

Date: August 24, 2022
Elections Code § 9280



**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS FOR MEASURE Z
(Election Procedures Amendment)**

The Redwood City Charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures for City government. Changes to the Charter must be approved by a majority of City voters.

The City is governed by a seven-member, elected City Council. Councilmembers serve four-year, staggered terms of office. City Council elections are held every two years. The Charter establishes the time and manner of those elections.

After receiving recommendations from the City Council's Governance Sub-Committee and holding two public hearings, the City Council adopted a resolution proposing the following changes to the Charter's election procedures:

- **Election date.** The Charter currently provides that general municipal elections are held on the second Tuesday of April of each even-numbered year. The Charter, however, also provides that City Council may by ordinance require municipal elections to be held on the same date as the statewide primary election, the statewide general election, or school district elections. The City has not held its elections on the second Tuesday of April of each even-numbered year since 1990. In 2017, the City Council adopted an ordinance moving the City's elections to the same day as statewide general elections, which occur on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. As a result, the City has held its elections on the same day as statewide general elections since 2018.

This proposal would conform the Charter to current City practice, and state that general municipal elections shall be held on the same day as statewide general elections.

- **When terms of office begin.** Under the Charter, newly-elected City Councilmembers take office at the first regular Council meeting after the election results have been canvassed and the winners declared.

The proposal would clarify that newly elected City Councilmembers take office at the first regular meeting after the results are certified and the winners declared. This is a clarifying change and does not change current practice.

- **Type of election.** The Charter currently states that Councilmembers are elected at-large, meaning they run for office citywide and are voted on by all city voters. In 2019, however, City Council adopted an ordinance converting to by-district elections in order to comply with the California Voting Rights Act. "By-district elections" means that the City is divided into seven separate geographic districts and voters in each district choose their councilmember, who must reside within the district. The City held its first by-district elections in 2020.

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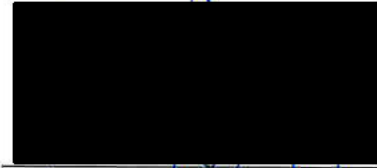
This proposal would change the Charter to reflect by-district elections for City Council in order to conform with current City practice and comply with State law. The proposal would also require City Council to adjust district boundaries every ten years after the federal decennial census to ensure the districts are substantially equal in population and comply with Federal and State law.

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This Measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council of the City of Redwood City.

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The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure Z. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the City Clerk's office at (650) 780-7220 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.



Veronica Ramirez, City Attorney
City of Redwood City

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