

CITY OF LONG BEACH
CITY ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE “DDD”
CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT CITY
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

On August 7, 2018, the Long Beach City Council placed Measure “DDD” on the ballot. The measure proposes to amend the Long Beach City Charter to establish an independent citizens redistricting commission with sole authority for establishing Council districts following the U.S. decennial census, or more frequently if necessary.

The Long Beach City Charter Section 103, “Councilmanic Districts,” currently grants the City Council the authority to establish or change Council district boundaries. The Charter provides that the City Council must examine and modify, if necessary, Council district boundaries at five-year intervals or at any other time the City Council may direct, so that the districts are as nearly equal in population as required under the federal and state constitutions, and other applicable laws.

Measure “DDD” would repeal and replace the existing Long Beach City Charter Section 103 with a new Article entitled “Councilmanic Districts and Redistricting.” The proposed new Article would establish a new Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission with the exclusive authority to redraw Council district boundaries. The Commission would be independent of Mayor and City Council control.

The Commission would have 13 Commissioners. Nine Commissioners – one from each existing Council district – would be selected from a pool of qualified applicants by a “screening panel,” as described in the proposed measure; those nine persons would then select the remaining four Commissioners, plus two alternates.

The proposed measure sets forth requirements and criteria that the Commission must follow when it draws Council district boundaries. The Commission’s maps must create districts that are as nearly equal as practicable in population, comply with the federal and state constitutions and other applicable laws, and are geographically contiguous. The Commission must also consider the following criteria when drawing a map: existing neighborhoods and community boundaries, communities of interest, integrity and compactness of territory, geography and topography, natural and artificial barriers and boundaries, preservation of population cores that have consistently been associated with each Council district, and any other Commission-adopted criteria.

The proposed measure also includes various housekeeping provisions regarding conduct of public meetings and public comment, record-keeping, administration, and legal challenges to the Commission’s adopted maps.

There are potential fiscal impacts associated with this measure, which are unknown at this time.

Measure “DDD” requires simple majority approval of Long Beach voters to pass. If Measure “DDD” does not pass, the current Charter provision will remain in effect.

A “Yes” vote will approve Measure “DDD”.

A “No” vote will not approve Measure “DDD”.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure “DDD”. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the Elections Official's office at (562) 570-6101 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

/s/

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