

Proposition A: Exemption of Public Safety from Managed Competition

Board Recommendation:

SUPPORT

Rationale:

This is a clean-up charter amendment, which clarifies that City's public safety services are exempt from the Managed Competition process.

Background:

On January 22, 2007, Mayor Jerry Sanders commissioned the San Diego Charter Review Committee, with the goal of developing recommendations for the City Council to consider for a 2008 ballot. The Committee focused on "what it determined were the most urgent issues, studied other that for one reason or another were better left for a future ballot, and deferred others which it concluded should be left to a future Charter Review."¹ The final report issued 11 recommendations to be placed on the ballot in 2008.

On November 7, 2007, the Committee presented its final report to the City of San Diego Rules Committee. The Committee accepted the report and asked that all recommendations be referred to the City Council with a detailed summary of comments made by members of the Rules Committee. The Committee also directed that recommendations related to the Chief Financial Officer, Auditor and Audit Committee be reviewed by the Audit Committee and that the Budget Committee review the recommendation regarding a balanced budget.

On January 14, 2008, the City Council voted to place the following measure on the June 3, 2008 ballot.

Proposal:

The question that will be put before voters will read:

"Shall the Charter be amended to exempt from the Managed Competition process the core public safety services provided by police officers, firefighters, and lifeguards who participate in the City's Safety Retirement System?"

In 2006 voters passed Proposition C, allowing the City of San Diego to implement managed competition, thereby allowing the City to contract out services traditionally performed by City civil service employees if they are determined to be more economical and efficient.

The changes to the charter amendments outlined in Proposition C did not exclude services provided by the City's public safety workers from outsourcing. The Mayor and City Council have since passed resolution outlying the intent of Proposition C, but the questionable

¹ 2007 San Diego Charter Review Committee Final Report. October 4, 2007.

language still remains within the Charter. The intent of this measure is to assure voters that public safety services, such as police, fire and lifeguards will not be outsourced through the managed competition process.

Charter Review Committee Recommendation:

The Charter Review Committee unanimously supported this revision. By implementing this change, the Committee feels the intent of Proposition C will be secured. Other members worried that unless corrective language is carefully crafted, the City's existing partnership with Rural/Metro in the San Diego Medical Services Enterprise L.L.C. would be negatively affected. The Committee's recommendation "addresses these concerns by specifying that those who participate in the Safety Retirement System will not have their employment privatized."