



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE: July 3, 2003

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 15, 2003

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisors Mike Nevin and Mark Church

SUBJECT: Report of Board SubCommittee Regarding Amendments to the County Charter

The San Mateo County Charter requires that every eight years the Board of Supervisors convene a Charter Review Committee to review the County Charter and to make recommendations for amendment or revision of the Charter. In April 2002, the Board convened a ten member Charter Review Committee from ten different cities in the county. The Committee met eight times and received input from members of the Board, County management, and employee organizations. In February 2003, the Committee submitted eight recommended amendments to the Board and we were appointed as a Board subcommittee to review the recommendations.

One of the Charter Review Committee recommendations addresses the process for increasing the salaries of Members of the Board of Supervisors. It is their recommendation that the process be separate and independent from the Board. In the past, the voters have also indicated their uneasiness with having the Board set its own salary. Accordingly, we recommend that a measure be placed on the ballot for November 2, 2004, which, if approved by the voters, would create a five member Commission comprised of mayors from the three cities with the highest population in the County of San Mateo, or their designees, a retired Superior Court Judge as designated by the District Attorney, and the Grand Jury Foreperson of the previous year, or his or her designee, that would convene each year to establish the salary of Members of the Board of Supervisors. This process is similar to that used for state officials. We also recommend that: (1) no member of the Commission should serve for more than four years; (2) the Commission meetings be public; (3) the Commission receive a budget in order to conduct salary surveys; (4) any recommendation by the Commission to increase the salary be made only upon a 4/5th vote; and (5) the Commission members receive no compensation for its services.

Honorable Board of Supervisors

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In addition to creating this Commission, we recommend that this Board call an election, also on November 2, 2004, on 3 other Charter amendments that were recommended by the Charter Review Committee. These amendments would:

1. Delete the requirement that appointment of an Acting County Manager must be an existing County officer or employee.
2. Require that personnel appointments serve the County's diverse population and prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability or sexual orientation.
3. Limit the unclassified status of persons employed for professional, scientific, technical, expert services or associated services on a temporary basis for a specific project to three consecutive years and to delete part time physicians from unclassified service.



Supervisor Mike Nevin



Supervisor Mark Church

cc: John Maltbie