

EXHIBIT A

Ballot Description, Summary, and Enumeration of Powers:

A vote in favor of Measure _____ changes the City of Costa Mesa from a general law city to a charter city. If passed, Costa Mesa will have authority over municipal affairs as defined by California's Constitution and courts. This includes:

1. Form of Government: The Proposed Charter requires that the City continue to use the "council-manager" form of government, just as general law cities do.
2. Purchasing and Contracting: The Proposed Charter allows the City to engage in contracting/purchasing different from general law cities (e.g. prevailing wages *not* required for Public Works Projects funded solely with City funds; city may elect to use own forces or contract for public works projects based on enumerated criteria).
3. Voluntary Employee Political Contribution: The Proposed Charter does not allow the city to collect political contributions through payroll deductions from city employees.
4. Public Employee Pension Benefits: The Proposed Charter requires City voter approval before any increase of employees' or officers' retirement or post-retirement benefits, except cost of living adjustments.
5. Council Compensation: The Proposed Charter requires that the City continue to follow general law regulating and capping Councilmember compensation.
6. Elections: The Proposed Charter requires that elections continue to be governed by general law.
7. Management of Administrative Officers: The Proposed Charter requires that the City follow general law for the appointment/removal of the Chief Executive Officer and City Attorney.
8. Interference with City CEO's duties: The Proposed Charter prohibits Councilmembers from attempting to influence/coerce the City CEO in conducting his/her duties under applicable law. Except for the City Attorney, City Council members must deal with the administrative functions of the City through the City CEO, except for making inquiries. City Councilmembers, are prohibited from giving direct orders to subordinates of the City CEO. This codifies a provision of the City's municipal code into the Charter. No Councilmember, or any officer, or member of any board or commission, is permitted to participate in the appointment to any office or employment of the City if the candidate is related by blood, or by marriage, to that officer or member.

9. Adoption of Ordinances: The Proposed Charter requires the City to continue to follow general law in considering ordinances for adoption.
10. Taxes and Assessments: The Proposed Charter prohibits taxation of property sales.
11. Charter Powers: The Proposed Charter also authorizes the City to take actions and pass ordinances consistent with the City's status as a charter city in connection with its municipal affairs.

If the Charter is approved, no changes can be made to the Charter without a majority vote of the voters voting at a subsequent election.

IF YOU DESIRE A COPY OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER, PLEASE CALL THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT (714) 754-5221, AND A COPY WILL BE MAILED AT NO COST TO YOU.