

Measure E

“Bob Filner” Measure For Removal Elections Legally Makes Sense

Measure E will amend part of the City of San Diego’s Charter including a new article that adds: incapacity, felony conviction, and removal as grounds for office vacancies. This amendment to the current City Charter would create a procedure that calls special elections for removal of elected officers with cause. Measure E would make it easier and more legally comprehensible for the City of San Diego to remove elected officials. This measure would also require the City Attorney to be licensed to practice law in California for ten years.

A Yes Vote	A No Vote
<p style="text-align: center;">Legal Protections It’s Widespread and Unchallenged Provides More Detail</p> <p>Current charter provisions allow the City Attorney to not be a licensed lawyer with the State Bar of California. Measure E would ensure that all City Attorneys be licensed to practice law in California for ten years.</p> <p>The proposed charter revisions would provide more detail regarding who performs duties and which duties are performed when elective office is vacant, something the current charter is not transparently providing.</p> <p>The history of San Diego was tarnished by sitting mayor Bob Filner who resigned amid multiple allegations of sexual harassment. Newly proposed charter revisions define what vacancy is for all elective officers; adding felony conviction and physical and mental incapacity as grounds for vacancy. If the newly proposed charter revisions were passed, it would require city officials to forfeit their jobs if found guilty of any crime. San Diego would be the first city in California to create such a special removal election. Measure E would provide a more structured system when removing an elected official and would provide legal protections for the City of San Diego.</p> <p>The newly designed charter would include a section removing elective officers for failure to fulfill obligations or wrongdoings in office by special election, something that the current charter does not include.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A “YES” VOTE WOULD ENACT MEASURE E AND AMEND CITY CHARTER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keep Charter Unchanged No Felony Conviction Provides Less Detail</p> <p>Current charter provisions require death, resignation, loss of voter eligibility or a recall to force an official out of office before the end of his or her term. The proposed charter revisions for Measure E provide a clear definition on what vacancy is for all elective officers; adding felony conviction and physical and mental incapacity as grounds for vacancy. Mayor Bob Filner resigned in late 2013 due to sexual harassment allegations, at the time city officials could only remove him through a recall election which is hard to administer, so they had to broker a deal to get him to resign.</p> <p>City Charter does not currently require the City Attorney to be a licensed lawyer with the State Bar of California. New revisions to city charter would require City Attorney’s to be licensed to practice law in California for ten years. Many people are skeptical of the requirements for City Attorney and believe that a successful attorney in any city in any state could be a successful City Attorney for San Diego.</p> <p>Current charter provisions do not include the newly proposed section that removes elective officers for failure to fulfill obligations or wrongdoings in office by special election; something that many supporters of the new Measure E charter care about.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A “NO” VOTE WOULD KEEP CITY CHARTER UNCHANGED</p>
<p>“The proposed changes incorporate best practices used by other major cities and lessons learned during the Filner Mayoral administration and transition period afterward regarding the removal of elected officials from office” - Voters Edge <i>SUPPORTERS: Measure E is unanimously supported the City Council, the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters</i></p> <p><i>OTHER SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:</i> <i>Sherri Lightner: Council President, City of San Diego</i> <i>Jerry Sanders: President and CEO, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce</i> <i>Haney Hong: President and CEO, San Diego County Taxpayers Association</i> <i>Jeanne Brown: President, League of Women Voters</i></p>	<p>“I believe that it is unfair and discriminatory to require the City Attorney to have ten years of experience in California. A successful attorney in any other state can be a successful City Attorney for San Diego” - CJ Shedlock <i>OPPOSERS: None on record</i></p>

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2. Maplight. (2016, November 8). Measure E | voter's edge California. Retrieved October 21, 2016, from <http://votersedge.org/ca/en/ballot/election/42-87b097/address/5397%20via%20alcazar/zip/92111/measures/measure/2065#basics>
3. Readers, M. N. (2016, September 7). Readers letters: Vote no on measure E. Retrieved October 21, 2016, from <http://www.mercurynews.com/2016/09/07/readers-letters-vote-no-on-measure-e/>
4. Powers, J. (2016, September 12). Guide to San Diego's ballot measures for independent-minded voters. Campaigns. Retrieved from <http://ivn.us/2016/09/12/guide-san-diegos-propositions-independent-minded-voters/>
5. Garrick, D., & Tribune, S. D. U. (2016, July 11). Council adds slew of measures to November ballot. Retrieved October 21, 2016, from <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/sdut-san-diego-ballot-measures-firehouse-marijuana-2016jul11-story.html>