

Ordinance Calling For Election on County Charter Amendments

Brian Pettit
Deputy County Attorney
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Ordinance Overview

- Approves four proposed Charter Amendments
- Calls special election on November 3, 2026, consolidated with the general election
- Requests Chief Elections Official to take necessary steps for the special election
- Each Measure may be voted on separately by County voters, and each requires majority approval
- Authorizes (but does not require) Supervisors to submit arguments in support of Measures



Ballot Question – County Policy on Resilience to Extreme Weather Events

- Shall the San Mateo County Charter be amended to add a provision to the Charter Preamble designating long-term resilience to extreme weather events as a County priority?

New Preamble Text if Measure re Extreme Weather Resiliency Approved

- *“It shall be the policy of San Mateo County that long-term resilience against extreme weather events – including fire, flood, wind, rain, heat, drought, and sea level rise – is a County priority, to be undertaken collaboratively with cities, districts, and other public entities.”*

Ballot Question – County Policy Affirming Commitment to Equal Rights

- Shall the San Mateo County Charter be amended to add a provision to the Charter Preamble affirming the County's commitment to the dignity, civil rights, and equal protection of all County residents?

New Preamble Text if Measure re Dignity/ Civil Rights/Equal Protection Approved

- *“The County of San Mateo affirms its commitment to the dignity, civil rights, and equal protection of all County residents in a manner that promotes equity, fairness, inclusion, belonging, accessibility, and opportunity.”*

Ballot Question – Board Process for Filling Elected Office Vacancies

- Shall the San Mateo County Charter be amended to extend the period in which the County Board of Supervisors is required to either call a special election or make an appointment in the event of a vacancy in an elected office other than the Board of Supervisors from 30 days to 60 days, and to require the Board to conduct at least one public meeting to receive public comment prior to any appointment?

New Charter Text if Measure re Filling Vacancies is Approved

- References in Section 415 to the Board having *30 days* to appoint/call a special election to fill vacancies would be changed to *60 days*.
- The following text would be added to Section 415:
“In the event that the Board elects to make an appointment, the Board shall hold at least one noticed, public meeting for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the appointment and the qualifications of potential candidates.”

Ballot Question – Independent Redistricting Commission

- Shall the San Mateo County Charter be amended to require that supervisorial districts be reapportioned following each federal decennial census by an independent redistricting commission pursuant to applicable provisions of the California Elections Code?

New Charter Text if Measure re Independent Redistricting Commission Approved

- In addition to a minor conforming change to Section 201 of the Charter, a new Section 202.1 would be added, as follows:

“202.1. Independent Redistricting Commission

The five supervisorial districts of the County shall be apportioned in the manner specified in general law by an independent redistricting commission, as defined in and governed by applicable provisions of the California Elections Code.”

Alternative Ballot Question – Consolidating Policy Statements

- Shall the San Mateo County Charter be amended to add two provisions to the Charter Preamble: 1) designating long-term resilience to extreme weather events as a County priority; and 2) affirming the County's commitment to the dignity, civil rights, and equal protection of all County residents?

Next Steps

- Board determines which Measures to include on the ballot
- May 19th – Ordinance introduced
- June 9th – Ordinance adopted and Resolution approved (effective immediately)
- August 7th – Deadline to submit Ordinance and Resolution to Chief Elections Officer
- November 3rd – Election

Questions?

