

# **CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS**

## **TERM LIMITS FOR CITY COUNCIL – CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE Q**

Under existing Section 507 of the City Charter, City Councilmembers are elected to a term of four years. There is no limit on how many terms a City Councilmember may serve so long as the voters re-elect them.

Under the proposed Charter Amendment Measure, no City Councilmember may serve more than three, four-year terms without a break in service of at least four years. This generally equates to twelve years on the City Council before a mandatory break in service of at least four years is required. Thereafter, an individual is eligible to serve on the City Council. Such individual would be eligible to serve up to twelve years before another four year break in service is required.

The proposed Charter Amendment also defines what constitutes a “term” for purposes of the application of the term-limit rules. Under the proposed Charter Amendment, a “term” counts for term-limit purposes if an individual serves 50% plus one day of the four-year term. If 50% or less of the four-year term is served, that service does not count as a “term” for term-limit purposes.

The proposed Charter Amendment makes the application of the term-limit rules applicable to those currently serving on the City Council if they seek and are re-elected to office. Upon re-election following the adoption of the proposed Charter Amendment, that new term shall count as the first term for term-limit purposes.

Finally, in the event the City Council is elected by districts, the term-limits provision in the proposed Charter Amendment would apply to prevent a City Councilmember who serves three terms on the City Council from one district from moving to another district and seeking to run again without a four-year break in service.

To pass, this Measure must obtain at least 50% plus one of those votes cast on the Measure as “yes” votes.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by a vote of the City Council.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure Q. If you desire a copy of Measure Q, please call the City Clerk’s Office at **(805) 658-4787** and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

The full text of Measure Q can also be found on the City’s website at: [cityofventura.net/election](http://cityofventura.net/election).

Respectfully submitted,

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City Attorney