



## X

### City of Los Alamitos, City Government Accountability, Transparency, Charter Reform Measure

Shall the Los Alamitos City Charter (established in 1966) be amended with no tax increase to: reflect the City's by-district election system; establish term limits for Councilmembers elected-by district; impose limits on campaign contributions; require lobbyists to register with the City and report all lobbying activities, with reports made available to the public; and increase the bidding threshold for public works contracts awarded by the City Council?

#### What your vote means

YES	NO
A "YES" vote on the Measure is a vote in favor of the Charter amendments described above.	A "NO" vote on the Measure is a vote against the Charter amendments described above.

#### For and against

FOR	AGAINST
Shelley Hasselbrink Mayor Pro Tem, Los Alamitos  Jordan Nefulda Mayor  Pedro Carvajal Resident Volunteer  Evan Flynn President, Los Alamitos Police Officers Assn.	Shauna Trute Resident  Norman Trute Resident  Wendy Grose Resident  Dean Grose Resident

Ballot Measures-XFull Text of Measure X  
City of Los Alamitos

1. Section 500 of Article V (Elective Officers) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

**“§ 500. Elective Officers.**

The elective officers of the City of Los Alamitos shall consist of a City Council of five (5) members elected by-district.”

2. Section 501 of Article V (Elective Officers) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

**“§ 501. Eligibility.**

To be eligible to hold the office of Councilmember the person must meet the requirements as set forth in the State law of the State of California, and he/she shall be a resident and an elector of the Council district within the City of Los Alamitos wherein he/she lives for a period of thirty (30) days prior to the date his/her nomination papers are filed. If a person elected as a member of the City Council, during his/her term of office, moves his/her place of residence outside of their respective Council district boundaries or ceases to be an elector of the City, his/her office shall immediately become vacant. However, no Councilmember shall be deemed to have moved outside of his/her Council district as a result of district boundary changes which may occur during his/her term of office, and such Councilmember shall continue to serve until his/her term is complete or the office otherwise becomes vacant.”

3. Section 501A of Article V (Elective Officers) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

**“§ 501A. Election of Members; Term Limits.**

- A. No person shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms of office as a member of the City Council representing any one Council district or a combination of more than one Council district. For the purpose of this section, a “term” shall include service on the Council for any period of seven hundred thirty-one (731) consecutive days or longer.
  - B. Any person who has served three (3) consecutive terms as a member of the City Council for any one Council district or a combination of more than one Council district shall not be eligible to serve again until the expiration of at least three hundred sixty-five (365) consecutive days after the end of such person’s last term of office.
  - C. Pursuant to California Government Code section 36502(b), this section shall apply prospectively only. This section shall apply to the terms of office commencing with the election in November 2024. Terms that are commenced, and years that are served, as members of the City Council prior to November 2024 shall not be included when calculating the number of terms or years served for purposes of this section.”
4. Section 504 is hereby added to Article V (Elective Officers) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos to read as follows:

**“§ 504. Campaign Contribution Limits.****A. Purpose and intent.**

The purpose and intent of this section is to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption in City Council candidates’ electoral campaigns that can arise where unlimited campaign contribution amounts may be made to candidates by a single source for election to the City Council, and to ensure an environment in the City of Los Alamitos wherein all City Council candidates are placed on an equal plane relative to the amount of campaign contributions received by them from a single source, and further to ensure that the amount contributed by any person does not materially influence the outcome of any election. In furtherance of that goal, a reasonable campaign contribution limitation is hereby enacted that is similar to those enacted by other communities that are similar to Los Alamitos. In those communities, such limitations have not inhibited city council candidates’ ability to conduct meaningful and effective campaigns, but they have limited the appearance and incidents of corruption that have been experienced. To achieve this purpose, this section imposes a maximum limitation on the amount of campaign contributions which may be received by candidates from a single source for an elective city office campaign.

**B. Relation to the Political Reform Act.**

This section is intended to be a supplement to and in no way conflict with the Political Reform Act of 1974. Unless otherwise defined in this section, words and phrases shall have the same meaning herein as that given to them by the Political Reform Act of 1974, as the same may be, from time to time, amended.

**C. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

“Contribution” means any payment made for political purposes for which full and adequate consideration is not made to the donor.

- i. A contribution includes:

- a. Any goods or services received by or requested by a City Council candidate or their candidate controlled committee, at no charge or at a discount from the fair market value, unless the discount is given in the regular course of business to members of the public.
- b. Cash.
- c. A loan or an extension of credit for more than 30 days, other than loans from financial institutions given in the normal course of business.



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- ii. Payment made for political purposes is a payment made:
  - a. For the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for or against the nomination or election of a City Council candidate; or
  - b. Received by or made at the request of a City Council candidate or their candidate controlled committee.
- iii. Payments for communications to members, employees, shareholders, or families of members, employees, or shareholders of an organization for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate or a ballot measure are not contributions, provided those payments are not made for general public advertising such as broadcasting, billboards, and newspaper advertisements.

“City Council candidate” means an individual who is listed on the ballot or who has qualified to have write-in votes on their behalf counted by election officials, for nomination for or election to the Los Alamitos City Council, or who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure or gives their consent for any other person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to bringing about their nomination or election to the Los Alamitos City Council, whether or not they have announced their candidacy or filed a declaration of candidacy at such time. The term “candidate” also includes any City Councilmember who is the subject of a recall election. An individual who becomes a candidate for the Los Alamitos City Council shall retain their status as a candidate until such time as that status is terminated pursuant to Government Code section 84214.

“Person” means any individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, limited liability company, association, committee, political action committee, labor union, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.

#### **D. Single-election Campaign Contribution Limit.**

No person shall make, and no City Council candidate or candidate controlled committee shall solicit or accept from any person, any contribution of more than \$500, or such other amount as may be established by the City Council at a public hearing, in any single election. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a candidate’s contribution of their personal funds, community property funds or domestic partnership funds to their own candidate controlled committee but shall apply to separate property contributions from the candidate’s spouse or domestic partner.”

- 5. Section 505 is hereby added to Article V (Elective Officers) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos to read as follows:

#### **“§ 505. Lobbyist Registration and Reporting.**

Persons or firms that try to influence City decisions by lobbying City Councilmembers, the City Manager, or other City Officers shall be required to register their names and the names of their clients with the City Clerk and disclose the nature of their lobbying efforts, compensation, donations, and fundraising efforts. Such registration and disclosures shall be made accessible to the public. The City Council shall adopt policies, procedures and regulations as needed to implement this section.”

- 6. Section 601 of Article VI (The Council) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

#### **“§ 601. Composition.**

The Council shall consist of five (5) Councilmembers as provided in this Charter. One (1) of the Councilmembers shall be Mayor. Each Councilmember, including the Mayor, shall have the right to vote on all questions coming before the Council. The Mayor shall be the presiding officer of the Council.”

- 7. Article IX (Election of Councilmembers and Council Districts) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos is hereby renamed “Election of Councilmembers” and amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

#### **“Article IX. Election of Councilmembers.**

##### **§ 900. Election under Existing Law.**

The City Councilmembers of the City of Los Alamitos shall be elected by-district under then existing and applicable laws of the State of California.

##### **§ 901. General Municipal Elections.**

The provisions of the law of the State of California applicable to General Law Cities, as such laws now exist and as they may hereafter be amended or superseded, shall in all respects govern elections in the City. (Adopted by Vote of the People 4/12/88)

##### **§ 902. Electors Signing Petitions.**

The electors signing any petition for the nomination of any person to the office of Councilmember shall be residents of the district from which such person is to be nominated or has been elected. Only the names of electors who are residents of such district shall be counted in determining the sufficiency of any such petition.”

- 8. Section 1206 of Article XII (Fiscal Administration) of the Charter of the City of Los Alamitos is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

#### **“§ 1206. Contracts on Public Works.**

The City Council shall adopt policies and procedures governing contracting for public works which are defined to include the construction or improvement of public buildings, works, streets, drains, sewers, utilities, parks or playgrounds. The City Council may, in its sole discretion, adopt selected policies and procedures by reference to state law, but no state law shall govern public works contracting unless it is expressly adopted by the City Council or has been finally determined to be applicable to all charter law cities by an appellate court with jurisdiction over the City of Los Alamitos. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter or by state law made applicable to the City of Los Alamitos, the City Council



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shall award to the lowest responsible bidder each contract involving an expenditure of more than the bidding threshold amount (as defined in this section) for the construction or improvement of public works or for the purchase of supplies or materials for any such project. Bids shall be solicited via notice by publication in the official newspaper by one (1) or more insertions, the first of which shall be at least ten (10) days before the time for opening bids. Public works are exempted from the requirements of this section where the work will be performed by a City or County of Orange department.

All bids must be accompanied by either a certified or cashier's check, or a bidder's bond executed by a corporate surety authorized to engage in such business in California, made payable to the City. Such security shall be in an amount not less than that specified in the notice inviting bids or in the specifications referred to therein, or if no amount be so specified, then in an amount not less than ten (10) percent of the aggregate amount of the bid. If the successful bidder neglects or refuses to enter into the contract within the time specified in the notice inviting bids or in the specifications referred to herein, the amount of the bidder's security shall be declared forfeited to the City and shall be collected and paid into its general fund and all bonds so forfeited shall be prosecuted and the amount thereof collected and paid into such fund.

The City Council may reject any and all bids presented and may advertise at its discretion.

The City Council, without advertising for bids, after rejecting bids, or if no bids are received, may declare and determine that in its opinion, based on estimates approved by the City Manager, the work in question may be purchased more economically on the open market, and after the adoption of a resolution to this effect by a majority vote of the Council, the Council may proceed to have said work done in the manner stated, without further observance of the provisions of this section. Such contracts likewise may be let without advertising for bids, if such work shall be deemed by the City Council to be of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property, and shall be authorized by resolution passed by at least three (3) affirmative votes of the Council and containing a declaration of the facts constituting such urgency.

The bidding threshold amount shall be One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) initially and shall annually be adjusted by the City Engineer upon confirmation by the City Council. On June 1st of each year, the City Engineer shall compute the percentage difference between the current California Construction Cost Index (CCCI) and the CCCI for the previous June 1st. The City Engineer shall adjust the bidding threshold amount by such percentage, rounding to the nearest dollar. The City Council shall review such adjustment at a public hearing and, upon Council confirmation, the bidding threshold amount shall be the adjusted figure. Should the CCCI be revised or discontinued, the City Engineer shall use the revised index, or a comparable index approved by the City Council."

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Ballot Measures-XImpartial Analysis  
City of Los Alamitos  
Measure X

Measure X the “Los Alamitos City Government Accountability, Transparency, Charter Reform Measure” was placed on the ballot by the City Council of the City of Los Alamitos. This measure would amend the Los Alamitos City Charter (adopted in 1966).

In 2018, the City of Los Alamitos transitioned from an “at-large” election system to a “by-district” election system where each Councilmember must reside within one of five voting districts and be chosen solely by the voters from that district. The proposed measure would update Sections 500, 501, 601 and Article IX of the Charter to accurately reflect the City’s transition from “at-large” to “by-district” elections.

In accordance with Government Code Section 57377, the term of office for Councilmembers is four years. The Charter was most recently revised in 1986 to add Section 501A, which (1) imposes a limit of three consecutive terms of office on Councilmembers; and (2) provides that any Councilmember that serves three consecutive terms of office is not eligible to serve on the Council again for one year following the end of their last term. Section 501A was added to the Charter prior to the City’s transition to by-district elections.

Measure X would clarify the application of term limits to candidates elected to their office in a by-district election. Measure X would amend Section 501A to enact by-district term limits such that no Councilmember elected by-district may serve more than three consecutive terms as a representative of that district or a combination of more than one Council district.

Government Code Section 36502 provides that if a term limits proposal is approved, the limits shall apply prospectively only. If the voters of Los Alamitos approve Measure X, the term limits on Councilmembers elected by-district would apply prospectively only to those terms of office commencing after November 3, 2024.

State law imposes a default campaign contribution limit of \$5,500 per contributor per election. Measure X would add new Section 504 to the Charter establishing a more restrictive local campaign contribution limit of \$500 per contributor per election. This locally enacted limit would supersede the State’s default campaign contribution limit.

Measure X would add new Section 505 to the Charter requiring persons or firms attempting to influence City decisions by lobbying Councilmembers, the City Manager, or other City Officers to register with the City Clerk and disclose the nature of their lobbying efforts. Such registrations and disclosures would be made accessible to the public.

Existing Section 1206 of the Charter requires contracts on public works, which are defined to include the construction or improvement of public buildings, works, streets, drains, sewers, utilities, parks or playgrounds, involving an expenditure of more than \$10,000 to be awarded by the City Council. Measure X would amend Section 1206 of the Charter to increase this threshold amount to \$125,000 and provide for future adjustments by the City Council based on increases in the California Construction Cost Index.

**The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure X. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the City Clerk’s office at (562) 431-3538 ext. 220 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.**

Michael S. Daudt,  
City Attorney

# Ballot Measures-X

## Argument in Favor of Measure X

The City of Los Alamitos has always been forward-thinking and looking ahead to what is best for its residents. As a charter city, it is imperative that the City keep up with the evolution of resident needs and amend the charter accordingly. The Good Government and Efficiency Ballot Measure will make an essential update to our charter, originally established in 1966, almost 60 years ago.

Measure X will update the charter and provide the following benefits:

- Modernize public works purchasing to be more efficient
- Establish district-specific term limits
- Clean up legacy by-district elections provisions
- Establish campaign finance restrictions
- Require lobbyist registration

It is not often that business people, community volunteers, and elected leaders agree. However, when it comes to Measure X, there is a resounding consensus that it delivers a much-needed update to the Los Alamitos charter.

Importantly, Measure X would ensure that road fixes and public emergencies are met with a quick response by city staff instead of having to go through lengthy approval processes to get improvements done. Measure X would also bring transparency to special interests who lobby the City, and it will restrict campaign contributions to keep money out of local politics.

Measure X is the definition of good government.

Measure X creates government efficiency.

Measure X increases transparency.

Measure X pushes back on special interests.

Vote YES on Measure X for a brighter future for Los Alamitos.

s/ Shelley Hasselbrink  
Mayor Pro Tem, Los Alamitos

s/ Jordan Nefulda  
Mayor

s/ Pedro Carvajal  
Resident Volunteer

s/ Evan Flynn  
President, Los Alamitos Police Officers Assn.

## Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure X

**Measure X CHANGES the existing City Charter.**

**EVENT-NEW ENTERPRISE REPORTS - July 24 2024:  
"24 Consecutive Years In Office?"  
"Could Be A Reality in Los Alamitos!"**

**ONLY ONE PART of the Measure X is REQUIRED by law: VOTING BY DISTRICT**

**Elected Officials added:  
EXPANDING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS,  
SELF-POLICING OF THEIR LOBBYING CONTRIBUTIONS, and  
BY-PASSING COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR "PAY FOR PLAY" CITY CONTACTS**

**There was NO "resounding consensus" to make these changes. There was NO "Public Hearing", only a "Discussion" on the Agenda before Proponents Hasselbrink and Nefulda voted to expand term limits.**

**These changes were added because current city council members would be "termed out" out of office after 12 years WITHOUT Measure X.**

**These changes are designed by and for the SOLE BENEFIT of elected leaders.**

**STOP THE EXPANSION OF TERM LIMITS TO 24 Years;  
STOP THE SELF-DEALING;  
STOP CASH FLOW FROM LOBBYISTS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS; AND  
PREVENT "PAY FOR PLAY" CITY CONTRACTS.**

### V O T E N O

s/ Shauna Trute  
Resident

s/ Norman Trute  
Resident

s/ Wendy Grose  
Resident

s/ Dean Grose  
Resident



# Ballot Measures-X

## Argument Against Measure X

"A vote YES on this measure means overturning the current 12-year term limits, allowing sitting council members to run for an additional 12 years. This change serves the interests of the current council members who are nearing their term limits.

A vote YES means that "contributions" to political campaigns will NOT include "payments to council members and their families" by organizations that support or oppose a candidate or a ballot measure, unless those payments are for "advertising." This LOOPHOLE means cash can flow into PACs, which can then secretly subsidize candidates' families. Voters will never know who is funding the candidates, making it easy to buy and hide votes.

A vote YES puts a majority of three council members in charge of "policing" themselves when it comes to defining what a lobbyist must "publicly disclose." This self-regulation undermines transparency and accountability.

A vote YES eliminates mandatory competitive contract bidding if the City Manager decides so, opening the door to "pay for play" schemes where contractors can offer city officials bribes or benefits like investment opportunities in city real estate projects in exchange for contracts. State law requires "competitive bidding" to save taxpayers money and prevent corruption.

This Charter Amendment is NOT designed to benefit the residents.

This Charter Amendment is designed BY and FOR the benefit of existing elected officials.

### VOTE NO

to maintain integrity, transparency, and accountability in our city government."

s/ Shauna Trute  
Resident

s/ Norman Trute  
Resident

s/ Wendy Grose  
Resident

s/ Dean Grose  
Resident

## Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure X

VOTE YES ON MEASURE X, THE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EFFICIENCY BALLOT MEASURE TO SUPPORT QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

### Measure X MODERNIZES

It updates the charter to reflect by-district elections. When current council members' term limits expire, they are subject to a one-year cooling-off period.

### Measure X INCREASES TRANSPARENCY

The proposed measure mandates that lobbyists register before meeting with any elected officials and requires those elected officials to report any such meetings prior to voting on the issues discussed. This new requirement seeks to deter undisclosed or undue influence and empower the public to scrutinize the decision-making process better.

Additionally, this measure LIMITS campaign contributions from any person or company to \$500.

PAC contributions remain under current strict guidelines and regulations, not creating new loopholes.

### Measure X INCREASES EFFICIENCY

The measure does NOT eliminate a competitive bidding process. It simply updates outdated thresholds to allow for timely routine maintenance, such as fixing potholes without lengthy delays.

This change **aligns with state law requirements** for competitive bidding, saving taxpayer money, and preventing corruption.

This charter amendment introduces new guardrails to enhance transparency and accountability, not undermine them. Measure X is designed to improve governance efficiency and transparency, directly benefiting Los Alamitos residents by enabling more responsive and accountable local government.

Vote YES for a more transparent, efficient, and accountable Los Alamitos.

### VOTE YES on MEASURE X

s/ Evan Flynn  
President, Los Alamitos Police Officer Assn.

s/ Jordan Nefulda  
Mayor

s/ Pedro Carvajal  
Volunteer