

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE P

After nearly two years of research and study, the Buena Park City Council voted unanimously to ask its residents whether Buena Park should become a Charter City or remain a General Law City. A provision in the California State Constitution known as "home rule" gives charter cities more control over local matters.

Home rule is based on the idea that the residents of a city, rather than state legislators, know their city's needs and how to best meet those needs. Becoming a Charter City would transfer power over local matters from the State Legislature to Buena Park, enabling us to pass laws related to our city business.

A city charter may only be adopted, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the city's voters. The proposed city charter for Buena Park is the simplest form--a one-page document that provides our residents with greater local control. Our charter would not change the organizational structure of the city nor affect the power and duties of any elected or appointed official.

Some advantages of a Charter City include: being able to award contracts to the most qualified bidder instead of the lowest; using a design-build process for public improvements which saves time and money; and adopting ordinances and city codes in a shorter time period.

A city operating under a charter is still subject to statewide general laws passed by the State Legislature including traffic laws, affordable housing laws and open meeting laws.

Nearly half of the state's population lives in cities which are governed by a city charter including Anaheim, Cypress, Huntington Beach, Placentia, Santa Ana, Cerritos, Irvine and Los Angeles.

We urge you to vote "yes" on Measure P to enable Buena Park to become a Charter City.

s/ Jim Dow, Mayor
City of Buena Park

s/ Gail Dixon, CEO
Buena Park Area Chamber of Commerce

s/ Irene Fogle, Chair
Buena Park Senior Citizens Commission

s/ Don McCay, Chair
Buena Park Charter Exploratory Committee

s/ Jim Adams, Council Representative
Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council