

****READ CAREFULLY****
Santa Monica City Council Term Limits
Petition Instructions

For Santa Monica Registered Voters Only

Thank you for helping to institute term limits for City Council members in Santa Monica by signing the attached petition. Many petitions are thrown out because voters did not fill theirs out properly – **so to ensure your petition counts, please read and follow these instructions carefully.**

STEP 1 - PRINT

Print out the ENTIRE attached petition on white paper that is 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches in size. Do not change the size of the form or adjust margins. Just print as is and then staple the pages together. You must fill out the petition with a PEN – preferably black or blue pen. You may have signed up to pledge to sign the petition online – but the ONLY signature that really counts is a signature with a pen on paper of the form you are printing off in this packet. The attached petition is the only official form for you to sign.

STEP 2 – SIGN IN TWO PLACES

You will need to sign in TWO PLACES on this petition. Why? Because you are technically both signing the petition and circulating the petition.

To sign the petition, go to block one. Print your first and last name and print your street address, including your zip code. Then SIGN your name in this block and write in the date. Please do NOT write in the column that says “Official Use Only.”

You must also sign the portion titled “Declaration of the CIRCULATOR” – since you are downloading this form you are considered a “circulator” as well as a “signer.” In the Declaration of Circulator box, print your name, and put the date you are signing in all date fields. Write in your address again. Write in the date and city where you are signing. And then sign the bottom line.

STEP 3 - MAIL BACK THE PETITION

Mail your signed petitions by April 30, 2018 to:

**Santa Monica Transparency Project
2720 Neilson Way #5612
Santa Monica, CA 90409**

or drop your petition off at one of these addresses:

**155 Ocean Park Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90405**

**349 Euclid Street
Santa Monica, CA 90402**

**814 Idaho Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90403**

**1217 23rd St.
Santa Monica CA 90404**

**1205 Pine Street
Santa Monica CA 90405**

**406 Broadway #123
Santa Monica CA 90401**

OPTIONAL STEP: ASK OTHERS TO SIGN

As a circulator on this form, you may ask others in your household or in your circle of friends to sign the other remaining blocks on this form today as well.

Questions? Just Ask Us!

Email us at smtransparency@verizon.net or visit www.santamonica Transparency.org/

**PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO VOTERS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA**

The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

**AN INITIATIVE MEASURE AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO LIMIT THE TIME A
PERSON MAY SERVE ON THE CITY COUNCIL TO THREE TERMS**

Pursuant to the City Charter, the Santa Monica City Council consists of seven members, each elected by the voters to serve for a four-year term. Currently, the City Charter does not limit the number of terms that a person may serve on the City Council.

The proposed measure would prohibit a person from serving on the City Council for more than three terms. The prohibition would apply over a person's lifetime – whether the three terms are served consecutively or not. At times, a City Councilmember is elected or appointed to serve a partial term in order to fill a vacancy. The proposed measure would define a term to include any partial term of more than two years. The proposed measure would apply only prospectively, to terms that begin on or after November 6, 2018.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear below of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Santa Monica for the purpose of amending the City Charter to establish term limits for members of the City Council. A statement of the reasons for the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

Incumbent legislators seldom lose. In the most recent 2016 municipal election, 100% of the incumbents for Santa Monica City Council were reelected. And over the past 25 years, City Council incumbents in Santa Monica have been reelected again and again at an overwhelming rate. **That is because, unlike many other jurisdictions in California, our City imposes no limits whatsoever on how many terms Councilmembers can serve.**

For example, California has established term limits for its statewide elected officers (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, Controller, Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner, and Superintendent of Public Institution) and its Senate and Assembly legislators. Cities across the state and throughout Los Angeles County have also imposed term limits on their elected officials.

Term limits give voters a real chance for change and bring in fresh perspectives and ideas. Term limits encourage potential candidates to run and foster healthy competition. That is why they are so popular in the county and the state.

Our Founding Fathers envisioned a rotation in office with citizen legislators serving their country. Yet, the reality is that incumbents are elected over and over again because of name recognition and the power of the incumbency. **The term limits proposed in this measure—which would impose a lifetime limit of three terms for a total of no more than 12 years of service—are necessary to break this cycle.**

It's time for Santa Monica to join the good governance movement. Let's adopt reasonable term limits for City Councilmembers in order to restore open access to the political process and to encourage qualified candidates to seek public office.

Original signed by:

Mary Marlow, Chair Santa Monica Transparency Project
Sue Himmelrich, Santa Monica City Councilmember

To the City Council of the City of Santa Monica:

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the State of California, residents of the City of Santa Monica, pursuant to Section 3 of Article XI of the California Constitution and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 34450) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 4 of the Government Code, present to the City Council of the City of Santa Monica this petition and request that the following proposed amendment to the charter of the City be submitted to the registered and qualified voters of the City for their adoption or rejection at the next statewide general, statewide primary, or regularly scheduled municipal election pursuant to Section 1200, 1201, or 1301.

The proposed charter amendment reads as follows:

Section I: TITLE

This measure may be known and referred to as the “Term Limits for City Councilmembers” Ballot Measure.

Section II: FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

The People of the City of Santa Monica find as follows:

The City of Santa Monica currently imposes no limits on the number of terms an individual may serve on the City Council, which allows incumbents to remain on the City Council for decades.

Such entrenched incumbency has made our electoral system less free, less competitive, and less representative.

Term limits for City Councilmembers are therefore necessary to restore free, fair, and competitive elections; to encourage qualified candidates to seek public office; and to eliminate perpetual and unfair incumbent advantages.

The term limits set forth in this charter amendment will make the electoral process in Santa Monica more open, free, and democratic.

To achieve these purposes, this measure shall be interpreted in a manner that applies the term limits broadly, not restrictively.

Section III: AMENDMENT OF CITY CHARTER, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 600

Section 600, of Article VI, of the City Charter, is amended to read (new text is shown by underlining and deleted text is shown by ~~strikeout~~):

600. Number, ~~and term,~~ and term limits

The City Council shall consist of seven members elected from the City at large, at the times and in the manner in this Charter provided, and who shall serve for a term of four years.

The term of all members shall commence on the first Tuesday following such election and each member shall serve until the member’s successor is elected and qualified. Any ties in voting shall be settled by the casting of lots.

No person shall serve more than three terms as a member of the City Council whether consecutive or not. For purposes of this section, a partial term of more than two years shall count as one term.

These term limits shall apply to appointed terms as well as elected terms.

These term limits shall apply prospectively only to those terms of office that begin on or after the election at which this Charter amendment is adopted.

Section IV: CONFLICTING PROPOSITIONS

If any other proposition, appearing on the same ballot as this proposition, addresses the subject matter in a way that conflicts with the treatment of the subject matter in this proposition, and if each proposition is approved by a majority vote of those voting on each proposition, then as to the conflicting subject matter the proposition with the highest affirmative vote shall prevail, and the proposition with the lowest affirmative vote shall be deemed disapproved as to the conflicting subject matter.

Section V: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this measure or its application to any person, property, or circumstances is found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, that invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this measure or the application of those provisions to other persons, property or circumstances, which can be implemented without the invalid provisions and to this end, the provisions of this measure are declared to be severable.



INITIATIVE/CHARTER AMENDMENT INFORMATION SHEET

The following information is provided to all Santa Monica residents by the City Clerk's Office of the City of Santa Monica with the intent of clarifying the initiative and charter amendment process and to answer the most frequently asked questions. ***Please note that any person soliciting signatures for an initiative must make this form available to any member of the public.***

What is a City Measure?

A "measure" is any charter amendment or other proposition or initiative (ordinance) submitted to a popular vote at any election.

How does a Measure get on the ballot? Why are the proponents asking me to sign the petition?

In order to qualify for placement on the ballot of a regular or special future municipal election, proponents of a measure must follow the process outlined in the State Elections Code. Section 9200 provides for the initiative process and Section 9255 provides for the charter amendment process. In addition, Chapter 11 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code provides clarification and local requirements for proposed measures. You may obtain a copy of the full text of these laws from the Santa Monica City Clerk's Office.

In order to qualify a measure for placement on the ballot, proponents must obtain either 10% or 15% of the signatures of the registered voters in the City for an initiative, and 15% for a charter amendment. As of December 31, 2013 there are 65,253 registered voters in the City.

What if I don't understand what the petition means or what will happen if it passes?

Proponents of a measure are required to print the full text of the measure, as well as the City Attorney's impartial ballot title and summary, on the petition above the signature lines. You have the right, and are encouraged, to read it completely and to ask questions before you decide whether or not to sign the petition. It is a misdemeanor to misrepresent or refuse to allow a potential signer to read a petition or proposed measure.

In addition, you have the right to ask the signature gatherer any of the following questions:

- are you a volunteer or a paid signature-gatherer?
- are you being paid per signature or hourly rate, and if so, how much?
- if compensation is non-monetary, what kind of compensation are you receiving?

What if I sign the petition, but change my mind later and want to rescind my signature?

Any voter who has signed any petition, and who subsequently wishes his or her name withdrawn, may do so by filing a written request for the withdrawal of the signature with the City Clerk's Office. This request must be filed prior to the date the petition is filed with the City Clerk.

What other information can I obtain regarding a proposed measure?

If you would like a copy of the full text of the measure, or if you have any other questions related to measures or elections, please call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211.



City of
Santa Monica®

INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL PROCESO DE INICIATIVAS Y ENMIENDAS A LA CARTA CONSTITUCIONAL

Esta información ha sido preparada para todos los residentes de la ciudad por la Secretaria Municipal de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica, para aclarar el proceso de iniciativas y enmiendas a la carta constitucional. **Cualquier persona que solicite firmas para una petición de iniciativa o enmienda a la carta constitucional está obligada a hacer disponible esta hoja a cualquier miembro del público.**

(Adjunto a esta hoja informativa se encuentra el título de la medida y el análisis imparcial de la Fiscal Municipal para los “Límites de Plazo para los Miembros del Concejo Municipal” que está siendo divulgada en la ciudad de Santa Mónica.)

¿Qué es una “medida” municipal?

Una “medida” municipal es una enmienda a la carta constitucional de la ciudad, una iniciativa (ordenanza) o una propuesta que se les presenta a los votantes de la ciudad en cualquier elección.

¿Cómo se pone una medida en la balota? ¿Por qué están pidiendo mi firma?

Para poner una medida en la balota, los proponentes tienen que seguir los requisitos del Código Estatal de Elecciones. La Sección 9200 contiene los requisitos para una iniciativa, y la Sección 9255 los de enmiendas a la carta constitucional. Además, el Capítulo 11 del Código Municipal de Santa Mónica aclara el proceso y contiene otros requisitos locales para medidas. Usted puede obtener copias de estas leyes, de forma completa, en la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal.

Para que una iniciativa sea puesta en la balota, los proponentes tienen que obtener un 10% de firmas del número total de votantes registrados en la ciudad, y obtener un 15% para una enmienda a la carta constitucional. Efectivo el 2 de enero de 2018, hay un total de 69,494 votantes registrados en la ciudad.

¿Qué sucede si no entiendo lo que significa la medida, o qué pasará si es aprobada por los votantes?

Es requerido que los proponentes impriman el texto completo de la medida y del análisis imparcial de la Fiscal Municipal en la parte superior de la petición que le presentan para que usted firme. Usted tiene el derecho, y se le recomienda que lea el contenido completo y que haga preguntas antes que decida si va a firmar o no. Es un delito menor el no dejar que alguien lea, o de falsificar el contenido de la medida.

Usted también tiene el derecho de hacer las siguientes preguntas:

- ¿Es usted un voluntario o le pagan por las firmas que consigue?
- ¿Le pagan por cada firma, o por hora? Si así fuere, ¿cuánto le pagan?
- Si le pagan de otra manera y no con dinero, ¿qué clase de pago es?

¿Qué pasa si firmo la petición y después cambio de opinión y quiero anular mi firma?

Cualquier persona que haya firmado una petición y después la quiera anular, lo puede hacer por medio de una carta por escrito presentada en la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal. La carta se debe presentar antes que la petición sea entregada a la Secretaria Municipal.

¿Hay más información disponible sobre este tema?

Si quiere obtener una copia del texto completo de la medida, o si tiene cualquier otra pregunta relacionada con medidas municipales o elecciones, favor de llamar a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al número (310) 458-8211.