

Impartial Analysis  
City of Barstow  
2022 Measure [REDACTED]

Summary:

Measure [REDACTED] asks the voters whether the City of Barstow's Mayor will continue to be directly elected or instead will be converted to a regular City Council Member with the office of Mayor to be appointed from among the five elected City Council Members. If adopted, the City Council would then complete a redistricting process to draw five City Council Member districts before the November 2024 election.

Background:

In 1976, the City's voters adopted Measure G, which established a directly elected Mayor with a two year term. In 1984 the City's voters adopted a ballot measure that changed the term of the Office of Mayor of Barstow from two to four years. The office of Mayor of the City of Barstow is a separate office elected at-large by the City's voters under Section 2.54.020 of the Municipal Code.

The City of Barstow is a general law and in general law cities, the office of Mayor may be directly elected by the voters or chosen by the City Council.

Mayor's Power and Duties:

The Mayor of the City of Barstow is a City Council Member, with all its rights and privileges. The Mayor has additional powers provided by statute and the Barstow Municipal Code. These powers include presiding over City Council meetings; signing City ordinances, resolutions, and contracts; making appointments to the City's commissions and boards, with City Council approval; and certain ceremonial duties. The Mayor receives the same compensation as the rest of the City Council.

The City Council's terms are currently staggered, as the voters will elect two four-year City Council Members in November 2022 and will elect a four-year Mayor and two four-year City Council Members in November 2024. This pattern repeats every two years.

If adopted Measure [REDACTED] would maintain the current balance of City Council terms, as the voters would elect two four-year City Council Members in November 2022 and three four-year City Council Members in November 2024, repeating every four years. If the voters reject Measure [REDACTED] and continue with a directly elected Mayor, then the current staggering of Mayoral and City Council elections would continue.

A YES VOTE on Measure [REDACTED] would repeal 1976's Measure G, convert the directly elected Mayor to an elected City Council Member and return the office of Mayor to an appointed position, selected by the City Council from among the five elected City Council Members. In 2024, after the expiration of the final directly elected Mayor's term, the City Council would appoint one of its Members to serve as the Mayor. The City Council would also then complete a redistricting process to draw five City Council Member districts before the November 2024

election. An appointed Mayor would have the same powers and duties as the directly elected Mayor, subject to revisions of the Barstow Municipal Code.

A NO VOTE on Measure    means the Mayor would continue to be directly elected.



Matthew T. Summers, Barstow City Attorney

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