vice-Chair - 2018 - 2019 - Assisted with the planning and coordination of the yearly conference and coordinated conference and professional development awards.

Member 2014 - 2018 - Assisted with the yearly conference and assessed applicants for conference and professional development awards.

Faculty Space Committee - University of La Verne

September 2019 - current - Assess and evaluate current capital projects on campus.

Library and Learning Commons Committee – University of La Verne

Spring 2023 – current – Assess and evaluate current library and learning commons projects.

Educational Effectiveness Committee – University of La Verne

September 2018 - July 2021 - Assess and review program reviews.

September 2015 – September 2018 - Assess and review program reviews.

Faculty Compensation Committee – University of La Verne

September 2015 – September 2018 - Assess University budget.

## **Volunteer Service**

### **Yes on H - Affordable Pasadena**

**April - November 2022**

Field Volunteer Organizer

- Co-lead the weekend mobilization events, dispatching volunteers to knock thousands of doors throughout Pasadena.
- Kept track of and assessed field data and created volunteer phone bank clipboards.
- Tabled at a variety of community events, speaking to community members about the measure.
- Made phone bank calls and door knocked potential voters about the Measure.

### **Pasadena Tenant Justice Coalition**

**September 2021 - April 2022**

Field Volunteer Organizer

- Co-lead the Field/Dispatch Team – managing volunteers in the community who gathered signatures for Measure - successfully gathering over 20,000 signatures total, over 15,000 valid signatures.
- Continuously tracked and assessed data to understand signature progress.
- Fundraised for measure.

### **Pasadena Tenant Union**

**January 2021 - current**

Volunteer

- Solidarity Lead Coordinator – assist tenants with issues and connect them with resources.
- Draft the bimonthly agenda and facilitate meetings.
- Manage bimonthly emails to mailing list.
- Coordinate room bookings for meetings.

## **Education**

Masters of Library and Information Science, University of Washington; December 2010

Bachelors of Arts, Art History, Mills College, Oakland, CA; June 2000



# CITY OF PASADENA APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE

The information contained on this form will be used by the City Council to appoint members to the Charter Study Task Force. Please answer all questions. You are invited to attach additional pages, a copy of your resume, or submit supplemental information which you feel may assist the City Council in its evaluation of your application. **Please note that, once submitted, this form, and all attachments, will become subject to public access under the Public Records Act, with the exception of personally identifiable information.**

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PASADENA  
SEP 20 PM 5:31  
1001 N PASADENA

Applicant Name: Andrew (Andy) Wilson

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Pasadena CA 91106

Mailing Address: Same

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Available to Start: Flexible

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to be considered for a District, At-Large, and/or Mayoral Nomination (mark one or more):

**District Representative** representing City Council District 7

**At-large Representative** City Council District 7

**Mayoral Representative**

**Community Service** – List boards, commissions, committees, and organizations on which you are currently serving or have served, offices held and in what city.

Numerous (see attached)

**Employment** – Title and duties, current and past (acceptable to attach resume as an alternative).

Currently CEO/Executive Director of the Alliance for SoCal Innovation (see resume for details)

**Education** – Include professional or vocational licenses or certificates.

MBA - Harvard; Bachelors from Dartmouth College (Engineering)

1. **Have you ever worked for the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please list dates/department)* YES  NO   
City Council: June 2015 - Dec 2022; numerous commissions

2. **Are you related to any employee, appointed or elected official of the City of Pasadena?** *(If yes, please indicate name and relationship)* YES  NO

3. **Rules of law and ethics prohibit members from participating in and voting on matters in which they may have a direct or indirect financial interest. Are you aware of any circumstances which may develop from your occupation or economic holdings, that might relate to your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** *(If yes, please indicate any potential conflicts)* YES  NO

4. **Have there been, or are there now, any personal or business circumstances which might reflect adversely on your service as a member of a Charter Study Task Force?** YES  NO

5. **Are you aware of the time commitment necessary to fulfill the obligations of a member on a Charter Study Task Force, including meetings on nights and weekends?** YES  NO

6. **What specifically in your background, training, education, or interests qualifies you to serve on the Charter Study Task Force? Please highlight any relevant experience with the City of Pasadena or other municipality that involves Charter Study, elected experience, or knowledge of City Charter laws and provisions:**  
Extensive public service including as Councilmember, Vice Mayor and various commissions. Also was appointed initially so understand that process

7. **What objectives and goals should the Charter Study Task Force consider?**  
To explore the various issues identified by the Council for potential Charter updates and analyze each and ultimately make a set recommendations to the Council on what to include and why.

8. **In your opinion, what is the importance of the scope and charge of the Charter Study Task Force, as approved and assigned by the City Council?**

As the governing document for the City, it is important that we continuously see what is working and not working and seek to enhance the smooth and effective governances of the City. The Charter Task Force should concentrated on the specific areas which are already both numerous and complex. To the greatest extent possible, we should avoid straying behind the scope.

9. **How would you help to achieve the Charter Study Task Force's objectives and goals, while adhering to the City Council's approved Scope and Charge?**

I am familiar with most of the issues first hand so can bring specific insights. I will also bring an analytical rigour to the work while helping the group coalesce around a final set up recommendations to bring forward to the Council.

Signature: 

Date: Sept 19, 2023

*I hereby certify that the following information is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

.....

One of the goals of the City Council is to balance advisory body appointments in terms of geographic residence, location, ethnicity, gender, and age. *The following information is desirable, but not required for appointment.*

Year of Birth: 1965 Gender: Male Ethnicity: White

If City resident, number of years: 27



## ANDREW (ANDY) WILSON

Pasadena, CA 91106

### career summary

Highly experienced executive leader with unique combination of expertise across public, private and not for profit sectors. Strong track record of applying innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to deliver critical community impact. Hands-on experience with large enterprises, numerous startups, academia, municipal/public entities and a myriad of not for profit organizations. Excellent combination of strategic planning and frontline execution. Adroit collaborator and proven coalition builder across diverse stakeholder groups seeking to achieve collective impact.

### experience

- 1/18 – Current THE ALLIANCE FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INNOVATION Los Angeles, CA**  
The Alliance ([www.alliancesocal.org](http://www.alliancesocal.org)) is a leading not for profit that seeks to enhance SoCal's regional innovation ecosystem productivity by acting as a strategic super-connector across SoCal's leading research institutions, marquis corporations, VC firms, complementary community partners and diverse entrepreneurial populations.
- 1/18 – Current CEO/Founding Executive Director.** Lead and oversee all strategic, fundraising, and operational aspects of a new regional not for profit focused on innovation and tech transfer across Southern California (Santa Barbara down to San Diego). Key goals are more breakthrough products, startups and ultimately more local high-quality jobs.
- Lead program strategy including top leader forums, technology showcases & demo-days (~60 events/year)
  - Raise & manage annual operating budget of ~\$1.5mm & oversee program, events & operations with staff of 8.
  - Build-out board of director and regional consortium of more than 120 institutions & 1,500 innovation leaders.
  - Define strategic annual operating plan & engaged and leverage our board of directors and advisory board.
  - Develop and nurture collaborations with tech transfer offices across the consortium and a broad range of venture capital investors & leading corporation that prioritize innovation (Disney, Kaiser, Lilly, Amgen, etc).
  - Work with a diverse set of innovation /economic development leaders across SoCal to share best practices & coalesce into an integrated network of innovation nodes that share a common mission to further energize SoCal.
  - Evangelize our mission and program through active engagement of innovation community through roadshows, marquis events and numerous public speaking engagements.
- 6/15 – 12/22 THE CITY OF PASADENA Pasadena, CA**  
The City of Pasadena is a full-service city of ~145,000 residents and an annual operating budget of ~\$1Bn and 2,200 employees. I initially served on a number of commissions as a volunteer (convention center, planning commission, design commission) and more recently as a part-time elected representative (~15 hrs/week).
- 6/15 – 12/22 City Councilmember District 7 & Vice Mayor.** Initially appointed a city councilmember in June of 2015 and then successfully ran for office in April of 2017. Elected Vice Mayor by colleagues in January 2021. Represent the 20,000+ residents of the 7<sup>th</sup> District which includes Caltech, Pasadena City College, Polytechnic School, Kaiser Med School, the Langham Hotel, South Lake and Playhouse Business Districts. Champion for economic development, historic preservation, affordable housing and enhanced homeless services.
- One of 7 city councilmembers (plus a Mayor) responsible for the leadership of Pasadena.
  - Oversee ~\$1Bn annual budget including ~\$100mm annual capital improvement program.
  - Set policy and laws for the City to ensure equity and quality of life for all residents.
  - Key advocate for “civic innovation” and the adoption of innovative policies & technologies to better our City.
  - Chair the Municipal Services Committee which is responsible for Pasadena's \$300+m power and water utility.
  - Serve on Education & Technology Committee which champions economic development & housing.
  - Serve on Finance Committee which oversees budget development, municipal finance and risk management.
  - Represent Pasadena in Metro regional JPA (joint powers authority) looking to coordinate transit investments
  - Core member of LA County's digital divide taskforce looking to enhance participation in the digital economy.
- 11/03 – 11/18 MOMENTUM VENTURE MANAGEMENT, LLC Pasadena, CA**  
A high-tech business accelerator and seed fund focused on providing interim executive leadership to early-stage SoCal frontier technology companies that are striving to break out of the lab to broad-based commercial launch. Actively led more than 15 companies through final stages of product validation and commercial launch resulting in more than \$30mm of follow-on venture financing.
- 11/03 – 11/18 Managing Director/Founder.** Founded and led the Momentum team (5 professionals) in the daily operations of the firm including financial management (\$1mm annual operating budget) and resource allocation. Personally, led engagements and provided interim leadership to portfolio companies including developing business plans, licensing technology and accelerating new ventures by providing strategic, operational and go-to-market leadership.
- Conceptualized Momentum's innovative business model, recruited the core team and led the sourcing of ~\$1.5mm of start-up capital into general partnership (GP) and two seed investment funds.
  - Accelerated >15 early stage companies through the Momentum platform including sourcing follow-on venture capital from leading NorCal & SoCal VC's.
  - Played active role across portfolio companies in securing “light house” accounts and establishing strategic/channel partnerships in order to accelerate revenue realization and achieve market validation.
  - Various hands-on interim executive roles (CEO, CFO, COO) across a range of high-tech start-up businesses.
  - Established Momentum as a leader in the SoCal entrepreneurial ecosystem through participation in venture panels, start-up/coder weekends, start-up speed dating, fast pitch contests, business plan competitions.

- 10/10 – 12/15 **REXTER, INC.** **Pasadena, CA**  
**Rexter** puts “rocket fuel” in your current enterprise CRM system. Our patented “life logging” approach uses API’s to automatically capture & synchronize real-time field sales activities (emails, VOIP, meetings, mobile etc.) and deliver engagement and relationship analytics to sales automation & customer relationship management (CRM) systems.
- 10/10 – 12/15 **CEO & Co-founder.** Lead all functional areas for early stage venture-backed software company. Hands-on in the areas of product vision/strategy, fundraising, sales/account development and business model development.
- Ideated core concept of “professional relationship management” and translated high level vision into staged product roadmap and roll-out including core feature sets.
  - Development of patent strategy and key patent filings (named inventor on a series of patents included several granted by USPTO). Patent portfolio was sold-off to leading IP legal and licensing firm.
  - Orchestrated all aspects of the business planning process including customer surveys, market analysis, competitive research and financial analysis.
  - Raised multiple stages of seed financing of >\$2.5mm (equity & convertible notes) from top angel investors.
  - Personally, led the go to market and business development efforts securing marquis enterprise pilot accounts.
  - One of 14 of companies selected (of >500 applicants) for Microsoft Venture Accelerator (prestigious 4-month program in Seattle) focused on digital work (<https://goo.gl/fsxcVP>)
- 1/02 – 10/03 **OVERTURE SERVICES, INC. (now a division of Yahoo!/incubated at Idealab)** **Pasadena, CA**  
The world’s leader in Pay-For-Performance search on the internet – effectively & efficiently connecting consumers to relevant products and services in North America, Asia and Europe (acquired by Yahoo! in October 2003 for \$1.7Bn).
- 4/03 – 10/03 **Senior Advisor, New Ventures & Strategy.** Led the evaluation efforts of new business opportunities and drove execution through business planning, partnership and/or acquisition.
- Coordinated business integration and business planning process of two acquired paid-inclusion product lines (\$10mm combined business line revenue).
  - Evaluated and refined our multi-media and hyper-local product strategies including the identification and development of key business partnerships.
  - Led a team effort to re-design our M&A evaluation and pipeline management process.
  - Established strategic pricing framework to ensure value maximization across rapidly expanding product portfolio.
- 1/02 – 4/03 **Senior Vice-President, Global Product Management/Development.** Built and led the team responsible for the translation of business strategy and operating unit priorities into strategic product roadmaps. Responsible for the rapid and timely delivery of discrete global product releases across numerous systems and platforms. Provided critical guidance for engineering and development team of more than 200.
- Designed & recruited the global product team of 20+ business line & system product managers (~\$5mm budget).
  - Supported and drove key performance metrics to achieve 132% annual revenue growth to \$667mm.
  - Developed and implemented a strategic product planning process resulting in 6Q rolling roadmap that effectively addresses short term operating objectives and long term strategic & competitive positioning.
  - Delivered numerous successful product launches including enhanced customer usability, sophisticated search & matching technology, and the launch of major new markets in Asia & Europe.
  - Established key planning support roles around metrics forecasting and ‘voice of customer’ integration.
- 1/00 – 12/01 **RIVERONE, INC.** **Westlake Village, CA**  
Provider of supply chain management SaaS solutions for high technology manufacturing offering a range of technology tools designed to streamline demand management, site replenishment, materials planning & procurement.
- 1/00 – 12/01 **President & Chief Operating Officer.** Global operations responsibility across three continents for key business functions including software development, technology infrastructure, finance, human resources, sales, marketing/branding, customer service and all revenue producing business units.
- Designed and built organization from unstructured start-up of 20 in North America to high performance team of 150 across three continents.
  - Key partner with CEO/founder in raising \$47mm of additional venture capital financing in adverse market.
  - Completed joint-venture agreement with Mitsubishi Corporation and WPI (\$1Bn Chinese distributor) to form RiverOneAsia based in Singapore. Raised \$5mm of seed capital from founding partners.
  - Coordinated the development and the re-launch of the RiverOne 2.0 trading hub as a result of \$8mm of investment including 9 months of in-house programming from a staff of 40 technologists.
  - Completed the acquisition and integration of a \$10mm German components trading/distribution company.

- 11/95-12/99** **BOWNE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS (DONNELLEY ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS)** **Los Angeles, CA**  
The premier provider of on-site document processing services to leading financial and legal institutions. A \$200mm division of Bowne & Co. – the world’s largest financial printer with \$1Bn in revenues.
- 2/99 – 12/99** **Senior Vice President/Chief Information Officer (CIO), Strategic Resources/Operations.** Led all operation support teams & technology responsibilities that were previously managed by the CIO (47 staff/\$10mm budget).
- 11/95-2/99** **Vice President & General Manager, Western Region.** Responsible for all business functions for start-up of the office services outsourcing/facilities management business in the western United States (>600 staff/\$50mm budget)
- 6/92-11/95** **RR DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY** **Chicago & Los Angeles**  
A \$5+Bn/200 location integrated communications company that provides pre-media, digital photography, content management, printing, online services, and print and package logistics.
- 10/94-11/95** **Division Director/Plant Manager, Chicago Financial Printing Division.** Responsible for the Midwest manufacturing operations (P&L responsibility for 250 persons/\$40mm revenue financial printing operation) including the main plant, all administrative departments and four service centers.
- 7/93-10/94** **Manufacturing Manager, Chicago Financial Printing Division.** Managed composition / typesetting and customer service departments including a \$10mm annual budget and 108 employees
- 1988-1991** **LEK CONSULTING** **Los Angeles, CA**  
Leading International management consulting firm specializing in corporate and business unit strategy consulting and mergers and acquisition advice. Helped open/expand Santa Monica office and recruit initial team.
- education**
- 1991-1993** **HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL** **Boston, MA**  
Masters of Business Administration. Concentration in operations strategy, technology and production management. Selected by faculty as a tutor for first year operations course. Volunteer Consulting Organization project leader.
- 1984-1988** **DARTMOUTH COLLEGE** **Hanover, NH**  
Bachelor degree, *cum laude*, in Engineering. Awarded *Dean's List* all semesters and multiple academic citations for academic excellence including independent research.
- not for profit** **Volunteer & Community Organizations (years served):**
- **Burbank-Hollywood Airport:** Commissioner & chair finance committee for regional airport (\$100m/yr budget & 6mm passengers/yr). Actively involved in \$1.2Bn development of new passenger terminal (1 year – current).
  - **Pasadena Civitas Club:** Launched a new civic leaders networking & discussion club focused on collaboration & education. Recruited board of directors & initiated initial programming. Club now has >100 members and has met regularly (1 – 4x per month) since 2019. Established permanent home at historic Blinn House (4 years).
  - **City of Pasadena:** Pasadena Center Operating Committee which oversees the Pasadena Convention Center, the Civic Auditorium & the Visitors’ Center (1+ years); Pasadena Planning Commission (3+ years including as Secretary and member of Board of Zoning Appeals), Pasadena Design Commission (8 years including 2 years as chairman). Champion for affordable housing and thoughtful new development. Annual homeless count 5x.
  - **Innovate Pasadena:** Co-founder, co-chairman, head of development committee, and board member for grass roots community building effort focused on innovation & entrepreneurship in East Los Angeles. Recruited 25-person board & led all major fundraising efforts & \$450k annual operating budget. (3 years).
  - **Altadena Town & Country Club:** Chair of Finance Committee (~\$5mm annual operating budget), Treasurer & Board of Governors. Positive cashflow and out performed budget (top & bottom line) every year. (5 years)
  - **Pacific Oaks College & Children’s School:** Board member, treasurer and co-chair of special committee that led turn around & successful affiliation with TCS Education System (6 years).
  - **Pasadena Heritage:** Vice chairman/treasurer, head of development committee, chair of Heritage Associates, lead on historic easement program. Grew major donor financial support (non-events) by 350% (6 years).
- other**
- Additional training/education:** Executive program at MIT on Technology/Product Strategy, Columbia University on Sales Management, Kellogg School on Advanced Product Development, Graduate Leadership Pasadena, VentureOut SaaS selling program, Microsoft Venture Accelerator (4-month intensive program).
- Corporate & Advisory Boards (current):** Bryce Partners (advisor), Vincente Capital (advisor), Virtualitics (advisor), STEAMCoders (advisor), Pasadena Junior League (6 years)
- Intellectual Property & Patents:** Primary inventor on multiple patents for CRM analytics (Rexter) & collaborator on ad-tech patents (Overture Services/idealab)
- Media & Speaking:** Extensive public speaking at venture & entrepreneurs conference, quoted in the business press including WSJ, LATimes, LA Business Journal, SoCalTech, dot.LA, and a wide range of on-line media. Regular speaker on entrepreneurship at UCLA, Pepperdine, Caltech and USC.
- Personal:** Avid walker, startup coach, world traveler, animal lover, wife (Liz) and two sons (Spencer & Dylan)