

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Elected Mayor's Term of Office
DATE: March 6, 2012

NEEDS: Provide direction regarding placement of a ballot question for an alternate Mayoral term of office.

- FACTS:
1. Council recently inquired regarding the consideration of an alternate length of term for the office of Mayor.
 2. The electorate chose to elect its Mayor in March 2000. The first elected Mayor was chosen at the November general election of 2000.
 3. The Office of Mayor is elective for a two-year term.
 4. The electorate may vote to change the term of office to four years.
 5. The elected Mayor is a member of the City Council and has all of the powers and duties of a member of the City Council.
 6. In March 2002, the City Council considered placing a ballot question on the November 2002 general election to change the Mayoral term of office from two years to four years. At that time, the Council majority chose not to place the ballot question before the public.
 7. The deadline for the City Council to direct the placement of a ballot measure on the November 2012 general election is at the regular Council meeting of August 7, 2012.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The City Council may place a measure on a ballot asking voters if they wish to have the Mayor serve a two or four year term. Establishment of a term of office for directly elected Mayor requires a majority vote of the electorate.

The ballot question may be placed on a general, primary or special election. The November 2012 general consolidated election will decide the appointment of two Council positions and the position of Mayor. A ballot question concerning the Mayors term of office could be placed on the same ballot. If the voters at the November 2012 election change the term of office, a Mayor may be elected to a four-year term at the next regular election, i.e., November 2014.

POLICY

REFERENCE: California Government Code Sections 34900-34906, 36516, & 40601-40605.

FISCAL

IMPACT: No cost estimates have been generated at this time. Should the Council provide direction that they wish to consider placing a ballot measure on the November 2012 general election, an estimate of cost will be provided along with formal language/action for consideration.

- OPTIONS:
- A. Determine whether a Ballot Question regarding the term of office for Elected Mayor should be placed before the Voters and provide appropriate direction.
 - B. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.