

## Measure A – Transferring State Misdemeanor Prosecutions to the City Attorney’s Office

### City Clerk’s Impartial Analysis

This measure is proposed by the Riverside City Council to amend the City Charter to establish the Office of City Prosecutor within the City Attorney’s Office. This amendment would grant the City Attorney authority to act as City Prosecutor charged with the duty of prosecuting misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of state law occurring within the City of Riverside.

The City of Riverside is a Charter City, meaning that it follows the laws set forth in the state’s constitution along with its own adopted City Charter. In a charter city, the charter may designate the city attorney as the “city prosecutor,” having the primary duty to prosecute all state misdemeanors committed within the city. Standard California misdemeanors are offenses that are punishable by a county jail sentence of less than one year and a maximum \$1,000 fine. These include but are not limited to petty theft, trespassing, vandalism and graffiti, prostitution, and lewd conduct.

A “yes” vote is a vote in favor of establishing the Office of City Prosecutor to prosecute misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of state law. A “no” vote will reject the proposed amendment such that misdemeanor offenses arising out of violations of state law would not be prosecuted by the City Attorney and instead continue to be prosecuted by the County District Attorney’s Office.

If approved, the measure would not go into effect until January 1, 2017.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure A.

Colleen J. Nicol  
City Clerk