

# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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## MEASURE M

Shall the measure amending section 171 to the City of Sacramento Charter – to state that at the first election after adoption of a new redistricting map, councilmembers shall be elected for each district under the map that has the same district number as a district whose incumbent’s term is due to expire – be adopted?

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### IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE M Prepared by Sacramento City Attorney

The Sacramento City Council has placed Measure M on the ballot. Measure M, if approved, would amend the Sacramento City Charter related to the implementation of newly-adopted redistricting maps.

#### *The measure’s effect on existing law*

To comply with federal and state law, the City of Sacramento must redraw council district boundaries after each regular decennial United States Census. Under the Sacramento City Charter, the Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission is responsible for adopting council district boundary maps. The core purpose of a council district boundary map is to establish boundaries for the City’s by-district, from-district councilmember elections.

The charter also currently provides that a newly-adopted boundary map is “effective immediately upon adoption.” Measure M would delete this general language and would insert new language to explain in more detail how a newly-adopted map gets implemented. That is, a new map is effective for use in the next-upcoming regular councilmember election, and then the election cycles that follow thereafter.

The language proposed by Measure M is substantially similar to language in the California Elections Code applicable to counties and cities.

#### *Operation of the measure*

Measure M would amend one subsection of Sacramento City Charter section 171. The amendment would delete the language that a newly-adopted map “is effective immediately upon adoption,” and would add new language to expressly state that “[a]t the first election after adoption of the final map, excluding a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall election, councilmembers shall be elected for each district under the final map that has the same district number as a district whose incumbent’s term is due to expire.”

Measure M is a clarification about map implementation. If approved, it would not affect the existing council district boundary map, nor its use in the City’s current or future election cycles.



A “yes” vote is in favor of amending the Sacramento City Charter. A “no” vote is against the charter amendment. A majority of “yes” votes is required to pass Measure M.

s/Susana Alcala Wood  
City Attorney

\*\*\*YOU CAN FIND THE MEASURE ARGUMENTS FOLLOWING THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE\*\*\*

## **Redistricting Map Implementation (Charter Amendment)**

### **Section 1.** Findings and Purpose.

#### A. Findings.

1. To comply with federal and state law, the City of Sacramento must redraw council district boundaries after each regular decennial United States Census.

2. The City of Sacramento has eight council districts, from which councilmembers are elected for four-year terms, with staggered elections alternating every two years between odd- and even-numbered districts. Thus, a new map effectively has staggered effects on upcoming elections. Recently enacted state legislation (the FAIR MAPS Act) includes language that explains how, for cities that do not have comprehensive charter provisions governing redistricting, a new redistricting map is to be used in the first election after its adoption.

3. It is important for the Sacramento City Charter to clearly identify how new redistricting maps are used for elections that occur thereafter. Following the language of state law will provide clarity and consistency about the effective date of redistricting maps and their use in forthcoming elections.

#### B. Purpose.

The purpose of this measure is to clarify the effective implementation of a newly adopted redistricting map in elections that occur after its adoption.

### **Section 2.** Subsection (b) of Section 171 of the Sacramento City Charter is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b) A commission-adopted final map has the force and effect of law. At the first election after adoption of the final map, excluding a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall election, councilmembers shall be elected for each district under the final map that has the same district number as a district whose incumbent's term is due to expire, unless on the date of adoption there are less than six months until the next primary city election, in which case the final map shall go into effect after that election and any applicable run-off election.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

Every 10 years city council district boundaries are redrawn so that they remain substantially equal in population and ensure that there is equal representation for all residents no matter where they live in the city. To take the politics out of this redistricting process, in 2016, voters approved Measure L and created an Independent Redistricting Commission which allowed the Commission to work directly with the public to draw new City of Sacramento council district maps that reflect our current growing community. The successful passage of this measure created a very robust and transparent public process with a lot of community input that resulted in the Commission successfully adopting a revised council district boundary map in December of 2021. That new city council district map is now being used for current city council elections and will be used for future city council elections.

However, the existing language says that a newly adopted council redistricting map is “effective immediately upon adoption”. This has created some confusion, especially as it relates to representation by the councilmembers already in office. So, this amendment would clarify that a newly adopted map is effective immediately ONLY for the purposes of any upcoming council district election, which is the sole purpose of the redistricting process. This measure would make that language clear and unambiguous.

s/Darrell Steinberg  
Mayor of Sacramento  
s/Angelique Ashby  
Vice Mayor of Sacramento  
s/Eric Guerra  
Mayor Pro Tem of Sacramento  
s/Heather Fargo  
Former Mayor of Sacramento  
s/Paula Lee  
President, League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

\*\*\*NO REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M WAS FILED\*\*\*

\*\*\*NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M WAS FILED\*\*\*

\*\*\*NO REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M WAS FILED\*\*\*