



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

From: Interim City Manager Clay Holstine

Subject: Update on Election Issues

Background

At your meeting of March 21st, the City Council reviewed a work program for the Elections Subcommittee and provided directions for City staff and Legal to review items under consideration.

On April 25th the subcommittee met and discussed all three issues of interest. Potential for District Elections, Term Limits and a directly elected Mayor.

City staff and City Attorney provided background information on San Mateo County cities as well as smaller cities in the State.

Directly Elected Mayor – two cities in San Mateo County, Belmont, and San Bruno.

District Elections – 10 of the 20 cities/towns in San Mateo County elect Councilmember by district.

Term Limits – Six cities have term limits.

Discussion

The subcommittee had a robust discussion and evaluated information provided and brainstormed alternatives. The following is a summary:

- Directly Elected Mayor – If the City Council wishes to pursue this a ballot initiative would need to be referred to the voters.
 - The Subcommittee recommended that the term of a Mayor be 2 years and restricted to two terms.
 - As an alternative the Council could draft a strict rotation policy and refer that to the voters.
 - Under either scenario the Subcommittee is recommending that the role of the Mayor remain unchanged.
- District Elections – Subcommittee reviewed census data and a community profile that was part of demographic work of the School District (School District boundaries include parts of Daly City and South San Francisco). The subcommittee asked for a meeting with a demographer. A meeting on Monday, May 13th with the demographer that worked with Woodside is scheduled. The Subcommittee will make an oral report to the Council at the May 16th meeting.

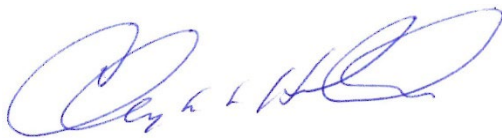
- Term Limits – Subcommittee reviewed data from San Mateo County cities. This item will require referral to the voters if the Council wishes to initiate that process. The subcommittee is recommending consideration of the following term limits:
 - Maximum of 12 consecutive years as an elected member of the City Council. An elected Mayor would be considered a member of the City Council and, thus could not serve more than 12 consecutive years between both positions (time served as an appointed member does not count towards term limits).
 - Upon a 2-year break Councilmember could run again.

Recommendation

Consider recommendations from the Council subcommittee and provide directions to staff.

Attachments

1. Charter Cities & Elections Issues Subcommittee Meeting Packet 5/16/24
2. Charter Cities & Elections Issues Subcommittee Meeting Packet 5/16/24
3. Op Ed from the Daily Journal archives: “Thoughts on districting from a newly district-elected councilmember” By Gina Latimerlo
4. Article from the Daily Journal archives: Millbrae to discuss removing district-based elections



Clay Holstine, Interim City Manager