

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE “R”

(Setting City election dates to coincide with statewide primary and general elections – Charter Sections 400 & 500)

If approved by a majority of the voters, this Measure would amend the Riverside City Charter to: set municipal election dates to coincide with statewide primary and general elections beginning in 2022; reaffirm that nomination of City Council candidates shall be by voters in their respective Ward; and remove obsolete sections.

Currently, the Riverside City Charter provides that general municipal elections for members of the City Council and for other purposes as the City Council may prescribe are to be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in June of each odd-numbered year. Furthermore, the Riverside City Charter currently provides that a special run-off election for all elected office be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November of the same year.

This Measure would amend the Riverside City Charter so that, beginning in 2022, general municipal elections for members of the City Council and for other purposes as the City Council may prescribe are held on the same day as the statewide election, consistent with the primary election date set by the State. Furthermore, this Measure would require a June 8, 2021 election for Councilmembers to represent Wards 2, 4, and 6, for five-year terms until 2026, in order to coincide with the statewide election date. Beginning in 2026 and thereafter, all Councilmembers' terms would revert to four years. In addition, this Measure would amend the Riverside City Charter to require that a special run-off election for all elected office be held on the same days as the statewide election of the same year, consistent with the general election date set by the State. This Measure would create one exception for the June 8, 2021 election, which shall hold a special run-off election, if necessary, on November 2, 2021.

Currently, the Riverside City Charter provides that general municipal elections for Mayor are to be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in June of United States Presidential election years.

This Measure would amend the Riverside City Charter so that general municipal elections for Mayor are held the same day as the statewide election, consistent with the primary election date set by the State, in United States Presidential election years.

This Measure would add the words “nominated and” to Section 400(b) of the Riverside City Charter, so that 400(b) would read: “The members of the City Council shall be *nominated and* elected by wards by the registered voters of the respective wards only.” (Emphasis added). This change would reflect current practice. Finally, this Measure would remove Sections 400(f), 400(g), and 400(h), as obsolete.

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 the creation of any new City powers.

Dated: August 17, 2020 By: Gary Geuss
City Attorney

NO ARGUMENTS FILED IN FAVOR OR AGAINST MEASURE “R”