

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Consolidating Odd-Year Municipal Elections]

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by amending Sections 2.101, 13.101, and Article XVII to: 1) change the election cycle for the offices of City Attorney and Treasurer so that these offices will be elected in the same years as the elections for the offices of Mayor, District Attorney, and Sheriff; and 2) to amend the definition of general municipal election so that such elections occur only in even-numbered years and every other odd-numbered year.

Existing Law

The Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer are elected at general municipal elections held every four years. The last election for Mayor, Sheriff and District Attorney was held in November 2011, and the next election for these offices will occur at the general municipal election in 2015. The last election for City Attorney and Treasurer was held in November 2009, and the next election for these offices will occur at the general municipal election in November 2013.

Members of the Board of Supervisors are elected in November of even-numbered years. Supervisors from odd-numbered districts will be elected in 2012 and every four years thereafter. Supervisors from even-numbered districts will be elected in 2014 and every four years thereafter.

A general municipal election is defined as the election held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed Charter Amendment would change the election cycle for the offices of City Attorney and Treasurer to require these offices to be elected in the same year as the Mayor, Sheriff and District Attorney. The Charter Amendment would provide that the persons elected as City Attorney and Treasurer in 2013 would serve a two-year term, and those offices would be on the ballot again for a four-year term at the general municipal election in November 2015, along with the offices of Mayor, Sheriff and District Attorney.

Beginning in 2015, the City would hold general municipal elections in November of every even-numbered year and November of every other odd-numbered year. There would be no general municipal election in the year 2017 and every fourth year thereafter.

The proposed Charter Amendment would also amend the definition of "general municipal election" to reflect this new election schedule and to include even-year elections for members of the Board of Supervisors. The amended definition would state that general municipal

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elections occur on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years and every other odd-numbered year.

The proposed Charter Amendment would also clarify existing law on the term limits for members of the Board of Supervisors. The Charter Amendment would make explicit that service of more than two years of a four-year term is treated as a full four-year term for purposes of the Charter's term limit, whether the incumbent held office through appointment, election or any combination thereof. This clarifying language reflects the Court of Appeals' recent decision interpreting the City's Charter.