



## W

### City of La Palma, Election Reform and Voter Choice Measure

To expand the ability of La Palma voters to choose who is elected to city council; provide the opportunity for more consistent community leadership; and broaden the candidate pool for newly created district elections; shall voters limit city council members to three consecutive terms in office with a mandatory four year out of office period, which will expire if council elections return to at-large elections?

#### What your vote means

| YES  | NO   |
|--|--|
| A "Yes" vote for this measure is in favor of a change of term limits to three (3) four-year terms. | A "No" vote for this measure would leave the current term limits in place. |

#### For and against

| FOR  | AGAINST  |
|--|--|
| <p>Marshall Goodman<br/>La Palma Mayor</p> <p>Nitesh Patel<br/>La Palma Council Member</p> <p>Dee Vincenti<br/>Community Volunteer</p> <p>Noella Lew<br/>Community Volunteer</p> <p>Paul Walker<br/>Former La Palma Council Member</p> | <p>Steve Hwangbo<br/>La Palma Mayor and Council member (Ret.)<br/>La Palma Homeowner and Business Owner</p> <p>Robert Carruth<br/>Corporate CEO and La Palma Homeowner<br/>Member, Citizen Committee on La Palma's Sustainability &amp; Future</p> <p>Sharon Nix<br/>Realtor<br/>La Palma Homeowner</p> <p>Ken Peters<br/>I.T. Professional (Ret.)<br/>La Palma Homeowner</p> <p>Cheryl Pappas<br/>Business Owner<br/>La Palma Homeowner</p> |

Ballot Measures-W

Full Text of Measure W  
City of La Palma

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LA PALMA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2-8 OF THE LA PALMA CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF OFFICE ALLOWED FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FROM TWO TO THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS SUBJECT TO A SUNSET PROVISION IF THE CITY TRANSITIONS BACK TO AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LA PALMA DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1. City Code Amendment.** Section 2-8 of the La Palma City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-8. – Term of office for Councilmembers**

- (a) No person shall hold office as a member of the City Council for more than three consecutive terms. Any person may hold office as a member of the City Council for more than three terms if he or she does not hold office as a member of the City Council for four or more consecutive years immediately following the conclusion of each three consecutive terms of office as a member of the City Council.
- (b) If a person serves for at least two years of a term, that person for purposes of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered to have served a full four-year term.
- (c) The term limits established by this section shall only be applicable to all terms of office for members of the City Council commencing with the terms of members of the City Council elected at the November 5, 2024, City general municipal election. If it is determined that the term limits established by this section cannot legally be made applicable to the terms for the offices that are filled at said election, then they will still be effective as to all instances of the filling of the office of a member of the City Council, whether it be by appointment or election, that occur after this section goes into effect.
- (d) In the event that the City switches its system for electing the City Council from by district to at-large, as currently provided by Article XIII of Chapter 2 of the La Palma Municipal Code, the term limits established by this section shall revert back to the term limits in effect prior to November 5, 2024, as follows in paragraphs (1)-(3) and Section 2-8, subsections (a)-(c) shall no longer be operative:
  - (1) No person shall hold office as a member of the City Council for more than two consecutive terms. Any person may hold office as a member of the City Council for more than two terms if he or she does not hold office as a member of the City Council for four or more consecutive years immediately following the conclusion of each two consecutive terms of office as a member of the City Council.
  - (2) If a person serves for at least two years of a term, that person, for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, shall be considered to have served a full four-year term.
  - (3) The term limits established by this section shall only be applicable to all terms of office for members of the City Council commencing with the terms of members of the City Council elected at the November 5, 2024, City general municipal election. If it is determined that the term limits established by this section cannot legally be made applicable to the terms for the offices that are filled at said election, then they will still be effective as to all instances of the filling of the office of a member of the City Council, whether it be by appointment or election, that occur after this section goes into effect.

**SECTION 2. Severability.** If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase added by this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof.

**SECTION 3. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective only upon adoption by a majority of the people voting on the measure to adopt this Ordinance at the general municipal election on November 5, 2024. This Ordinance shall be considered as adopted upon the date that the vote on this Ordinance is declared by the City Council for the City of La Palma, and shall go into effect 10 days after that date.

**SECTION 4. Execution.** The Mayor is hereby authorized to attest to the adoption of this Ordinance by the voters of the City of La Palma by signing where indicated below.

 Ballot Measures-WImpartial Analysis  
City of La Palma  
Measure WIMPARTIAL ANALYSIS  
OF TERM LIMIT MEASURE  
PREPARED BY CITY ATTORNEY  
PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9203**Title**

AN ORDINANCE OF PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LA PALMA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2-8 OF THE LA PALMA CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF OFFICE ALLOWED FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FROM TWO TO THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS SUBJECT TO A SUNSET PROVISION IF THE CITY TRANSITIONS BACK TO AT AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

**Summary**

The City Council for the City of La Palma has placed a ballot measure on the November 5, 2024, ballot to ask the City's voters whether to amend La Palma City Code Section 2-8 to allow a person to hold office as a member of the City Council for up to three consecutive terms, with a cooling off period of four years.

Section 2-8 of the La Palma City Code currently provides that no person shall hold office as a member of the City Council for more than two (2) consecutive terms. Once that person no longer holds office in La Palma for four or more years after their two (2) consecutive terms, they may hold office in La Palma again. If adopted by the voters, the current measure would allow a person to hold office as a member of the City Council for no more than three (3) consecutive terms, subject to a cooling off period of four years if that person desires to serve again after their three (3) consecutive terms.

This ballot measure also provides that if La Palma City Council elections revert from by-district to at-large elections, then the term limits in effect prior to November 5, 2024, shall be effective and the newly adopted term limits shall no longer be operative.

The changes from the ballot measure shall only apply to members of the City Council elected at the November 5, 2024, general municipal election and those members elected after the November 5, 2024, election. If adopted, current members of the City Council will be provided with a fresh set of three (3) four-year terms beginning with the November 5, 2024, election. Moreover, a person serving at least two years of a term shall be considered to have served a full four-year term.

A "Yes" vote for this measure is in favor of a change of term limits to three (3) four-year terms. A "No" vote for this measure would leave the current term limits in place. This ballot measure will be approved if it receives a simple majority (greater than 50%) of "Yes" votes.

Date: June 17, 2024

s/ Ajit S. Thind, City Attorney

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the measure. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the elections official's office at (714) 690-3334 and a copy will be mailed, emailed, or otherwise provided at no cost to you.

Fiscal Analysis  
City of La Palma  
Measure WFISCAL ANALYSIS  
OF TERM LIMIT MEASURE  
PREPARED BY CITY MANAGER  
PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9203**Title**

AN ORDINANCE OF PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LA PALMA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2-8 OF THE LA PALMA CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF OFFICE ALLOWED FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FROM TWO TO THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS SUBJECT TO A SUNSET PROVISION IF THE CITY TRANSITIONS BACK TO AT AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

**Summary**

The financial impact of this ballot measure cannot be determined at this time. Various factors could influence the fiscal outcome, including election-related costs, training and transition expenses, and the effects of continuity and stability on governance.

Date: June 17, 2024

s/ Conal McNamara, City Manager, City of La Palma

The above statement is a fiscal analysis of the measure. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the elections official's office at (714) 690-3334 and a copy will be mailed, emailed, or otherwise provided at no cost to you.



# Ballot Measures-W

## Argument in Favor of Measure W

La Palma elections have changed a lot with the shift to district elections and more reforms are needed. A yes vote will limit the terms of council members to three terms or even shorter if we the people vote out the incumbent.

Sacramento is constantly fighting our efforts for local control, and as a small town, we can fight back by having consistent, voter-approved leadership advocating for our community. Three terms will help us elect residents who can think long-term, establish enduring relationships, and challenge Sacramento's mandates to protect La Palma.

Because State law imposed small council districts on La Palma, we have a smaller pool of residents to pull from for elections. This means fewer choices on the ballot. Restricting term limits to three terms will increase choices on the ballot for voters. Don't we like having a choice?

Voters always have the right to remove incumbents, but if a council member is doing a good job, the community will benefit from their service and their ability to help fulfill the big hopes we have for La Palma. We need council members who think about the future to ensure our community remains clean, safe and financially stable.

Three terms will balance the benefits of term limits with the benefits of council member experience, taming city hall while ensuring that our elected leaders have the time to advance policies supported by the community.

Small business owners, good government leaders and community leaders agree that balanced term limits results in better government and puts La Palma in a strong position to defend against Sacramento politicians. A yes vote strengthens La Palma and gives voters more choices.

For Choice.

For Local Control.

For La Palma.

Vote Yes For Measure W

s/ Marshall Goodman  
La Palma Mayor

s/ Nitesh Patel  
La Palma Council Member

s/ Dee Vincenti  
Community Volunteer

s/ Noella Lew  
Community Volunteer

s/ Paul Walker  
Former La Palma Council Member

## Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure W

**Proponents aren't fighting Sacramento. They're fighting 79% of La Palma voters who want their local elected representatives to leave office after eight years!**

**Measure W EXPANDS term limits and authorizes up to FIVE terms.** Proponents never mention their proposal adds three terms to those already served, enabling current council members to stay in office for up to 20 years.

**Competition is robust for La Palma City Council seats.** Since 1996, 59 candidates ran for 32 seats. In 2020, six candidates ran for three openings.

**Proponents claim district elections reduce the candidate pool. FALSE!** La Palma has 15,194 residents *divided equitably into five districts* and 9,785 eligible registered voters who may run for office in their district.

**Politicians know incumbency is their greatest advantage.** Since 1996, 100% of La Palma incumbents were re-elected, 93% nationwide.

**La Palma is a diverse community filled with capable leaders.** Measure W REDUCES opportunities for residents with exceptional qualifications and relevant experience to serve on the La Palma City Council.

**La Palma is one of only two Orange County cities to receive a "D" grade for public meeting accessibility in a Chapman University study.** Three council members asking voters to increase term limits voted against improving public accessibility.

**Most cities have district elections and don't increase term limits.** Four council members fabricated a district election crisis to fool voters into extending their time in office.

**Your La Palma neighbors agree our term limits are firm, fair, and effective. No change required!**

For fairness.  
For real term limits.  
For the People, not politicians.  
For La Palma.

### VOTE NO.

s/ Steve Hwangbo  
La Palma Mayor and Council member (Ret.)  
La Palma Homeowner and Business Owner

s/ Robert Carruth  
Corporate CEO and La Palma Homeowner  
Member, Citizen Committee on La Palma's Sustainability & Future

s/ Sharon Nix  
Realtor  
La Palma Homeowner

s/ Ken Peters  
I.T. Professional (Ret.)  
La Palma Homeowner

s/ Cheryl Pappas  
Business Owner  
La Palma Homeowner



# Ballot Measures-W

## Argument Against Measure W

This measure **INCREASES TERM LIMITS** to three 4-year terms (12 years) **PLUS** the terms already served. The La Palma City Council wrote the measure for their benefit so they could stay in office for up to 20 consecutive years.

**NO on Measure W PROTECTS THE TERM LIMITS 79.4% of LA PALMA VOTERS APPROVED IN 1996.**

Our present two 4-year term limits are **stronger than the proposed increase in term limits!** The measure was written to **weaken current limits.**

**The Measure's title is intentionally deceptive.** It expands term limits to benefit current council members most and **REDUCES CHOICE** for voters.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors has the same term limits as La Palma. The President of the United States, the Governor of California, and your neighbors in the City of Cerritos, City of Cypress, and City of Stanton have two 4-year term lifetime limits.

**Two council members behind this proposal tried once before to increase term limits in 2019, but residents rallied against it.** This measure is their attempt to retain power longer.

Most participants voted for two terms (8 years) or less at the Council's Community Conversation meeting last April. **The proponents intentionally ignored the result.**

Our current term limits create more competitive elections, encourage more people to run for office, and give voters a wider choice of candidates to represent us.

Eight years is ample time to accomplish goals at the municipal level since the legislative process is relatively short.

- **VOTE NO** if you want to **keep La Palma's term limit at 8 years.**
- **VOTE NO** if you don't want **current council members serving up to 20 consecutive years.**
- **VOTE NO** if you want to keep professional politicians and special interests from running La Palma.

**VOTE NO on Measure W. KEEP LA PALMA STRONG AND FAIR!**

s/ Steve Hwangbo  
La Palma Mayor and Council member (Ret.)  
La Palma Homeowner and Business Owner

s/ Robert Carruth  
Corporate CEO and La Palma Homeowner  
Member, Citizen Committee on La Palma's Sustainability & Future

s/ Sharon Nix  
Realtor  
La Palma Homeowner

s/ Ken Peters  
I.T. Professional (Ret.)  
La Palma Homeowner

s/ Cheryl Pappas  
Business Owner  
La Palma Homeowner

## Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure W

This decision is not about any one person or councilmember. This is about La Palma's future and positioning our community for success. Solid civic leadership and working for regional influence are important to our futures.

Every election is a term limit. If we don't like our leaders, we vote them out. La Palma voters have done that before, and can continue to do this in all future elections. Limiting voters to only picking a good person for council twice is extreme and actually harms La Palma's bigger needs and interests.

Restricting council members to three terms is the right balance between cycling in new blood to council and benefiting from the work of majority elected civic leaders. Let's choose the pathway of moderation and balance to best serve our shared future.

We deserve more choice and a brighter future.

s/ Marshall Goodman  
La Palma Mayor

s/ Nitesh Patel  
La Palma Council Member

s/ Dee Vincenti  
Community Volunteer

s/ Noella Lew  
Community Volunteer

s/ Paul Walker  
Former La Palma Council Member