

MEASURE __

Majority Voter Approval Required

November 4, 2014

DISTRICT ELECTIONS MEASURE: Shall four members of the legislative body of the City of Los Banos be elected by districts described in Ordinance No. __, and the Mayor of the City of Los Banos be elected on a citywide basis by the voters of the entire city to serve a two-year term?

The Los Banos City Attorney has prepared the following impartial analysis of Measure __ pursuant to California Elections Code section 9280:

City Attorney's Impartial Analysis

Measure __ has been placed on the ballot by the City Council of the City of Los Banos.

The four members of the City Council are currently elected at large to four-year terms. The Mayor is separately elected at large to serve a two year term. "At large" elections mean that all registered voters in the City may vote for any two candidates for election to the City Council that year and for a candidate for Mayor. A candidate is required to be a registered voter of the City at the time the person's nomination papers are issued. The Mayor and two members of the Council are up for election in November of each even-numbered year.

Measure __ proposes to change the manner in which Councilmembers are elected to be "by districts." Beginning in 2016, a candidate for a Council seat would be required to be a registered voter of and reside in a district that is designated for election in that year. Only those registered voters who live in that district would be eligible to vote for a candidate seeking to be elected as the Councilmember to represent that district.

The Mayor would continue to be elected on a City-wide basis, by all registered voters of the City. The terms of the Mayor and Councilmembers would not be affected by the measure.

The districts proposed by the Council are described in Measure __ and a map of the district boundaries is attached to the Measure as Exhibit __. If passed by a majority of the voters, "by district" elections would be conducted in Districts 1 and 4 in 2016, and every four years thereafter. "By district" elections would be conducted in Districts 2 and 3 beginning in 2018 and every four years thereafter.

The proposed districts were created by the City Council through a series of six public meetings, including two public hearings, in accordance with State and federal laws, which require that the districts be of approximate equal population and comply with the federal Voting Rights Act. Measure __ also permits decennial boundary adjustments based on new census data without a vote of the people, as required by State law.

A "Yes" vote on Measure __ would change the manner in which City Councilmembers are elected from "at large" to "by districts" and would not be subject to a challenge under the California Voting Rights Act. A "No" vote would leave the existing election process in place and would leave the City vulnerable to a potential legal challenge under the California Voting Rights Act.

Date: August 6, 2014



William A. Vaughn, City Attorney

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure __. If you desire a copy of the ordinance, please call the elections official's office at 209-668-5542 extension 1110 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. A copy is also available on the City of Los Banos's website at www.losbanos.org.