

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE __

If approved by a majority of the City's voters, Measure __ would amend the City Charter to switch the City from odd-numbered year elections to even-numbered year elections.

Measure __ would transition the City to even-numbered year elections as follows: In November 2019, the three members of the City Council representing Election Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be elected and serve 5 year terms so that their successors would seek election in November of 2024. In November 2021, the three members of the City Council representing Election Districts 4, 5 and 6 will be elected and shall serve five year terms so that their successors would seek election in November of 2026. Finally, in November 2021, the Mayor will be elected and serve a five year term so that his or her successor would seek election in November of 2026. For the purposes of the City's two consecutive term limits on serving in office, the one-time five year terms would be treated as lasting only four years so that elected City Council Members and the Mayor could still serve two full terms (which would total nine years one time only).

The City Council placed this measure on the ballot in response to the California Voter Participation Rights Act (the "Act"). A California Attorney General's opinion states that the Act requires all California cities, including chartered cities like Santa Barbara, to switch to even-numbered year elections when odd-numbered year elections have caused a "significant decrease in voter turnout." Santa Barbara's odd-numbered year elections have resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout under the Act, i.e., odd-year election turnout in Santa Barbara has been at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout in the City for the previous four statewide general elections.

Measure __ would amend the Charter in a manner consistent with the Act. Whether the Act applies to chartered cities like Santa Barbara is uncertain legally.

A "yes" vote is a vote to approve switching to even-numbered year elections.

A "no" vote is a vote not to approve switching to even-numbered year elections.



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