

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE CALLING A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO CITY VOTERS A MEASURE AMENDING CITY CHARTER SECTION 1314 RELATED TO CITY MANAGER SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY; REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION WITH THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION AND ELECTION SERVICES FROM SANTA CLARA COUNTY; DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS; AND SETTING PRIORITIES FOR BALLOT ARGUMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Sunnyvale (the “City”) is a municipal corporation and charter city duly organized and existing under the Constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2023, the City Council considered a colleagues’ memorandum recommending creation of a Charter Review Committee (CRC) to review nine specific potential Charter amendments, and authority to propose additional amendments; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2024, the City Council created a CRC, and, following a recruitment and interview process, appointed the CRC on December 3, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2025, the City Council held a joint meeting with the CRC to the CRC’s list of potential amendments to the City Charter and directed the CRC to study potential amendments to Charter Section 605 (increasing City Council compensation); Charter Section 606 (revising the process for filling City Council vacancies); Charter Section 611 (revising requirements for scheduling City Council regular meetings); Charter Article 8 (increasing City Manager settlement authority limits for claims); and City Charter Section 1309 (allowing alternative project delivery methods for public works contracts); and

WHEREAS, the CRC held sixteen public meetings between February and December 2025, and prepared and approved a final report on December 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed and accepted the CRC’s final report on February 3, 2026, released the CRC, and directed staff to conduct polling on the CRC’s four recommended amendments; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2026, the City Council received the polling results and directed staff to return to Council will all materials necessary to place three measures to amend the Charter-- public works contracting, city manager settlement authority, and filling City Council vacancies-- on the November 2026 General Election Ballot.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT:

1. ELECTION ORDERED; BALLOT MEASURE. Pursuant to its right, power and authority under the California Constitution and the laws of the State of California, the City Council on its own motion hereby orders submitted to the voters at an election to be held in the City on November 3, 2026, a ballot measure designated by letter by the Santa Clara County (the "County") Registrar of Voters to appear on the ballot in substantially the following form:

CITY OF SUNNYVALE MEASURE __	
Shall Section 1314 of the City Charter be amended to authorize the City Council to adopt an ordinance establishing the maximum amount the City Manager may approve to settle legal claims against the City, instead of the current \$50,000 limit established by state law and unchanged since 1989, while retaining City Council approval authority for settlements exceeding the amount set by the ordinance?	YES
	NO

2. ADOPTION OF MEASURE. In the event a majority of the electors voting on the measure set forth above vote in favor thereof, the Charter of the City of Sunnyvale shall be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein, effective upon the date of filing.

3. NOTICE OF ELECTION. Notice of the time and place of holding the election is given, and the City Clerk hereby is authorized, instructed and directed to coordinate with the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters to procure and furnish any and all official ballots, notices, printed matter and all supplies, equipment and paraphernalia that may be necessary in order to properly and lawfully conduct the election.

4. CONSOLIDATION REQUEST. Pursuant to the requirements of Part 3 (Consolidation of Elections; §§10400 et seq.) of Division 10 of the Elections Code, the City Council hereby requests the governing body of any other political subdivision, or any officer otherwise authorized by law, to partially or completely consolidate such elections, and to further provide that, upon consolidation, the consolidated election shall be held and conducted, election officers appointed, voting precincts designated, ballots printed, polls opened and closed, ballots opened and returned, returns canvassed, and all other proceedings in connection with the election shall be regulated and done by any body or official authorized to perform such functions and canvass the returns of the elections; and that this City Council consents to such consolidation.

5. REQUEST FOR COUNTY SERVICES. Pursuant to Section 10002 of the California Elections Code, the City Council hereby requests the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara to permit the Registrar of Voters to render services to the City of Sunnyvale relating to the

conduct of Sunnyvale's General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Services shall be of the type normally performed by the Registrar of Voters in assisting the clerks of municipalities in the conduct of elections including, but not limited to, those certain services set forth in Section 4 hereof.

6. ELECTION COSTS. Subject to the approval of the Board of Supervisors of the foregoing requests, the City Clerk is hereby authorized to engage the services of the Registrar of Voters of the County of Santa Clara to aid in the conduct of the election. The City Director of Finance is authorized and directed to pay the costs of services, provided that no payment shall be made for services which the Registrar of Voters is otherwise required by law to perform.

7. BALLOT AND REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR MEASURE. Primary and rebuttal arguments for the measure may be filed consistent with Elections Code Section 9282, *et seq.*

8. BALLOT ARGUMENT [IN FAVOR OF] OR [AGAINST] MEASURE. The Council hereby selects the following course of action regarding arguments [in favor] or [against] the measure: *[Council to select one of the following concurrent with adoption of resolution]:*

- a. Authorizes the City Council as a body to submit a written argument [in favor] or [against] the measure, and in the event an argument is filed for the measure, a rebuttal argument.
- b. Authorizes [#] member(s) of the City Council to submit a written argument [in favor] or [against] the measure: [one or more name(s)] . At [Name(s)] discretion, the argument may also be signed by other members of the City Council, bona fide associations, or individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure. In the event that an argument is filed for the measure, [Name(s)] is also authorized to submit a rebuttal argument on behalf of the City Council, which, at [Name(s)] discretion, may also be signed by members of the City Council, bona fide associations, or individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure. Signatures on the rebuttal argument may be different from those who signed the primary argument.

OR

- c. Takes no action with regard to authorizing the Council, or member or members of the Council to submit a written argument [in favor] or [against] the measure; in which case the City Clerk shall select an argument against the measure in accordance with the priority order set forth in Elections Code section 9287.

9. IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS. The City Council directs the City Clerk to submit to the City Attorney a copy of the measure, and the City Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to

prepare an impartial analysis of the ballot measure showing the effect of the measure on the existing law and operation of the measure. The impartial analysis shall comply in all respects with the applicable provisions of California Elections Code section 9280.

10. DEADLINES FOR ARGUMENTS. The deadlines for arguments, rebuttals and impartial analysis are:

- a. Primary and Rebuttal Argument Deadlines. Primary and rebuttal arguments for the measure may be filed consistent with Elections Code Section 9282, et seq. **August 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. shall be the deadline for submission of arguments in favor of, and arguments against this measure on the ballot.** If more than one argument for and/or against is received, the City Clerk shall give priority to the direction from the Council set forth in section 9 of this resolution, or if none, the priorities established by Elections Code Section 9287 shall control. **The deadline for filing rebuttal arguments shall be August 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**
- b. Impartial Analysis Deadline. The impartial analysis for the measure may be filed consistent with Elections Code Section 9282, et seq. **August 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. shall be the deadline for submission of the impartial analysis.**
- c. Public Review Period. Pursuant to Section 9295 of the California Elections Code, there shall be a 10-day public review period for the impartial analysis, arguments submitted for or against the measure, and rebuttal arguments. These time periods are established as follows: (a) with respect to arguments submitted for or against the measure, commencing on August 12, 2026, and closing on August 21, 2026, and (b) with respect to the impartial analysis and rebuttal arguments, commencing on August 19, 2026, and closing on August 28, 2026.
- d. Printing of Arguments and Rebuttals. The City Clerk shall comply with all provisions of law establishing priority of arguments for printing and distribution to the voters, and shall take all necessary actions to cause the selected arguments to be printed and distributed to the voters. Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments. Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut.

11. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION. The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the County Registrar of Voters.

12. PUBLICATIONS. The City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election and synopsis of the City's general obligation bond measure in the time, form, and manner as required by law.

13. MISCELLANEOUS. In all particulars not cited in this resolution, the election shall be held and conducted as provided by law for holding municipal elections. This resolution shall apply

only to the election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

14. OTHER ACTIONS. Each of the City Manager, the Director of Finance and the City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to work with the appropriate officials of the County to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution, including preparing, signing, filing and/or revising any applicable documents, agreements, or other materials, and making requests related to ballot letters and order.

15. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are severable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Resolution irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

16. EXEMPTION FROM CEQA. The City Council finds, pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, that this resolution is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15320, 15378, and 15061(b)(3) because it is an organizational structure change and does not have the potential to result in either a direct or reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

17. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DRAFT 6/11/2026 _____

Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on June ____, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:
RECUSAL:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

DAVID CARNAHAN
City Clerk
(SEAL)

LARRY KLEIN
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REBECCA L. MOON
City Attorney

DRAFT _____

EXHIBIT A (RESOLUTION ____)

****Full Text Starts Here****

**Proposed Charter Amendment
(City Manager Settlement Authority)**
(additions shown in underline, deletions in ~~strikeout~~)

The citizens of the City of Sunnyvale do hereby enact the following amendment to the City Charter:

Section 1. Section 1314 of the City Charter (Claims Against City) is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 1314. Claims Against City.

(1) Except as otherwise required by the provisions of State law applicable to chartered cities, claims and demands against the City shall be presented and audited as prescribed by ordinance.

(2) The City Council shall prescribe by ordinance the monetary limits for the City Manager or Manager's designee to settle any claim or action against the City, or any City officer, employee, board or department thereof in an official capacity. No claim or action against the City shall be settled for more than the amount set forth in the ordinance without the prior approval of the City Council.

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