

MEASURE ■
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY

City of Irvine
Charter Amendment to Expand City Council and Establish City Council Districts

The City Council of the City of Irvine has placed a measure before the voters that, if approved, would amend the City Charter to expand the City Council from five to seven members and would implement a by-district election system. A full copy of the Charter Amendment text is printed in these ballot materials.

The City Charter currently requires that the City Council consist of a Mayor elected at-large to a two-year term and four Council Members elected at-large to four-year terms. This measure would expand the City Council to consist of a Mayor elected at-large to a two-year term and six Council Members elected by-district to four-year terms. The six Council Member districts would be those shown in City Council Resolution 23-88 (also provided at cityofirvine.org/districtsmap). District boundaries would be revised every ten years after each federal census.

This measure requires that each Council Member elected by-district be a qualified voter in the district from which they seek office at the time of filing nomination papers, and remain a resident of that district throughout their full term of office. Each Council Member would be elected by only the voters of the district from which they seek office.

To implement these changes, the November 2024 general municipal election would include the election of the Mayor to a two-year term and one Council Member from each of Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 (as shown in City Council Resolution 23-88). The person elected from District 1 will receive a two-year term, while those elected from Districts 2, 3, and 4 will receive four-year terms. The November 2026 general municipal election would include the election of the Mayor to a two-year term and one Council Member from each of Districts 1, 5, and 6 to four-year terms.


If a Council Member that was elected at-large in 2022 successfully runs for Mayor, thereby forfeiting the remainder of their term, and that Council Member resides in District 5 or District 6, then at the earliest feasible date the vacated City Council seat shall be filled through a by-district election for the district where the vacating Council Member resides. All other vacancies in at-large Council Member seats shall be filled by appointment or election at-large.

This measure makes no modifications to the existing term limits, which will continue to apply to any term that began on or after November 4, 2014.

This measure does not give the City Council any new power to raise its compensation or that of other City officials without voter approval.

A “Yes” vote is a vote in favor of the Charter Amendment approving City Council expansion and the transition to by-district elections. A “No” vote is a vote against the Charter Amendment, resulting in the retention of a five-member City Council consisting of a Mayor and four Council Members elected at-large. This measure will be approved if it receives a simple majority of “Yes” votes.

Dated: October 24, 2023


Jeffrey Melching, City Attorney

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure ■. If you desire a copy of the Ordinance or Measure, please call the elections official's office at 949-724-6205 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.