

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE __

If approved by a majority of the City's voters, Measure __ would amend the City Charter to include the City's court-ordered switch to district elections. It would also require the City Council to hold special elections to fill vacancies on the City Council or in the office of Mayor, rather than making appointments to fill vacant seats.

In 2014, the City was sued under the California Voting Rights Act (the "Act"). The lawsuit claimed that citywide at-large voting caused illegal Latino vote dilution. According to the Act, vote dilution impairs the ability of Latinos to elect candidates of their choice or to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or abridgment of their rights as voters.

The case was settled with an agreement (and court order) to create two Latino majority districts (Districts 1 and 3 consisting generally of the Eastside and Westside). Four additional election districts were also created, covering generally the Mesa (District 2), the Riviera (District 4), San Roque (District 5), and Oak Park/Downtown (District 6). Beginning with the City's 2015 elections, all City Council Members have been residents of and elected from one of these six geographical election districts. The Mayor is elected at large by the entire City. The court order is binding regardless of whether or not the voters approve putting it in the Charter.

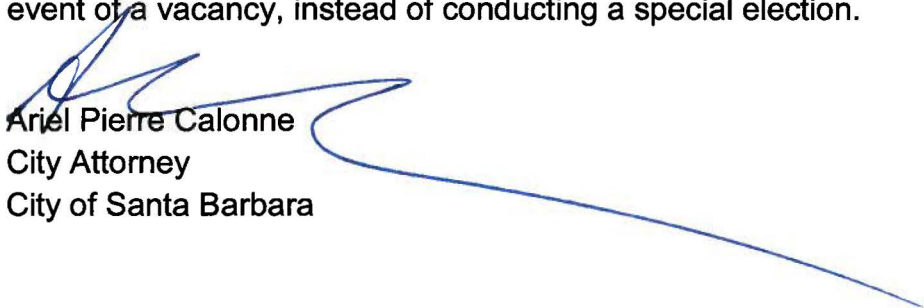
Switching to district elections also impacts the City Charter's requirements for filling vacancies in the office of Mayor when a sitting council member is elected Mayor. Existing law requires the City Council to appoint the unelected candidate who received the highest number of votes to the vacant Council seat. This cannot be accomplished in a district election system because the appointee must be a resident of the district vacated by the Council Member who is elected Mayor. The Measure changes the law to require the City Council to call a special election to fill mayoral and city council vacancies. After calling a special election, the Council may appoint an interim city council member who holds office until the special election. If an interim appointee runs for election to the City Council, they cannot describe themselves on the ballot as an incumbent or member or former member of the City Council.

The City Council placed this measure on the ballot.

A "yes" vote is a vote to acknowledge the City's court-ordered switch to district elections and to require special elections to fill City Council and mayoral vacancies.

A "no" vote is a vote not to amend the City Charter to include the City's switch to district elections in the City Charter. A "no" vote will also retain the existing Charter language

which allows the City Council to appoint new City Council Members or the Mayor in the event of a vacancy, instead of conducting a special election.



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