

Initiative Measure to be Submitted Directly to the Voters

The city attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

A MEASURE TO AMEND THE OAKLAND CITY CHARTER TO PROVIDE A THREE TERM LIMIT FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS.

Under Article II, Section 204 of the Oakland City Charter, Oakland councilmembers are elected to four-year terms with no limit on the number of terms a councilmember may serve. This proposed charter amendment would establish a lifetime three term limit for councilmembers, prohibiting any person from holding the office of councilmember for more than twelve years. The limits on the terms of councilmembers under the proposed measure would apply both to consecutive and non-consecutive terms. Service of two or more years of a four-year term would be considered service of a full term for purposes of meeting the three term limit. The proposed term limitations would apply only to the future terms of councilmembers. This means that at the end of their present terms, current councilmembers could serve for three additional four-year terms.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Oakland for the purpose of amending the Oakland City Charter to establish term limits for the Oakland City Council of a maximum three (3) four (4) year terms.

A statement of the reasons for the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

Proposed Purpose and Intent.

- A.** To encourage qualified candidates to seek public office by placing reasonable limitations upon the number of terms an individual may be elected to the City Council.
- B.** To ensure that the City Council allows for continued new leadership and fresh ideas to address the pressing problems facing the City of Oakland.
- C.** To ensure diversity of thought and experience on the Oakland City Council.

Findings and Declarations.

- A.** Oakland voters have already established term limits for the Oakland Mayor.
- B.** Oakland is the largest city in California without term limits.

C. In the last twenty years only one incumbent Councilmember in Oakland has not won re-election.

D. The lack of turnover among Councilmembers leads to stagnation and increased influence of special interests.

PROPOSED TEXT OF INITIATIVE

Proposed Amendment: Charter of the City of Oakland Article II – The Council, Section 204. Term Office, Council.

The Councilmembers shall be elected to a term of four years beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the Monday following January 1 following their election. The Councilmembers elected or appointed to office to serve terms beginning in 1985 shall serve in office until 11:00 a.m. on the Monday following January 1 in 1991. The Councilmembers elected or appointed to office to serve terms beginning in 1987 shall serve in office until 11:00 a.m. on the Monday following January 1, 1993. In 1990 Municipal Elections will be held to select City officers for four year terms for the following offices: Councilmember, District #2; Councilmember, District #4, and, Councilmember, District #6. In 1992 Municipal Elections will be held to select City Councilmembers for four year terms for the following offices: Councilmember, District #1; Councilmember, District #3; Councilmember, District #5; Councilmember, District #7; and Councilmember-At-Large.

Elections for each Council district shall continue on the four-year cycles in place when this section is adopted. No person shall serve more than three (3) four (4) year terms as a Councilmember, regardless of district represented, including the Councilmember-At-Large. If for any reason a person serves a partial term as Councilmember from a particular District or At-Large in excess of two (2) years, that partial term shall be considered a full term for purposes of this provision. Service for less than two (2) years shall not be considered a term for purposes of this provision. Any Councilmember who resigns or is removed from office with less than one-half of a full term remaining until the expiration of the term shall be deemed, for the purpose of this section, to have served a full term. A Councilmember who resigns or is removed from office with more than one-half of a full term remaining shall not be deemed to have served a term as a result of that partial term service. Termed-out Councilmembers, including At-Large members, may not run again after serving three (3) four (4) year terms. Current City Councilmembers may serve out their existing term before this amendment applies. City Councilmembers elected to another term of office commencing on or after the date this amendment becomes effective may serve no more than three additional terms of office.