

Charter Modernization Act

Fresno County's Charter has not kept up with the times. Originally approved by voters in 1933, it has been decades since the Charter has been updated and glaringly outdated provisions obstruct efficiencies and accountability. The Charter Modernization Act proposes the following four reforms:

1) Local Preference

By amending Charter Section 12, we will better define the preference for the purchase of goods and services from local businesses.

2) Strengthen the District Attorney's office

Currently the District Attorney also serves as the Public Administrator. Charter Section 15 requires the Public Administrator to be consolidated with another elected official, and through administrative reorganization the District Attorney was forced into dual responsibilities, creating an inherent conflict of interest. As recent embezzlement allegations in the Public Administrator's office have revealed, the District Attorney cannot effectively prosecute her own employees. By changing the Public Administrator to an appointed position, our elected District Attorney will be able to focus exclusively on promoting public safety and seeking justice for victims of crime.

3) Public Works Director

Charter Section 16 requires the Public Works Director to be licensed as both a Civil Engineer and Surveyor. This requirement was appropriate in earlier times as university education included both areas of study. Over the past 30 years, the field evolved into more specialized areas of study and dual certifications were phased out. It is unnecessary to maintain this dual requirement, a professional civil engineering certification is appropriate. This change will make it easier for the County to hire top-notch Public Works Directors going forward.

4) Elimination of the Office of County Constable

Charter Section 32 warrants repeal as we no longer have a County Constable.

By voting YES on the Charter Modernization Act, you will help Fresno County become more efficient and accountable to you, the taxpayers of Fresno County.

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2016


COUNTY CLERK
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
ADMINISTRATION

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The undersigned proponent(s) or author(s) of the primary argument in favor of a ballot measure to modernize the County of Fresno Charter at the November 2016 Presidential General election for the County of Fresno to be held on November 8, 2016 hereby state that this argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

SIGNED


DATE


District Attorney Lisa A. Smittcamp


8/16/16


Sheriff Margaret Mims


8/15/16


Steven E. White, Director Public Works and Planning

8/15/16


County Supervisor Buddy Mendes

8-15-16


County Supervisor Andreas Borgeas

8/15/16