



City of Chico Measure

Arguments in Support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

S

Chico City Council Term Limits

Shall Section 401 of the Chico City Charter be amended to limit the members of the Chico City Council to no more than three (3) consecutive terms?

Yes

No

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

This ballot measure would amend the Charter of the City of Chico to add term limitations of the members of the City Council. Presently, persons serving in each office may serve four-year terms. Consequently, those persons can, in effect, serve unlimited terms. This measure would eliminate the ability to serve unlimited terms and create a limit of three consecutive terms each for the offices of the City Council.

The measure would operate prospectively, so that any time served by a person serving in office before November 6, 2018, would not count toward the term limit thereafter. A full term will be defined as any partial service of a term exceeding two years, or any term that ends as a result of resignation or removal. Calculation of terms includes any time served as mayor, vice-mayor, or mayor pro tempore.

A "Yes" vote would serve to eliminate the ability of persons serving as a City Council Member to serve unlimited terms, and would limit an individual to serving a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms on the City Council.

A "No" vote would serve to leave the absence of term limitations as is.

This measure was placed on the ballot by action of the Chico City Council on July 3, 2018.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE S

12 consecutive years as a Council Member is long enough!

Term Limits encourage greater citizen participation in government by ensuring regular turnover in Council Member seats. Citizens of all professions and backgrounds can and will run for office.



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The simple requirement would be: After 3 consecutive terms (usually 12-consecutive years) in office, a Council Member would need to take a 2-year break before running for City Council again.

Vote "YES" for reasonable Term Limits.

/s/Mark Sorensen, Council Member City of Chico

/s/Sean Morgan, Mayor City of Chico

/s/Andrew Coolidge, Councilmember City of Chico



REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE S

Vote "no" on Measure S.

Voting is the foundation of our democracy. Restricting your choice at the ballot box is denying you of a basic freedom – your right to choose.

Sometimes, the incumbent is the best choice available to voters. The real answer is not to toss out the good incumbents with the bad, it's to assure voters have good choices on the ballot every election.

Measure S is more than a time out. Measure S denies you from having the widest choice in every election. We already have term limits. They're called elections.

Moreover, term limits are an infringement on the democratic process, as citizens are restricted from selecting a candidate they may see as the most qualified for the position.

Measure S will limit your right to choose.

Vote "no" on Measure S.

/s/Maureen Kirk, Butte County Supervisor, District 3

/s/Ann Schwab, Council Member, City of Chico



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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE S

We already have term limits. They're called elections.

Term limits take away your right to choose. Term limits prohibit you from electing the most qualified person for the job. Imposing term limits would remove the power from voters in favor of an arbitrary law. Voter choices are restricted when a candidate is barred from being on the ballot. Don't allow term limits to replace your right to vote.

Experience matters! What other profession forces the best employees into retirement with no consideration of their abilities or effectiveness on the job? Rather than forcing experienced elected officials to the sidelines with term limits, we need to embrace the skills, talents and relationships they bring to the table to best serve the people. There is no reason to believe, especially at the local level, that inexperienced people will be any more capable of serving than veteran council members. Chico is fortunate to find qualified people who are willing to give time to serve their community. Councilmembers should be judged by how well they represent their constituents, not by an arbitrary time limit.

People's voices, not those of special interests. Council's job is to direct staff. Inexperienced leaders defer more frequently to staff and special interests. Term limits ensure lobbyists have more experience than the people you elect. Now, you can vote someone out. Term limits would take away your right to have knowledgeable, experienced people representing your interests. The only people who would gain from this are those who want to eliminate competition, and enhance special interests. Maintain your right to choose; don't give it away.

Kicking out competent and experienced Councilmembers simply because their time runs out is bad policy and a bad idea.

Vote "no" on Measure S.

/s/Maureen Kirk, Butte County Supervisor District 3

/s/Ann Schwab, Councilmember City of Chico



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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE S

Term limits should apply to the President, Congress, State Assembly, State Senate, Governor, County Supervisors and City Council Members. Don't allow politicians to exempt themselves.

By having councilmembers cycle out, voters will actually receive more choices than just voting on the status quo candidates.

Elected positions should be temporary service to the PUBLIC interest, not a long career spanning decades.

Stagnation is never a good thing. Vote "YES" for reasonable Term Limits.

/s/Mark Sorensen, Council Member, City of Chico

/s/Sean Morgan, Mayor, City of Chico

/s/Andrew Coolidge, Councilmember, City of Chico

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE S

Exhibit 1 to City Council Resolution Regarding Charter Amendments

Charter Amendment Measure No. _____

Section 1: TEXT OF AMENDMENT TO SECTION 401 OF THE CITY CHARTER

The Charter of the City of Chico is hereby amended as follows to add Subsection C to Section 401 (double underlining showing additions):

C. Term Limits.

- i. A person is ineligible to hold office as a member of the city council if that person has served as a member of the city council, including any services as mayor, vice-mayor, or mayor pro tempore, for three (3) consecutive full terms. Nothing in this section shall act to bar any person from serving as a member of the city council after at least two (2) years have elapsed from the person's last full term as a member of the city council.



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- ii. For the purpose of the term limits set forth in this section, a person who was appointed or elected to a vacant city council position for an unexpired term of more than one-half the original term shall be deemed to have served a full term. Any person who resigns or is removed from office during a term shall be deemed to have served a full term.

- iii. The term limits established by this section shall apply prospectively, to those terms of office which commence on or after November 6, 2018. Only those terms of office commencing on or after November 6, 2018 shall be counted towards the term limit established by this Subsection 401.C.

Section 2: BALLOT DESCRIPTION

As provided in Government Code section 34458.5, the following ballot description is included in this proposed Charter Amendment Measure:

If approved, this Charter Amendment Measure will add Subsection C to Section 401 of the City Charter. Section 401 addresses elections. This Charter Amendment would prohibit Council Members from serving more than three consecutive terms. This Charter Amendment does not give the City Council power to raise its compensation or that of other City officials without voter approval.

Section 3: SEVERABILITY

It is the intent of the people that the provisions of this Charter Amendment Measure are severable and that if any provision of this Charter Amendment Measure, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this Charter Amendment Measure which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.



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Section 4: CONFLICTING MEASURES

If this Charter Amendment Measure and another measure or measures relating to the matters described herein appear on the same General Municipal Election ballot, the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this Charter Amendment Measure. In the event that this Charter Amendment Measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in its entirety, and the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void. If this Charter Amendment Measure is approved by the voters but superseded in whole or in part by any other conflicting measure approved by the voters at the same election, and such other conflicting measure is later found held invalid, this Measure shall be self-executing and given full force and effect.

Section 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Charter Amendment Measure shall become effective in the manner allowed by law.