



Legislation Text

File #: 2024-0432, Version: 1

Report to Mayor and City Council

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Discussion

SUBJECT:

CONSIDER PROVIDING DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH PREPARING A POTENTIAL NOVEMBER 2024 BALLOT MEASURE TO AMEND CITY CHARTER TO REMOVE TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF CARSON (CITY COUNCIL)

I. SUMMARY

This item is being introduced at the request of the Mayor. The City of Carson currently operates under a city charter that dictates the term limit for City Council members. Section 305 of the City Charter specifies that "[n]o person shall serve more than three four-year terms of office as a member of the city council (12-year maximum). A partial term shall count as a full term unless the period is less than two full years, which period would not count as a term." Removing this term limit from the charter would enable Council members to serve the City and its constituents for as long as the residents and voters deem appropriate.

As the City of Carson is governed by a charter, any proposal to amend the charter must be placed on the ballot during the established statewide General Election, as outlined in Elections Code 1415 and 9255, and approved by the City's voters. The Mayor has introduced this item to gauge interest of other Council members in introducing a ballot measure on the November 2024 ballot to remove term limits from the City Charter.

II. RECOMMENDATION

PROVIDE direction to staff whether to proceed with the proposed ballot measure.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action deemed appropriate by City Council.

IV. BACKGROUND

The City of Carson operates under a charter with term limits for City Council members, restricting them to three four-year terms. Removing this limit would allow them to serve indefinitely, pending voter approval. Any charter amendment must be on the ballot during the General Election, so this item is being brought before Council to consider providing direction to staff regarding preparation of a measure for subsequent Council consideration of approval to include on the November 2024 ballot.

Considering the County's submission deadline of August 9, 2024, four upcoming Council meetings (June 4, June 18, July 2, and July 16) have been identified as crucial opportunities to finalize all necessary preparations and deliberations.

If direction is given by Council for staff to proceed with the proposed ballot measure, staff plans to initiate a community survey, with assistance of a consultant, to evaluate various aspects of the proposed measure, including its language and likelihood of success based on past initiatives, in addition to preparing the language of the proposed measure and the necessary associated resolutions for subsequent Council consideration of approval to submit to the voters.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost associated with the proposed ballot measure is \$32,366.41 account number 101-30-100-176-6018. The county provided this estimate with the understanding that the estimate is a very rough approximation. Additional yet to be determined costs associated with initiating a community survey to test the proposed measure language will be added to the total cost as well.

VI. EXHIBITS

Prepared by: City Attorney's Office