



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE: June 21, 2004

BOARD MEETING DATE:

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisors Mike Nevin and Mark Church
SUBJECT: Amendments to the County Charter

Recommendation

ADOPT AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CHARTER AND ORDERING THE AMENDMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 2, 2004 ELECTION

Background

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 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 recommended eight amendments to the Board. Supervisors Nevin and Church were appointed as a Board Subcommittee to review the recommendations. The Board Subcommittee brought its recommendations to the Board in July of 2003 and the Board directed the matter to be brought back for consideration before the November 2004 election.

Discussion

The Board Subcommittee proposes that four amendments be made. One of those recommendations relates to the salary of the Supervisors. While we agree with the Charter Review Committee's recommendation that the Charter be amended to allow the Board of Supervisors to request the Grand Jury to review the Supervisors' salary, we did not include the recommendation of the Charter Review Committee to set the salary base at \$95,000.

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State law requires that amendments to the Charter be approved by the voters.

The ordinance presented for your adoption orders an election to be held on November 2, 2004, on four separate measures which would:

1. Amend section 206a(5) to provide that annually, the compensation of Supervisors shall be increased by the percentage of increase in the cost of living, to be determined by the Controller as of November 1st of each year as shown in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area, not to exceed five percent (5%) per year; any amount of increase in the cost of living in excess of five percent (5%) may be accumulated and applied to increases in salary in future years. However, the Board of Supervisors may annually request that the Grand Jury investigate and recommend on the need for an adjustment in the compensation of Supervisors. If the Grand Jury recommends an adjustment in the amount of compensation for Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors may thereafter accept or reject the recommendation but in no event may the Board of Supervisors set its compensation at an amount above the recommendation.
2. Amend Section 303 to delete the requirement that appointment of an Acting County Manager must be an existing County officer or employee.
3. Amend Section 501 to require that personnel appointments serve the County's diverse population and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability or sexual orientation.
4. Amend Sections 502b(3) and 502b(4) to 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.

Vision Alignment

The proposed Charter amendments and amendment process ensures that government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact, rather than temporary relief or immediate gain.

Supervisor Mike Nevin

Supervisor Mark Church

cc: John Maltbie, County Manager
Warren Slocum, Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

TFC\BBC:s

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