



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA ☐ HACN

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: July 14, 2026

Title: Adopt Resolution Calling for the Submission of a Charter Amendment Measure Regarding City Council Compensation and Submission of the Measure to the Qualified Voters at the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election

Background: The City of Needles is a charter city operating under a City Charter originally adopted by the voters on June 3, 1958, approved by the California State Legislature on January 28, 1959, and subsequently amended. Section 503 of the City Charter currently provides that each member of the City Council shall receive compensation in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) per month, an amount that has remained unchanged since the Charter was adopted in 1958, approximately sixty-eight (68) years ago.

As a charter city, the City of Needles has authority under the California Constitution to establish compensation for its elected officials through its City Charter. Because City Council compensation is established in Section 503 of the Charter, any modification requires approval by the voters through a Charter amendment.

The City Council has expressed an interest in allowing the voters to consider updating Section 503 of the City Charter to establish compensation for City Council Members at two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per month. The proposed amendment would not alter reimbursement provisions for authorized travel or other official expenses and would not authorize any additional compensation beyond that expressly provided in the Charter.

If approved by a majority of City voters at the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election, the Charter amendment would revise Section 503 of the City Charter to increase the monthly compensation for each member of the City Council from \$1.00 per month to \$250.00 per month. The proposed amendment would become effective following certification of the election results in accordance with applicable law.

Analysis: The proposed Charter amendment would submit to the voters the question of whether to amend Section 503 of the City Charter to increase the compensation of each City Council Member from **one dollar (\$1.00) per month** to **two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per month**.

The proposed Charter amendment would allow the City's voters to determine whether to amend Section 503 of the City Charter to increase City Council compensation. Unlike a general law city, which may adjust compensation by ordinance pursuant to Government Code Section 36516, compensation for members of the Needles City Council is established by the City Charter and therefore may only be modified through voter approval of a Charter amendment.

The current compensation established by the Charter has remained unchanged since the Charter's adoption nearly seven decades ago. The proposed amendment would revise Section 503 of the City Charter to establish City Council compensation at two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per month while continuing the existing provisions authorizing reimbursement for approved travel and other official expenses permitted under the Charter. As a Charter amendment, the proposal must be approved by a majority of the voters voting on the measure at the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election before becoming effective.

Fiscal Impact: If approved by the voters, the proposed Charter amendment would increase City Council compensation from **one dollar (\$1.00) per month to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per month** for each Council Member. Based on the current **seven-member City Council**, annual compensation would increase from **\$84 to \$21,000**, representing an estimated annual increase of **\$20,916**. The additional cost would be funded through the General Fund as part of the annual budget process.

Environmental Impact: The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as it involves organizational and administrative activities of government that will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

Recommendation: Adopt **Resolution 2026-29**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Needles calling for the placement of a Charter Amendment Measure regarding City Council compensation on the ballot at the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election for submission to the qualified voters.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 7/8/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): Mark C. DeMay, CGFM

Date: 07/08/26