

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE A**

The Public Administrator for the County of Orange protects the assets and manages the affairs of deceased residents of Orange County who at the time of their death do not have any known heirs, a will or a qualified executor, or where no qualified person is willing to administer the estate.

Under California law, the office of Public Administrator is filled by election but may be changed to an appointed office by the voters. There are no minimum educational or professional qualifications for a candidate to run for the office of Public Administrator.

The office of Public Administrator in Orange County is currently an elective office with a term of four years. Changing the office from an elected office to an appointed office (and from an appointed office to an elected office) requires approval by a majority vote of the voters of Orange County.

Under California law, when a County elective office becomes vacant during a term of office, it is filled by appointment by the County Board of Supervisors. The person appointed to the office serves for the remainder of the prior elected official's term. The office would then be filled by election for a 4-year term.

The prior elected Public Administrator in Orange County resigned earlier this year, and the office is now vacant. If approved by a majority of the voters in the County casting votes on this measure, the office would become an appointed office. The Public Administrator would no longer be elected by the voters for a 4-year term. Rather, the Public Administrator would be appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and would serve at the will of the Board of Supervisors. The appointed Public Administrator would have all of the powers pertaining to the office as provided by California law and County ordinances and resolutions. The measure provides that it will apply prospectively and will not affect the term of a sitting, elected Public Administrator.

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