

## Proposed 2010 Council Study Issue

**OCA 09-01 Consideration of Directly-Elected Mayor**

**Lead Department** Office of the City Attorney

**Element or Sub-element**

**New or Previous** Previous

**Status** Pending      **History** 1 year ago    Deferred      2 years ago    None

**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

Section 605 of the City Charter provides that the mayor is selected by the City Council from one of its members. The first Charter provided for the selection of the mayor from and by the City Council. The City has previously debated the issue of a directly elected mayor. In 1987, the City Council rejected a proposal to put a charter amendment on the ballot for the direct election of the mayor. Instead, the Council proposed an alternative Charter amendment that kept the selection of the mayor by and from the City Council, but changed the term from one to two years. In 1991, the City again debated the issue of a directly elected mayor. The City Council appointed a Charter review committee and primarily charged it with studying the issue of a directly-elected mayor. The 1991 committee recommended against a Charter amendment for a directly elected mayor and the Council adopted this recommendation. In response to the recommendation of the 1991 committee, a councilmember circulated an initiative petition for a Charter amendment providing for a directly-elected mayor on the 1991 ballot. The initiative qualified for the 1991 ballot and failed by a vote of 9,412 no to 6,678 yes. The issue of a directly elected mayor was again considered by the 2006-07 Charter Review Committee. A majority of the committee recommended continuing the present system of electing the mayor rather than having a directly elected mayor, and the Council followed the committee's recommendation and did not place the directly elected mayor on the 2007 ballot.

The National Civic League has prepared a summary of the arguments both for and against a directly elected mayor, as follows:

Directly-Elected Mayor:

1. Clear expression of city-wide policy choices (but more important if district elections for council)
2. More media coverage of mayor's race raising voter awareness of issues
3. Increases potential for mayoral leadership by providing popular support base
4. *Disadvantage-possibility that mayor will disagree with Council on policy issues and rely on mandate from voters instead of working for consensus with council*

Selection of Mayor By Council:

1. Local policy leadership functions best when a majority of

councilmembers select the mayor- reduces likelihood of conflict between council and mayor

2. *Disadvantage- Can diminish effective leadership if serves at pleasure of council instead of set term*

3. *Disadvantage- Rotation of office of mayor may not consider capability or support and limits experience mayor can acquire to increase leadership competence*

**2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**

Section 605. Presiding Officer. Mayor. At the same meeting following each General Municipal Election at which the City Council certifies the election results, or the second regular meeting in November in even-numbered years, the City Council shall select one of its members as its presiding officer, who shall have the title of Mayor. Such selection shall be by motion of the City Council. The Mayor shall have a voice and vote in all its proceedings. He/she shall be the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with his/her office. The Mayor shall serve in such capacity for a term of one year from and after which the appointment is made, and until a successor is selected; provided, that a person can continue to serve in the capacity of Mayor only while that person remains as a member of the City Council. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Mayor, the City Council shall select one of its members to serve as Mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Mayor may be removed from such office prior to expiration of his/her term by a motion of the City Council adopted by the affirmative votes of at least five members of the City Council. (Amended effective December 31, 1975, December 21, 1976, December 21, 1987, and November 30, 1995: previously Section 704)

**3. Origin of issue**

- Council Member(s)** Whittum
- General Plan**
- City Staff**
- Public**
- Board or Commission** none

**4. Multiple Year Project?** No **Planned Completion Year** 2010

**5. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?**

**Does Council need to approve a work plan?** No

**Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission?** No

**If so, which?**  
none

**Is a Council Study Session anticipated?** Yes

**What is the public participation process?**  
 Notification to public through standard agenda posting and publication. Opportunity for public comment at study session and council meeting.

**6. Cost of Study**

**Operating Budget Program covering costs**  
 751-Comprehensive Legal Services  
**Project Budget covering costs**  
**Budget modification \$ amount needed for study**  
**Explain below what the additional funding will be used for**

**7. Potential fiscal impact to implement recommendations in the Study approved by Council**

**Capital expenditure range** None  
**Operating expenditure range** \$500 - \$50K  
**New revenues/savings range** None  
**Explain impact briefly**

**8. Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Recommendation** None

**If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain**  
 The Council identified the directly-elected mayor as a priority for the 2006-07 Charter Review Committee. After debate and discussion, the Charter Review Committee's final recommendation was:

**The Committee recommends no change to the Charter's method of electing the Mayor.**

**9. Estimated consultant hours for completion of the study issue**

Managers	Role	Manager	Hours			
	Lead	Kahn, David	Mgr CY1:	0	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	0	Staff CY2:	0
	Support	Moon, Rebecca	Mgr CY1:	40	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	0	Staff CY2:	0
<b>Total Hours CY1:</b>			<b>40</b>			
<b>Total Hours CY2:</b>			<b>0</b>			

**Note: If staff's recommendation is 'For Study' or 'Against Study', the Director**

should  
note the relative importance of this Study to other major projects that the  
Department  
is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing  
services/priorities.

Reviewed by



Department Director

10-6-09

Date

Approved by



City Manager

10-11-09

Date

**Addendum**

**A. Board / Commission Recommendation**

**Issue Created Too Late for B/C Ranking**

<b>Board or Commission</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Rank</b>
	<b>1 year ago</b>	<b>2 years ago</b>
Arts Commission		
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee		
Board of Building Code Appeals		
Board of Library Trustees		
Child Care Advisory Board		
Heritage Preservation Commission		
Housing and Human Services Commission		
Parks and Recreation Commission		
Personnel Board		
Planning Commission		

**Board or Commission ranking comments**

**B. Council**

**Council Rank** (no rank yet)  
**Start Date** (blank)  
**Work Plan Review Date** (blank)  
**Study Session Date** (blank)  
**RTC Date** (blank)  
**Actual Complete Date** (blank)  
**Staff Contact**