

File ID: 2026-01110

6/23/2026

November 3, 2026 Municipal Election - Call for Impartial Analysis, Selection of Argument Authors, and Setting Regulations for Ballot Arguments for One Measure: Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees Retirement System (SCERS)

File ID: 2026-01110

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt: 1) a **Resolution** directing the preparation of an impartial analysis for the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees Retirement System (SCERS), for inclusion in the November 3, 2026 Municipal Election official ballot; 2) a **Resolution** authorizing members of the City Council to author arguments for the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees Retirement System (SCERS), that will be presented to the voters in the November 3, 2026 Municipal Election Voter Information Guide; and 3) a **Resolution** setting regulations for ballot arguments that will be presented to the voters in the November 3, 2026 Municipal Election Voter Information Guide.

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Presenter: Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk, (916) 808-5442, mcuppy@cityofsacramento.org, Office of the City Clerk

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Resolution Directing the Preparation of an Impartial Analysis of Measure
- 3-Resolution Authorizing City Councilmembers to Author Arguments for Measure
- 4-Resolution Approving Regulations for Ballot Arguments

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: On June __, 2026, the City Council adopted a resolution calling for the holding of a municipal election on November 3, 2026. In accordance with the Sacramento City Charter Section 152, regular city elections are to be consolidated with statewide elections. In accordance with California Elections Code section 9222, the council must adopt a resolution to place a measure on the ballot.

As provided in the California Elections Code section 9280, for any measure approved for placement on the ballot by the City Council, the City Council may direct the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the measure to the City Attorney for preparation of an impartial analysis of the measure. The analysis is for the purpose of showing the effects of the measure on existing law and the operation of the measure. The analysis shall be printed in the official Voter Information Guide preceding the arguments and shall not exceed 500 words. **The impartial analysis is due in the Office of the City Clerk no later than July 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** An impartial analysis will provide both the City of Sacramento and the voters of the city with impartial information regarding the measure.

To secure its position in the selection of ballot arguments for the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees Retirement System (SCERS), in the event the City Clerk receives more than one argument in support or opposition of the measure, the City Council may select who will author and file the ballot argument(s) on the City Council's behalf. This action will ensure that the City Council's argument(s) have priority selection for printing in the official Voter Information Guide pursuant to the selection criteria in California Elections Code section 9287. If the City Council, or authorized member(s), do not submit an argument for a City Council measure, any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may submit an argument in support of or opposition to any measure.

Up to five authors' names will be printed with the argument. If the City Council, as a body, chooses to submit an argument, at least one of the Councilmembers should be designated as an author.

If more than one argument is received for a given position, the City Clerk will follow the selection criteria outlined in the Sacramento City Code section 1.16.070, which provides for the following author priority: the city council, or any council member(s) authorized by the city council, or charter officer, or department director, or any individual eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations.

Prior to an election, the City shall adopt a resolution that establishes regulations for the preparation of ballot arguments. **The primary arguments are due in the Office of the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026.** Both supporting and opposing arguments must be received in order for a rebuttal argument to be submitted. If arguments, both supporting and opposing the measure, are appropriately received, each side will be given the opportunity to provide a written rebuttal. **The rebuttal arguments are due in the Office of the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026.**

Policy Considerations: The actions outlined in this report are in accordance with the Sacramento City Code, Sacramento City Charter, and the California Elections Code.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The proposed action is not a project under CEQA because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines §15378(b)(5).)

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: The recommendations are consistent with standard practice, the Sacramento City Code, and the California Elections Code.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

RESOLUTION NO. 202X-XXXX

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Month XX, 202X

Directing the City Attorney to Prepare an Impartial Analysis of the Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), Approved by the City Council to be Submitted to the Voters at the Municipal Election to be Held on November 3, 2026

BACKGROUND

- A. On June ____, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 202X-XXXX, known as the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), which charter amendment is subject to approval by the voters.

- B. On June ____, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 202X-XXXX approving for placement on the November 3, 2026 ballot a question pertaining to the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS).

- C. The City of Sacramento desires to have an impartial analysis of the measure.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The City Council hereby directs the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis of the measure pertaining to the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), showing the measure's effect on existing law and its operation. The impartial analysis is not to exceed 500 words, and the City Attorney shall file it with the City Clerk no later than July 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

SECTION 2.

The City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the impartial analysis to be printed in the official sample ballot for the November 3, 2026, Municipal Election.

SECTION 3.

That the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections.

RESOLUTION NO. 202X-XXXX

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Month XX, 202X

Authorizing the City Council or Members of the City Council to Submit Written Argument(s) for the Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), Approved by the City Council to be Submitted to the Voters at the Municipal Election to be Held on November 3, 2026

BACKGROUND

- A. On June ____, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 202X-XXXX, known as the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), which charter amendment is subject to approval by the voters.
- B. On June ____, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 202X-XXXX approving for placement on the November 3, 2026 ballot a question pertaining to the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS).
- C. The City Council desires to submit argument(s) for the measure.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Argument for/support:

The City Council hereby authorizes the following members, on behalf of the Council, to file a written argument for/support the question pertaining to the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS):

- Name(s): _____
- Name(s): _____
- Name(s): _____
- Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

SECTION 2.

Argument against/opposing:

The City Council hereby authorizes the following members, on behalf of the Council, to file a written argument against/opposing the question pertaining to the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS):

Name(s): _____
Name(s): _____
Name(s): _____
Name(s): _____
Name(s): _____

SECTION 3.

The arguments shall be prepared in accordance with the California Elections Code and the resolution pertaining to the regulations of ballot arguments (Resolution 202X-XXXX).

SECTION 4.

The primary arguments are due in the Office of the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026. If arguments, both in support and opposition, are appropriately received, each side will be given the opportunity to provide a written rebuttal. The rebuttal arguments are due in the Office of the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 202X-XXXX

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Month XX, 202X

Approving Regulations Pertaining to Ballot Arguments That Will Be Presented to the Voters in the November 3, 2026 Municipal Election Voter Information Guide

BACKGROUND

- A. On June ____, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 202X-XXXX, known as the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), which charter amendment is subject to approval by the voters.

- B. On June ____, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 202X-XXXX approving for placement on the November 3, 2026 ballot a question pertaining to the Sacramento City Charter Amendment Regarding the Sacramento City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS).

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

GENERAL PROVISIONS. Pursuant to Sacramento City Code section 1.16.070, the city council, or a councilmember(s) authorized by the council, charter officer, department director, or an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument for or against any city measure.

SECTION 2.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE POLICY. Pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act, measures shall be translated into all languages required by the County of Sacramento. The County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections is required to translate ballots into Spanish and Chinese.

The County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections shall print and mail official sample ballots containing measures to all voters in English, Spanish, and

Chinese. The Registrar shall make the official sample ballots in the required languages available at all voting center locations and in the Sacramento County Election Official's office.

SECTION 3.

MISCELLANEOUS. All translations shall be provided by a professionally certified translator procured by the County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections. Authors may not translate their own arguments.

Primary arguments and rebuttals shall be typewritten in block paragraph style on the City's official Argument Form provided by the Office of the City Clerk. Text shall be of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing. Therefore, authors may not use underlining; ALL CAPS; italics; bold print; dashes (--); bullets (); stars () or other forms of emphasis; multiple punctuation (e.g. "....." Or "-----" or "!!!!!!!!!!"); emojis or emoticons. All paragraphs will be left justified.

There is no maximum number of paragraphs for the written arguments.

Arguments containing endorsements shall be accompanied by a written authorization letter(s) from the person(s) and/or organization(s) offering the endorsement at the time the argument is submitted. Letters must be signed and dated. Arguments containing the name of a person other than the author shall be accompanied by an original letter from the named person granting permission to use their name in this manner. Letters must be signed and dated. Arguments containing the name of any organization must be accompanied by an original letter from the named organization signed and dated by an officer authorized to do so by the organization.

Initial arguments shall not exceed 300 words in length. Rebuttal arguments, if applicable, shall not exceed 250 words in length.

The standard word count as provided in the Elections Code shall be used. All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, "City of Sacramento" shall be counted as one word. Regularly hyphenated words appearing in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the United States within 10 years preceding the election shall be counted as one word. Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word. Words in statements containing hyphens that are not found in the dictionary as described above shall be counted as individual words. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word. Dates, monetary amounts, and whole

numbers containing digits shall only be counted as one word. (Ex 01/01/1900, \$100.00 or 100). Telephone numbers, email addresses, and internet addresses shall be counted as one word.

SECTION 4.

Primary and rebuttal arguments that are not in compliance with the formatting guidelines shall be reformatted by the City Clerk. Primary and rebuttal arguments that exceed the allotted word count shall be shortened by removing words from the end of the argument text until the word limit is reached.

SECTION 5.

Rebuttals to primary arguments are permissible only when primary arguments in support and opposition of a measure are submitted.