



Sunnyvale

Three Potential Charter Amendments: Council Vacancies, Public Works Contracting , & City Manager Settlement Authority

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June 16, 2026

Background & Process

1

Nov 2023 | Colleagues' Memo: Charter Review Committee (CRC) requested

2

Jun 2024 | Council created CRC; members appointed Dec 2024

3

Jun 2025 | Joint Council/CRC meeting — 5 items directed for study

4

Feb 2026 | CRC presented final report with 4 recommended amendments

5

May 2026 | Council received polling results; directed 3 measures to ballot

Three Proposed Charter Amendments

1



§ 606

Council Vacancies

Appointed Councilmembers serve until the next November general municipal election (even years)

2



§ 1309

Public Works Contracting

Authorizes alternative project delivery methods permitted under California law

3



§ 1314

City Manager Settlement Authority

Allows Council to set (by ordinance) the City Manager's claims settlement limit above \$50,000

Council Vacancies Ballot Question

AS IT WILL APPEAR TO VOTERS

Shall Section 606 of the City Charter be amended to provide that a person appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council shall serve until a successor is elected at the next General Municipal Election (held in November of even-numbered years), instead of at the earliest statewide election, thereby avoiding the cost of a separate election to fill the vacancy and the possibility of two City Council elections in the same year?

Public Works Contracting Ballot Question

AS IT WILL APPEAR TO VOTERS

Shall Section 1309 of the City Charter be amended to allow the City Council to adopt an ordinance giving the City more options for delivery of public works construction projects by authorizing use of any purchasing or contracting method allowed by California law to select contractors for such projects, and to make clarifying changes to the wording of Section 1309 that do not alter the meaning of the section?

City Manager Settlement Authority Ballot Question

AS IT WILL APPEAR TO VOTERS

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?

Ballot Arguments — Council Action Required

Option A

Full Council Submits Argument

City Council as a body submits a written argument in favor of (or against) each measure

Option B

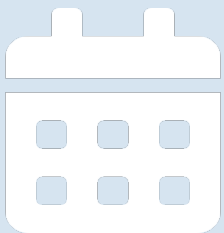
Designated Member(s)

Council authorizes named member(s) to submit & sign argument; they may also invite signatures from other Councilmembers, associations, or eligible voters

Option C

No Action

Council takes no action; City Clerk follows Elections Code § 9287(a) priorities to select which argument is printed in Sample Ballot



Key Deadlines

Arguments for/against: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m

Rebuttal arguments: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m

Staff Recommendation & Requested Actions

1



§ 606

Council Vacancies

Adopt Resolution

2



§ 1309

**Public Works
Contracting**

Adopt Resolution

3



§ 1314

**City Manager
Settlement Auth.**

Adopt Resolution

Each resolution:

Calls the Nov. 3, 2026 General Election, Requests County consolidation & election services, Directs City Attorney to prepare impartial analysis, and Sets ballot argument priorities

Council must also choose a Ballot Argument option (A, B, or C) for each of the three measures