

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE "S"

(Requiring the City Council to submit proposed City Charter amendments to a Charter Review Committee - Charter Section 1404)

If approved by a majority of the voters, this Measure would amend the Riverside City Charter to require the City Council to submit any proposed amendment to the Riverside City Charter, except those amendments proposed by voter initiative, to a Charter Review Committee for recommendation before the City Council can place the proposed amendment on a ballot.

The Riverside City Charter currently provides that in February 2019, and in February every eight years thereafter, the City Council shall appoint and appropriate adequate funds for a Charter Review Committee. The Charter Review Committee is comprised of Riverside residents appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Charter Review Committee has the power and duty to recommend City Charter amendments to the City Council. The City Council may appoint Charter Review Committees more often than every eight years if it desires. However, the Riverside City Charter currently does not require the City Council to first submit a proposed City Charter amendments to a Charter Review Committee for recommendation. Currently, the City Council may directly place a proposed City Charter amendment on the ballot.

If this Measure is approved, it is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact upon the City of Riverside. Resources to support Charter Review Committee meetings are estimated to be minimal and anticipated to be absorbed within City Department budgets.

This Measure is being placed on this ballot by the City Council of the City of Riverside, acting upon the recommendation of the Riverside Charter Review Committee.

This Impartial Analysis is hereby submitted to the Elections Official in conformance with Section 9280 of the Elections Code of the State of California. This Measure does not result in any new City powers.

Dated: August 17,2020

By: Gary Geuss
City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE "S"

Section 1403 of the City Charter ensures that changes to the Charter can only be made with approval of a majority of voters in a regular municipal election. This recommended addition will reinforce and strengthen the requirement for community input.

The recommended change to the Charter is to assure that any proposal made by the City Council to change the Charter, must be reviewed first by a Charter Review Commission, comprised of Riverside residents. The commission would either meet on the regular 8 year review cycle or by a specially appointed commission. This prevents the City Council from unilaterally placing a proposed Charter change directly on a ballot.

Since voters must ultimately approve any proposed change, it is also appropriate that all proposed changes be reviewed by a committee of residents first. Based on the recommendation from a Charter Review Commission, the City Council would then make the final decision on whether or not to submit a proposed change to voters in a regular municipal election.

By: Tom Evans, Charter Review Committee Member
Kimberly MacKinney, Charter Review Committee Member
Jim Perry, Riverside City Council Ward 6

NO ARGUMENT FILED AGAINST MEASURE "S"