

MEASURE _____
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

Measure _____ was placed on the ballot after an initiative petition received the requisite number of voter signatures. Measure _____ is a charter amendment for the City of Richmond (“City”) to hold primary elections for elective office beginning in 2026 (“Measure”).

Currently, candidates for City Council and Mayor run in one municipal election which coincides with the statewide general election in November of each even year. The candidate that receives more votes than any other candidate is elected. This is called a plurality system, as a majority of the votes is not required for election.

If approved, the Measure adds Article III-B to the City Charter, which would add a City primary municipal election to coincide with the date of the statewide primary election in each even year beginning in 2026. In many circumstances, the City would be required to administer two elections in each even-numbered year.

The Measure would change the City’s elections from a plurality to a majority system. In the primary election, the two candidates that receive the highest number of votes for the office of Mayor and/or a Councilmember would move on to the general municipal election, where they would be the only two candidates on the ballot for their office. There, the candidate that receives more than half of the votes cast would be elected. If a candidate receives a majority of the total votes cast at the primary election, they would be elected, and no general municipal election would be held for that office.

The Measure would also establish an earlier deadline (prior to the primary municipal election) for qualified voters who desire to be a candidate for City Council or Mayor to file nomination papers with the City Clerk.

The Measure also amends Section 10 of Article III and Section 5 of Article III-A of the Charter to provide that if a vacancy in the Council occurs and is not filled by appointment, or if there is a vacancy in the office of Mayor, then a special primary municipal election, followed by a special general municipal election (if no candidates receive a majority of votes cast) would be held.

If approved by a majority of the voters at the November 2, 2024 general municipal election, the Measure will be operative on January 1, 2026. On this general municipal election ballot there are two charter amendments modifying the City’s election system. If both measures pass, the one receiving the most votes will be approved.

A “YES” vote is a vote to approve a primary municipal election to be added to the City’s election process and approve related updates to the process of holding elections for vacant elective offices in the City. A “NO” vote is a vote against adding a primary municipal election to the City’s election process and against related updates to the process of holding elections for vacant elective offices in the City.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the Measure. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the Richmond City Clerk’s Office at _____ and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Dated:



David J. Aleshire, City Attorney
City of Richmond

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