

League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley

City of Lafayette

November 1, 2005

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2A - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SHALL CHAPTER IV, SECTIONS 4.13 AND 5.1 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND PRESCRIBE THEIR DUTIES; AND SHALL A PORTION OF SECTION 5.1 BE REPEALED REGARDING THE PERSONNEL BOARD; AND SHALL A PORTION OF SECTION 6.9 OF THE CHARTER, WHICH DESIGNATED CITY COUNCIL AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH, BE REPEALED?

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2B - LEASE OPEN SPACE

SHALL CHAPTER XII, SECTION 12.1 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE CITY COUNCIL TO LEASE OPEN SPACE FOR AGRICULTURAL USES WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE VOTERS?

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2C- MUNICIPAL COURT

SHALL CHAPTER XV, SECTION 15.1 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPAL COURT EMPLOYEES SHALL BE SUPERVISED BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND THAT THE MUNICIPAL JUDGE SHALL BE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF THE STATE AND NOT THE CITY, AND SHALL SECTION 15.3 OF THE CHARTER, WHICH AUTHORIZES CITY COUNCIL TO CREATE A VIOLATIONS BUREAU IN MUNICIPAL COURT, BE REPEALED?

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2D - FIRE AND POLICE

SHALL CHAPTER IV, SECTION 4.11 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED BY PROVIDING THAT THE FIRE CHIEF SHALL BE APPOINTED BY AND SERVE UNDER THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, WHICH APPOINTMENT SHALL BE RATIFIED BY CITY COUNCIL, AND THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET SHALL BE PART OF THE GENERAL CITY BUDGET PROCESS; AND SHALL SECTION 4.12 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT THE POLICE CHIEF SHALL BE APPOINTED BY AND SERVE UNDER THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, WHICH APPOINTMENT SHALL BE RATIFIED BY CITY COUNCIL ?

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2E -ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

SHALL CHAPTER IV, SECTION 4.6 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO CLARIFY THE DESCRIPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND THAT THE CITY TREASURER AND CITY CLERK WORK UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR; AND THAT SECTION 4.9 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF THE CITY ATTORNEY; AND THAT SECTION 4.16 BE ADDED TO THE CHARTER TO PRESCRIBE THE DUTIES OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR?

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2F - BUDGET CONTROL

SHALL CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 8.5 OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PERMIT CAPITAL PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS TO LAPSE UPON COMPLETION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND OTHER BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS TO LAPSE AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

Referred to Lafayette voters by the city council, the six questions propose amendments to the Lafayette Home Rule Charter. The amended Charter language is contained in Ordinance 25.

Three of the proposed changes may be made only by amending the Charter, not by ordinance. These are: in Question 2A, repeal of the Personnel Board provision; Question 2B, the leasing of open space land for agricultural uses; and Question 2F, allowing capital project appropriations to lapse upon completion of the project.

Other changes would update the charter according to current practice as contained in the municipal code and other legal requirements, THESE LAWS [not 'which'] and (changes) will continue in effect even if the Charter is not amended.

BACKGROUND

Since adoption of the City Charter in 1958, city councils have made changes in city government by passing ordinances but without proposing amendments to the Charter that would require voter approval. These six measures CONTAIN the first of a long list of Charter amendments that will appear on Lafayette ballots in the next several election cycles.

Those in **FAVOR** say:

1. Most of these measures are "housekeeping" measures. They would make the Charter consistent with the municipal code and other laws.
2. As proposed in 2A, the Personnel Board should be abolished. Personnel issues are now handled by personnel policies and in district court.
3. As proposed in 2B, multi-year leasing of open space to farmers is necessary control and to keep cultivated land weed-free and productive. Charter restrictions on leasing date from 1958 when "open space" meant city parks.
4. As proposed in 2F, budgeting by project rather than by fiscal year conforms to current governmental accounting standards for projects expenditures.

Those **OPPOSED** say:

No organized opposition has been identified.

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The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue. The League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.

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