



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

REPORTS AGENDA ITEM NO. K-4

DATE: January 21, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Michelle Ascencion, City Clerk, (805) 385-7805, michelle.ascencion@oxnard.org

SUBJECT: Certificate of Sufficiency of Signatures for Initiative Petition. (5/5/5)

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file the certificate of sufficiency for the initiative: “Term Limits for the Mayor and Councilmembers, Extension of Mayor’s Term from Two Years to Four Years Starting in 2022.”

BACKGROUND

On April 18, 2019, the City Clerk received Notices of Intent to Circulate Petition for five initiative petitions from the proponent, who provided proof that legal notices of the ballot titles and summaries provided by the City Attorney’s Office were published on May 14, 2019 as required by Elections Code Sections 9205 and 9206.

The proponent delivered the completed petitions to the City Clerk’s office on October 28, 2019, which were then forwarded to the Ventura County Elections Division for signature verification. The Elections Division did not initially perform a full review of all of the signatures submitted by the proponent. Instead, as authorized by state law, the Elections Division performed a random sampling for verification of signatures by reviewing 500 signatures submitted for each of the five initiatives. (Elections Code Section 9115.)

On December 10, 2019, the Elections Division finalized its count of the signatures and provided signature verification certificates for the five initiatives. Four initiatives met the requirements for sufficient signatures, however, the initiative titled “Terms Limits for the Mayor and Councilmembers; Extension of Mayor’s Term from Two Years to Four Years Starting in 2022” did not meet the requirement for the necessary number of signatures. This is because the sampled number of valid signatures was within 95 to 110 percent of the number of signatures of qualified voters needed to declare the petition sufficient. (Elections Code Section 9115(d)) Because of this, state law requires that all of the signatures submitted for this initiative be examined and verified to determine if there were enough valid signatures – 8,401 – for the initiative to qualify for the ballot.

On January 13, 2020, the Elections Division finalized its full count of the signatures and provided a signature verification certificate. The initiative outlined above met the requirement for sufficient signatures, and the City Clerk prepared the attached Certificate of Sufficiency that indicates the

required number of valid signatures has been submitted in favor of the proposed initiative. On another item on tonight's agenda, the City Council will consider whether to adopt the ordinance proposed by the initiative measure, submit the ordinance proposed by the initiative measure to the voters, or order a report regarding the impact of the proposed initiative measure. (Election Code Section 9215.)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This agenda item is a routine operational item or does not relate to the four strategic plans adopted by City Council on May 17, 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The costs for verification of petition signatures or conducting an election are unknown at this time.

COMMITTEE OUTCOME

This item did not originate in Committee.

Prepared by: Michelle Ascencion, City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2020.01.14 Certificate of Sufficiency
2. 2020.01.13 Signature Verification Certificate