

Ballot Title/Question: Shall the City of Costa Mesa adopt the Proposed Charter?

A vote in favor of Measure _____ changes the City of Costa Mesa from a general law city to a charter city with all attendant powers of a charter city. If passed, Costa Mesa will have authority over municipal affairs as defined by California's Constitution and courts, including the following:

1. Form of Government: The Proposed Charter requires that the City continue to use the "council-manager" form. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change this to any alternative form of government different from the "council-manager" form.
2. Purchasing and Contracting: The Proposed Charter allows the City to engage in contracting/purchasing that is different from California general law (e.g. prevailing wages *not* required for municipal Public Works Projects funded solely with City funds). However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change contracting/purchasing to something different from both the Proposed Charter, and general law.
3. Voluntary Employee Political Contribution: The Proposed Charter does not allow the city to collect political contributions through payroll deductions from city employees. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change its handling of this.
4. Public Employee Pension Benefits: The Proposed Charter requires a vote of City residents before any increase of the employee or officers' retirement benefits. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change its handling of this.
5. Council Compensation: The Proposed Charter requires that the City continue to follow California General Law which regulates the compensation of city council members. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change its handling of this.
6. Elections: The Proposed Charter requires that elections are continued to be governed by California General Law. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change this and set up its own rules and regulations in handling its municipal elections.
7. Management of non-elected City Officers/Employees: The Proposed Charter proscribes rules regarding the election, appointment, and removal of municipal officers and employees whose compensation is paid by the City, and for the number of deputies, clerks and other employees that each shall have, and for the compensation, method of appointment, qualifications, tenure of office and removal of such deputies, clerks and other employees. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change this.

8. Adoption of Ordinances: The Proposed Charter requires the City to continue to follow California General Law in considering ordinances for adoption. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later change this to set up its own rules and regulations regarding adoption of municipal ordinances.
9. Taxes and Assessments: The Proposed Charter prohibits taxation of property sales. However, by vote of City residents, the City could later enact property sales taxes.
10. The Proposed Charter also authorizes the City to take actions and pass ordinances consistent with the City's status as a charter city in connection with its municipal affairs. Changes to the Proposed Charter, if enacted, would require vote of City residents.