ELECTION OF MAYOR

BY CITY-WIDE VOTE

Charter Review Committee Meeting
January 19, 2022

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Outline of Presentation

- What is our current City structure?

- Why move to an elected Mayor?

- Key elements to consider in formulating a proposal

Current City Structure

- The City Council is the legislative body of the City, responsible for establishing City policies and priorities.

- City Council enacts City ordinances and approves all significant City transactions.

- The City Manager is the administrative head of the City government, responsible for City operations and implementation of the Council's policies and priorities.

- The City operates under a strong City Manager form of government.

City Council

- The City Council meets at least twice each month.

- Quorum is a majority of the full Council (four members).

- The Council acts as a whole.

- The Council takes action through ordinance, resolution or motion.

- All actions require the affirmative vote of the total membership of the Council, that is, four affirmative votes.

- Some actions, including adoption of urgency ordinances, require a supermajority vote.

Composition of the City Council

- Section 4 of the City Charter provides for a Council comprised of seven members.

- Prior to 2018, all Council members were elected by city-wide vote.

- In 2018, the City began the transition to district-based election of Council members.

- The City is now divided into seven Council districts, with each district electing one Council member.

Composition of the City Council

- The Council is thus now made up of seven district representatives.

- Section 15 of the City Charter provides that, once elected, the seven-member Council shall select one of its members to serve as Mayor for a two-year term.

- Section 15 further provides that the seven-member Council shall select another of its members to serve as Vice-Mayor for a one-year term.

Composition of the City Council

- Charter provides that no Council member may serve as Mayor for more than one consecutive term. (A Council member, however, *may* serve more than one term as Mayor, provided the terms are not consecutive.)

- Charter provides that there is no limit on the number of consecutive terms a Vice-Mayor may serve.

- Charter confirms that the Mayor and Vice-Mayor serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed from their Mayor or Vice-Mayor position at the will of the Council.

Roles and Responsibilities of Mayor

The Charter provides that the Mayor shall:

- Serve as executive head of the City

- Preside over Council meetings

- Establish the agendas for Council meetings with the assistance of the City Manager

- Appoint committees of the Council and Council committee chairpersons

Roles and Responsibilities of Mayor

- Deliver an annual state of the City address, articulating policy and vision for the City

- Act as the ceremonial representative of the City and the spokesperson of the City

- Make City appointments to all county, regional and state bodies with the approval of a majority of the Council

- Act as chief negotiator on behalf of the City with county, regional, state and federal bodies and agencies

Roles and Responsibilities of Mayor

- Sign all adopted ordinances and Council resolutions and, as authorized and directed by the Council, other legal instruments on behalf of the City

- In case of riot, insurrection or extraordinary emergencies, assume general control of the City's government and all of its branches and be responsible for the suppression of disorders and the restoration of normal conditions.

- (Note, the City Code appoints the City Manager as Director of Emergency Services for most emergencies.)

Roles and Responsibilities of Vice Mayor

The Charter provides that the Vice Mayor shall:

- Serve as Mayor Pro Tem in the absence, sickness or other disability of the Mayor.

Proposal for Elected Mayor

- What are we seeking to address?

    - With Council members now elected by District, enable the Mayor to focus on the "big picture," provide a unifying city-wide perspective

    - Allow voters to have a direct say in who is the City's spokesperson

    - Allow voters to have a direct say in who sets the Council's agenda

    - Allow voters to have a direct say in who chairs the Council meetings

Proposal for Elected Mayor

- What are we seeking to address (cont)?

  - Allow voters to have a direct say in who creates and appoints Council subcommittees, often critical in establishing City policies and programs

  - Opportunity for potential revisions to the Mayor's roles and responsibilities?

  - Other?

Proposal for Elected Mayor

- What are the implications for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging?

  - Would historically marginalized communities benefit from an at-large Mayor?

  - Would an at-large Mayor be able to better engage and support equity priority communities and other historically disenfranchised community members city-wide?

  - Would an at-large election facilitate diversity in the Mayor position?

  - Or would it burden diversity due to the costs of a city-wide campaign?

Proposal for Elected Mayor

- What are the implications for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (cont)?

  - Would the potential for racially polarized voting in a city-wide vote suppress Mayorship opportunities for the BIPOC community and other traditionally disenfranchised populations?

  - Or would an open at-large election provide more opportunities for a wider range of individuals to participate more powerfully in City government?

Proposal for Elected Mayor

- Are there potential downsides?

  - Costs of city-wide campaign may discourage candidates

  - A city-wide election raises possibility of a dilution of the votes of historically marginalized communities

  - Current system of Council election of Mayor may allow for stronger Council cohesion

  - Current system gives all district-based Council members potential opportunity to serve as Mayor

  - Current system allows Council to remove Mayor in the event of misconduct

Key Decision Points

- Term of Office

- Scope of Role and Responsibilities

- Full time / Part time

- Voting / Non-voting

- Selection of Vice Mayor

- Resulting Composition of Council

Term of Office

- Mayor currently serves a two-year term

- Options for term of elected Mayor:
  - Two year term?
  - Four year term?
  - Other?   (Three year, six year, other)

- Consider costs and burdens of campaigns / elections

- Consider advantages / disadvantages of shorter or longer terms of office

- Possible term limits?

Scope of Responsibilities

- Maintain current scope of roles and responsibilities?

- Expand roles and responsibilities?

- Narrow roles and responsibilities?

- Shift from strong City Manager to strong Mayor system?

Other Elements

- Formally designate as full or part time?

  - Impact on compensation

  - Impact on expectations

- Voting / non-voting / tie-breaking vote only?

  - Tied to composition of Council

  - May affect candidate interest

Other Elements

- Selection of Vice-Mayor

  - Maintain selection by Council?

  - Selection by Mayor?

  - Still one-year term?

  - Any term limit?

  - Any change in roles?

Resulting Composition of Council

- Reconfigure from seven district-based Council members to six district-based Council members and one at-large Mayor

- Maintain seven district Council members, add at-large Mayor

- Expand or contract Council membership

What are our priorities?

- Ensure city-wide perspective

- Ensure responsiveness and strong ability to move forward on community priorities

- Preserve benefits of district-based representation

- Maintain commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

- What is your perspective?

- How would you like the Mayorship to look?

- What are your goals?

North Bay Cities

City of
Santa Rosa

Council Compensation -- North Bay

City	Population 2020	Charter	City Structure	Council Composition	Elected Mayor	Full Time Mayor	Voting Mayor	Notes
Napa	97,246	Yes	Mayor/Manager	4 district based councilmembers Mayor at Large	Yes	No	Yes	Napa converted to district based mayor at large in 2020; still in process of conversion Mayor Sedgley is a retired City Firefighter
San Rafael	61,271	Yes	Mayor/Manager	4 district based councilmembers Mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	San Rafael converted to district based Mayor at large in 2018 in response to threatened lawsuit Mayor Kolin not employed while in office
Petaluma	59,776	Yes	Strong Manager	Currently 6 councilmembers Elected at large Transitioning now to District Mayor at Large	Not now, but will	No	Yes	Must approve district maps by April Mayor Teresa Barrett not employed while in office
Novato	53,225	No	Strong Manager	5 councilmembers at large Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Eric Lucan employed by Mike's Bikes as CMO
Rohnert Park	42,521	No	Strong Manager	5 councilmembers at large	No	No	Yes	Mayor Jackie Elward is employed as teacher at charter school
Windsor	26,344	No	Mayor/Manager	4 district based councilmembers Mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	Converted to district based in 11/20 Mayor Sam Salmon self employed attorney
Healdsburg	11,340	No	Strong Manager	5 council membert at large Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Jimenez is business owner, Noble Folk Ice Cream
Sonoma	10,618	No	Strong Manager	5 council members at large Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Jack Ding self employed tax consultant
Cloverdale	8,280	No	Strong Manager	5 council members at large Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Todd Lands former SoCo Deputy Sheriff Self employed in construction
Cotati	7,584	No	Strong Manager	5 council members at large Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Mark Landman is retired firefighter
Sebastopol	7,521	No	Strong Manager	5 council members at large Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Patrick Slayter is self employed architect
County of Sonoma	488,863			5 districts				
Santa Rosa	178,127	Yes	Strong Manager	7 district based councilmembers Mayor selected by council	No	No	Yes	

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Comparable Cities

City Government Structures--Comparable Cities

City	Population 2020	Charter	City Structure	Council Composition	Elected Mayor	Full Time Mayor	Voting Mayor	Notes
Fremont	230504	No	Manager/Mayor	6 council members At large mayor	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Lili Mei works for hi tech trade association Salary as mayor $47,916
Hayward	162,954	Yes	Strong City Mgr	6 council members at large Mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Barbara Haladay retired insurance claims supervisor Salary as mayor $39,960
Vallejo	126,090	Yes	Strong City Mgr	6 council members at large, but phasing into districts; mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Rober McConnell self employed attorney Salary as mayor $22,800
Concord	125,410	No	Strong City Mgr	5 council members by district Mayor selected from among council	No	No	Yes	Mayor Dominic Aliano's employment unknown Salary as mayor $16,224
Berkeley	124,321	Yes	Strong Mayor	8 council members by district Mayor elected at large	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mayor Jesse Arreguin works full time as mayor Salary as mayor $107,300
Fairfield	119,881	No	Strong City Mgr	6 council members by district Mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Harry Price is a retired teacher Salary as mayor $7200
Richmond	116,448	Yes	Mayor/Mgr	6 council members at large Mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Tom Butt is self employed architect Salary of mayor $46,500
San Mateo	105,661	Yes	Strong City Mgr	5 council members at large Rotating mayor	No	No	Yes	Mayor Rick Bonilla is a retired carpenter and carpenter union representative Salary is $7200
Daly City	104,901	No	Strong City Mgr	5 council members at large Rotating mayor	No	No	Yes	Mayor Daus-Magbual is a public school teacher Salary of mayor $18,382
Vacaville	102,386	No	Strong City Mgr	6 council members by district Mayor at large	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Ron Rowlett is business agent of carpenters' union Salary of mayor is $9948
Livermore	90,761	No	Strong City Mgr	5 council members transitioning from at large to districts	Yes	No	Yes	Mayor Bob Woerner is employed by PG&E Salary as mayor $17,880

Questions?