

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER LONG BEACH
5375 East Second Street, Suite 4, Long Beach, CA 90803
(562) 987- 1355
www.citizensforabetterlongbeach.com

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CITY CHARTER CHANGES

Rev. 4/17/06

These proposed charter changes are intended to improve the effectiveness of our city government. They are intended as a single group of changes necessary to accomplish the desired results, not as a list of possible individual changes. The provisions are abbreviated to outline the concepts; the required ballot initiative would be more precisely defined and contain appropriate charter language.

1. COUNCIL DISTRICTS

The city council shall be composed of nine (9) members: six (6) members shall be nominated and elected solely by the voters residing in each of six newly formed districts (district members), and three (3) members shall be nominated and elected by all voters of the city (at-large members).

2. VETO OVERRIDE POWER

Any council action vetoed by the mayor shall require the vote of at least six (6) council members to override (a 2/3rds majority).

3. TERMS OF OFFICE

Council members elected to a district office shall be limited to no more than two (2) full terms in that office. Council members elected to an at-large office shall be limited to no more than two (2) full terms in that office. The two-term limits apply separately to each office, making it possible to serve 16 years on the council: two terms in district office and two terms in an at-large office.

4. INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO SET DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The mayor, city attorney, city auditor and city prosecutor, acting collectively, shall appoint a redistricting commission composed of seven (7) Long Beach registered voters, one from each council district, plus a chair person selected at large. A new commission shall be appointed each time new boundaries are required as currently specified by the City Charter.

The committee, acting in public session, shall set boundaries of the six (6) districts to provide fair representation on the city council, complying with all applicable laws and adhering as closely as possible to these guidelines:

- (1) Districts shall be approximately equal in population based on the most recent U. S. census data, updated, if necessary, by the latest available Los Angeles County, or comparable, population estimate (or projection);
- (2) Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous while maintaining neighborhood integrity and community of interest using visible geographic features and avoiding the dividing of census blocks.