

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY  
MEASURE P**

Measure P proposes adoption of a charter for the City of Buena Park. A “yes” vote will be in favor of adopting the charter. A “no” vote will be opposed to adopting the charter.

Cities in California fall into two categories--general law cities and charter cities. Buena Park is currently a general law city.

As a general law city, Buena Park is controlled by the laws adopted by the State of California. As a charter city, Buena Park would be able to adopt ordinances on matters of local concern without regard to state law.

Areas of local control include public bidding and contracting, some zoning matters, establishment and use of public parks and other public facilities, and election dates and procedures. The City’s current term limit ordinance would not be affected by adoption of the charter. Conflict of interest, environmental, and open meeting laws are examples of matters of statewide concern that would still apply to the City after adoption of a charter.

Adoption of the charter would have no effect on the City’s finances nor any immediate effect on laws and ordinances of the City. In most cases, the City Council would need to adopt ordinances in order to vary from state laws. These ordinances would be subject to referendum and could be repealed by the voters. Because Buena Park residents cannot repeal state laws, adoption of the charter would, in many cases, have the indirect effect of giving residents greater control over matters of local concern than they have at present.

Future amendments of the charter would require voter approval. Thus, the voters would have ultimate control over the content of the charter.

s/ Steve Dorsey  
City Attorney  
City of Buena Park

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