

**Impartial Analysis
City of Westminster
Measure C**

The Westminster City Council is currently comprised of four councilmembers and a mayor, each of whom serve four-year terms. Each councilmember represents a geographic district and is elected by the voters of that district. The mayor is elected at-large (by all of the voters of the City). The mayor serves as chair of the City Council, is a voting member of the City Council, and performs certain ceremonial and ministerial functions (such as signing ordinances and resolutions adopted by the City Council). The mayor does not have a veto power.

Measure C is an ordinance placed on the ballot by the City Council. If the ordinance is adopted by a majority of Westminster voters, the number of councilmembers would be expanded to five and the at-large mayor office would be eliminated. The five councilmembers would then select one member to serve as mayor. The mayor would, in addition to his or her duties as a councilmember, chair the City Council, perform certain ceremonial and ministerial functions as the official head of the City, and perform other duties assigned by the Municipal Code or the City Council. The mayor would not have a veto power, and could be removed from the position of mayor by a vote of the City Council.

Councilmember terms are staggered, so that all seats are not up for election at the same time. Two of the current councilmembers (representing Districts 2 and 3) were elected in 2020, so regardless of whether this measure passes, their seats will not be on the ballot until 2024.

If this measure does not pass, then two councilmember seats (Districts 1 and 4) and the at-large mayor office will appear on the November 2022 ballot to be filled. However, if this measure passes then three councilmember seats will appear on the November 2022 ballot (Districts 1, 4 and the new District 5). This measure would not shorten the term of the currently elected mayor, whose term will end when the November 2022 election is certified.

As of the date this analysis was prepared in February 2022, the City Council was in the process of adopting district maps for both a four-district council and a five-district council. These maps were expected to be fully adopted no later than April 17, 2022. If this measure is not adopted, then the four-district map would be used in the November 2022 election. If this measure is adopted, then the five-district map would be used instead.

A “yes” vote is a vote to eliminate the office of elected mayor, and to instead cause the City Council to be comprised of five councilmembers elected from five geographic districts. A “no” vote is a vote to retain the current structure, with an at-large elected mayor and four councilmembers elected from geographic districts.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure C. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the Office of the City Clerk at 714-548-3237 and a copy will be mailed, provided in-person, or e-mailed, at no cost to you. Full text of the measure is available on the City website at <https://westminster-ca.gov>.

s/ Christian Bettenhausen
City Attorney