



To: Volunteer Citizen-Based Charter Committee

From: Cathy Standiford, Partner

Subject: Mayoral Terms, Elected Official Term Limits and Election Processes

Date: May 3, 2016

The Charter Committee has been asked by the Common Council to consider changing the term of Mayor from four to two years in the proposed Charter. This memorandum provides information regarding peer agency data regarding mayoral terms Committee members may wish to consider in developing specific recommendations. It also includes information regarding term limits for elected officials as established by peer agency charters.

Mayoral Term Comparisons

Management Partners reviewed the charters of 17 comparable charter cities to confirm the term of office for Mayor. Table 1 below summarizes the results. It shows that mayors have four-year terms in 14 out of 17 peer agencies. The Mayors in Irvine, Santa Ana and Salinas have two-year terms.

Table 1. Terms for the Office of Mayor

Population	4 Years	2 Years	Comments
200,000 to 299,000	3	1	Mayors in Chula Vista, Modesto and Stockton have 4-year terms; Irvine Mayor has a 2-year term
300,000 to 399,000	3	1	Mayors in Anaheim, Bakersfield and Riverside have 4-year terms; Santa Ana Mayor has a 2-year term
150,000 to 199,000	8	1	Mayors in Glendale, Hayward, Lancaster, Oceanside, Palmdale, Pomona, Santa Rosa and Torrance have 4-year terms; Salinas Mayor has a 2-year term
TOTAL	14	3	

Term Limits for Elected Officials

Management Partners also reviewed peer agency charters to identify those with term limits. Table 2 below shows 7 of the 17 peer agencies have established term limits for mayor, while six have term limits for council members.

Table 2. Charter-Established Term Limits for Mayors and City Council Members

City	Mayor	Council Member	Comments
200,000 to 299,000 Population			
San Bernardino	No	No	
Chula Vista	Yes	Yes	2 terms (8 years) for both
Irvine	Yes	No	2 terms (4 years) for Mayor, no limits for Council
Modesto	Yes	Yes	2 terms (8 years) for both
Stockton	Yes	Yes	2 terms (8 years) for both, but non-cumulative
300,000 to 399,000 Population			
Anaheim	Yes	Yes	2 terms (8 years) for both
Bakersfield	No	No	
Riverside	No	No	
Santa Ana	Yes	Yes	3 terms (12 years) for Council, 4 terms (8 years) for Mayor
150,000 – 199,000 Population			
Glendale	No	No	
Hayward	No	No	
Lancaster	No	No	
Oceanside	No	No	
Palmdale	No	No	
Pomona	No	No	
Salinas	No	No	
Santa Rosa	No	No	
Torrance	Yes	Yes	2 terms (8 years) for both
Total with Term Limits	7	6	

Election Processes

We also reviewed the election cycles specified in peer agency charters to determine which are consolidated with statewide elections in even numbered years. Table 3 below summarizes these results. It shows 14 of 17 peer agencies have elections consolidated with statewide races. Five of the peer agencies utilize a primary/runoff process to elect by majority. The remaining 12 agencies elect by plurality (i.e., highest vote getter).



Table 3. Peer Agency Elections Processes

City	Consolidate with Statewide	Primary/Runoff Process	Comments
200,000 to 299,000 Population			
San Bernardino	No	Yes	
Chula Vista	Yes	Yes	Primary in June, runoff in November
Irvine	Yes	No	
Modesto	No	Yes	Primary in November, runoff in February
Stockton	Yes	Yes	Primary in June, runoff in November
300,000 to 399,000 Population			
Anaheim	Yes	No	
Bakersfield	Yes	Yes	Primary in June, runoff in November
Riverside	For Mayor only	Yes	Mayor elected in June of presidential election years, with runoff in November if necessary. Council elected by wards in June of odd-numbered years, with runoff in November if necessary
Santa Ana	Yes	No	
150,000 – 199,000 Population			
Glendale	No	No	Elections in April of odd-numbered years
Hayward	Yes	No	
Lancaster	Yes	No	
Oceanside	Yes	No	
Palmdale	Yes	No	
Pomona	Yes	No	
Salinas	Yes	No	
Santa Rosa	Yes	No	
Torrance	Yes	No	
Total Consolidated	14		
Total with Primary/Runoff		5	

