CITY OF SANTA CLARA

VOTE HISTORY

Ballot Measures

Regarding

Charter Amendments

1952 to Present

Updated 2018

CITY OF SANTA CLARA BALLOT MEASURES
PERTAINING TO CHARTER AMENDMENTS
1952 to Present

November 4, 1952 (General Election)

Measure C: **Elect Police Chief and City Clerk**
(**Passed)** Yes - 3,538 No - 2,420
"Shall the Charter of the City be amended by adding a new section thereto to provide that the Chief of the Police Department and the City Clerk shall be elected officials instead of appointed officers? Said amendment also provides an election shall be held in 1953 to fill said office, and also in April 1955 and every four years thereafter."

June 5, 1956 (Primary Election)

Measure A: **Public School System**
(Passed) Yes - 4,938 No 1,292
"Shall Article XVI and Sections 1600 and 1601 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended to provide that the organization, government and administration of the public school system, the manner and mode of selection, the powers and duties of the Board of Education and its members shall be set forth in the Constitution, Education Code and applicable general laws of the State of California?"

November 4, 1958 (General Election) Charter Amendments

Measure A: **Change of Fiscal Year**
(Passed) Yes - 8,780 No - 2,554
"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended by amending Sections 1300, 1302, 1304 and 1306 thereof and adding Section 1306.5 thereto to provide that the fiscal year of said City shall commence on July 1st of each year and end on June 30th of the following year unless otherwise provided by ordinance; also providing the annual budget shall be submitted at least 35 days before

the beginning of each fiscal year and as determined by the Council; and that the annual budget shall be adopted on or before June 30th of each year and the tax levy fixed by August 15th of each year and providing for the adoption of an interim budget when a change in fiscal years requires the same?"

Measure B: **Classified Service**

(Passed) Yes - 6,450 No - 4,628

"Shall Section 1101 of the Charter be amended to provide for the division of the Civil Service of the City into the Classified and Unclassified Service and providing how said services shall be comprised and adding a provision that a department of the City may by ordinance be divided into divisions and the heads of such divisions shall be in the Unclassified Service?"

Measure C: **Supervision by City Engineer**

(Passed) Yes - 8,936 No - 2,571

"Shall Section 905 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended to provide that the City Engineer shall supervise and be responsible for all engineering work of the City, and that the head of the Department of Public Works and Utilities shall supervise and be responsible for the inspection, care, maintenance and repair of various public works and public utilities of said City?"

1965 Section 905.1 position of City Engineer and Section 905.2 Director of Public Works.

February 15, 1967

Prop A Amend Sec. 702 – Each Council Member shall receive $200 p/month and the Mayor an additional $100 p/month (PASSED ELECTION).

Prop A1 Amend Section 702 to keep compensation of Mayor and Council limited according to standards of other general law cities the size of Santa Clara (FAILED ELECTION).

Prop B Amend Section 1320 – set aside a separate utilities fund and establish a sinking fund of $2,500,000 in utilities account (PASSED ELECTION).

Prop C Amend Section 1004 to delete restriction against reimbursement of Board and Commission members for expenses (PASSED ELECTION). (Ordinance 1157, 2-15-67, Minutes 4-11-67, p. 166).

June 4, 1968 (Primary Election) Charter Amendments

Measure N: **Political Activities**

(Failed) Yes - 5,743 No - 12,703

"Shall Section 1106 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara entitled 'Political Activities Prohibited' be repealed?"

Measure O: **City Councilmen**

(Failed) Yes - 7,134 No - 12,060

"Shall Section 701 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended to allow the election of a person to hold office as a member of the City Council no matter the number of consecutive terms he has served, and to provide that no person shall be eligible for appointment to fill a vacancy in the Council until two years after any prior service by him as a member of the City Council?"

November 5, 1968 (General Election)

Measure D: **Elected Mayor**

(Passed) Yes - 13,484 No - 12,047

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed to make the City's Mayor elected from the City at large, to establish the provisions to nominate and elect such officer, to establish the compensation of the elective Mayor at $1,000 per month, to establish at four years the term of such Mayor and limit to two the number of successive terms such a Mayor might serve, to set forth the political position of the elective Mayor listing his specific duties and powers, to establish

qualifications for all elective offices of City and to establish a uniform procedure for filling vacancies in all elective offices of City?"

November 7, 1972 (General Election)

Measure B: **Eligibility for Candidate for City Offices**

(Passed) Yes - 17,717 No - 12,054

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed as follows: to expressly provide that no person shall be eligible to be a candidate for or to take or hold any elective office of the City unless he has resided in the City for the year next preceding the date of his election or appointment to such office; by deleting from the Charter Section 1106 which purports to prohibit certain political activities by persons holding positions in the classified service or on an eligible list; by changing all references in Section 1200 of the Charter from 'State Employees' Retirement Act' and 'State Employees' Retirement System' to 'Public Employees' Retirement Law' and 'Public Employees' Retirement System,' respectively; and by deleting Articles XV and XVI of the Charter which articles contain provisions with reference to Police Court and School Department, respectively?"

Measure C: **City Clerk; Powers, Duties**

(Failed) Yes - 14,057 No - 14,368

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed as follows: by deleting the provision from Section 903 of the Charter that 'The City Council may, in its discretion, appoint any other officer or employee of the City as City Clerk and grant such person additional compensation for the performance of such duties.'; by changing the title of Section 1101 from 'Classified Service' to 'Classified and Unclassified Service', by changing the numbering and sequence of the offices and positions listed as comprising the unclassified service and by deleting the specific reference to City Clerk and Chief of the Police Department from such listing."

Measure D: **Eligibility of Councilmen and Mayor**

(Failed) Yes - 7,525 No - 22,175

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed by removing the present restrictions on the eligibility of Councilmen, including the Mayor, to serve more than two consecutive elective terms as such, respectively?"

Measure E: **Sale City Owned Property**

(Failed) Yes - 8,510 No - 19,948

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed as follows: that Section 714 of the Charter shall provide that City owned property up to and include $2,500 in value may be sold without first publishing notice of intention to sell in an official newspaper once a week for two weeks preceding the date of such sale; that with respect to contracts on public works the formal advertised procurement procedures of Section 1310 of the Charter would be changed to contracts involving an expenditure of more than $3,500; that all other provisions of the Sections 714 and 1310 shall remain in full force and effect, unchanged?"

Measure F: **Terms of Elected Candidates**

(Passed) Yes - 15,079 No - 12,031

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed to provide generally that all candidates hereafter elected at any general municipal elections prescribed in the Charter, shall serve for a term of four years, commencing forthwith on completion of the canvass of ballots of such election, and continuing until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualified, with the exception that candidates so elected for other than an unexpired term in such a municipal election held in 1973 and 1975 shall serve for a term commencing on the first Monday in May of such years following each of such elections and ending in the fourth year thereafter on completion of the canvass of ballots of the general municipal election held in such year, and at the time their respective successors have been elected and qualified?"

Measure G: **Council Seats Numbered**

(**Passed)** Yes - 17,650 No - 9,229

"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed by providing for the designation of Council seats, providing a procedure for the election and filling of the separate seats, prohibiting a person from being a candidate for more than one such seat and restricting certain incumbent members of the City Council from being a candidate for any numbered Council seat other than the one which he holds?"

Measure H: **Compensation of Council Members**

(Failed) Yes - 11,949 No - 16,725

"Shall Section 700 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed to provide that each member of the City Council shall receive as compensation the sum of three hundred dollars ($300) per month?"

April 5, 1977 Election Primary

Proposition A: **Change Election Date**

(Passed) YES - 4,614 NO - 4,084
"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended by changing the date of holding the City's general municipal elections?"

Proposition B: **City Council Compensation**
(Failed) YES - 1,084 NO - 7,712
"Shall Section 702 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended to provide a $400 per month compensation for each member of the City Council other than the Mayor, for a $1,667 per month compensation for the Mayor?"

Proposition C: **City Council Medical/Dental Benefits**
(Failed) YES - 1,395 NO - 7,292
"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed to provide the same medical and dental benefits for each member of the City Council including the Mayor as is provided from time to time to the holders of the City elective offices of City Clerk and/or Chief of Police?"

Proposition D: **City Property Disposition Under $5,000 Value**
(Failed) YES - 1,416 NO - 6,983
"Shall Section 714 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be revised as proposed to provide alternate procedures for the City Council to exercise the City Council's power to lease, sell, or convey City property?"

Proposition 1: **Neighborhood Senior Citizen Housing**
(Advisory Vote Only)
(Passed) YES - 4,787 NO - 3,660
"Shall it be recommended that the City of Santa Clara shall comply with the Housing and Development Act of 1974 and allow to be completed by 1979 within the boundaries of the City of Santa Clara 195 senior citizen housing units where these units will be developed within any geographical area of the City of Santa Clara with an attempt to encourage the distribution of these housing units throughout the City's neighborhoods?"

Proposition 2: **High Rise Housing**

(Advisory Vote Only
(Failed) YES - 3,820 NO - 4,816
"Shall it be recommended that the City of Santa Clara approve the concept of a federally funded retirement facility with rent supplements in the University Redevelopment Project, which facility would be constructed at no cost to the City, would be a nine-story high-rise of approximately the height of the existing Bank of America Building in the Project Area, and which would include approximately 176 apartment units, a dining room, leisure time areas, the area of the ground floor for commercial use and adjacent parking, the construction of which facility would help satisfy the commitments of the City of Santa Clara to provide housing for lower and middle income elderly?"

November 6, 1979 (Special Statewide Election)

Proposition D: **Amend Election Date**
(Passed) Yes - 7,500 No - 495
"Shall the City of Santa Clara's general municipal elections be held on the same dates as the regular election of the Santa Clara Unified School District?"

November 4, 1980 (General Election) Charter Amendment

Measure N: **Utility Tax Transfer**
(Passed) Yes - 16,205 No - 10,047
"Shall Section 1320 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended to delete therefrom the authority of the City to transfer to its General Fund the balance of any monies remaining in excess of the Charter prescribed sinking fund for replacement of utilities property?"

November 3, 1981 (Special Election)

Measure E: **Revenue Bonds**

(Passed) Yes - 4,792 No - 4,070
"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be changed to provide that the City may issue revenue bonds, payable solely from the revenues of the electrical works without tax liability, to finance the production, transmission, distribution and non-nuclear generation of electric energy without requiring an election?"

Measure F: **Council Salaries**
(Failed) Yes - 2,459 No - 6,327
"Shall the Charter of the City of Santa Clara be amended to provide a $400 per month compensation for each member of the City Council other than the Mayor, and for a $1500 per month compensation for the Mayor?"

November 4, 1986 (General Election)

Measure K: **Charter Amendment-Council Compensation**
(Failed) Yes - 8,239 No - 12,863
"Amends Section 702 of the Santa Clara Charter to provide $1,000 per month compensation for each member of the City Council other than Mayor, and $1,800 per month compensation for the Mayor."

Measure L: **Charter Amendment-Council Compensation**
(Failed) Yes - 6,122 No - 14,287
"Amends Section 702 of the Santa Clara Charter, as indicated in the text of the amendment, to provide each member of the City Council with compensation comparable to the maximum compensation authorized by state law for the respective council counterpart in the general law city."

June 7, 1994 (Special Municipal Election)

Measure B: **Chief of Police Appointment.**
(Failed) Yes - 4,370 No - 10,079
Amends the Charter of the City of Santa Clara to provide for the appointment of the Chief of Police by the City Manager rather than selection of the Chief of Police by the current election process.

March 7, 2000 (Special Municipal Election)

Measure H: **Charter Amendment – Obsolete Language**
(Passed) Yes - 16,047 No - 2,880
Amends the Charter by eliminating obsolete, unnecessary and unclear language, making the Charter gender neutral, making the Charter consistent with current legal requirements, and making minor revisions to make the Charter consistent with modern city charters.

Measure I: **Charter Amendment – Chief of Police Requirements**
(Passed) Yes – 16,558 No – 2,244
Amends the Charter to require that candidates for the elected office of Chief of Police meet the minimum eligibility and qualification requirements imposed by State law upon candidates for the office of Sheriff.

Measure J: **Charter Amendment – Council and Mayor Compensation**
(Passed) Yes – 10,791 No – 7,924
Amends the Charter to provide for an increase in City Council Member compensation to $600 per month with annual increases for the Mayor and City Council members equal to the consumer price index, but not to exceed 5% in any year.

Measure K: **Charter Amendment – Disposal of City-owned Real Property**
(Failed) Yes – 6,819 No – 11,907
Amends the Charter to permit the disposal of City-owned real property of $50,000 or less in value without publishing in an official newspaper a notice of intention to sell real property.

Measure L: **Charter Amendment – Award of Public Works Contracts**

of up to $50,000 in value
(Failed) Yes – 7,332 No – 11,269
Amends the Charter to permit the award of public works contracts of up to $50,000 in value, with an annual increase consistent with the consumer price index, without publishing in an official newspaper a notice of intent to award a public works contract, provided that the City Council first establishes by ordinance a competitive bid procedure for such contracts.

November 7, 2006 (General Municipal Election)

Measure B: **Binding arbitration for certain personnel of the Police and Fire Departments**
Shall a section be added to the City Charter which would require binding arbitration before a three person arbitration panel of all unresolved disputes between the City and certain personnel of the Police and Fire Departments on all matters relating to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of City employment, including the interpretation and application of any existing labor agreements?
(Failed) Yes – 9,853 No – 12,612

November 8, 2016 (Special Municipal Election)

Measure O: Setting of Salaries for Mayor and City Council. Shall Section 702 of the Santa Clara City Charter be amended to set the salaries of the Mayor at $2500 per month and City Council at $2000 per month, and to create a Salary Setting Commission to review and adjust those salaries every two years?
(Passed) Yes – 25,640 No – 10,393

Measure P: Mayor and City Council Term Limits. Shall Sections 701 and 704.1 of the Santa Clara City Charter be amended to limit the Mayor and members of the City Council to no more than two full terms for each office, and to define a partial term in excess of two years as a full term?
(Passed) Yes – 29,495 No – 6,908

Measure Q: Filling Vacancies in City Elected Offices. Shall Section 703 of the Santa Clara City Charter be

amended to provide that vacancies in any elective office of the City be filled by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the City Council and to require that persons appointed to fill vacancies occurring in the first half of a term of office shall hold office until the next general municipal election?
(Passed) Yes – 28,156 No – 6,855

Measure R: Protection of Parkland and Open Space. Shall Section 714.1 of the Santa Clara City Charter be added to provide that no City owned land used for park or recreational purposes, including the Ulistac Natural Area and the Santa Clara Soccer Park, shall be sold or disposed of by the City without being authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and that development upon such property shall be subject to referendum?
(Passed) Yes – 33,552 No – 3,890

June 5, 2018 (Special Municipal Election)

Measure A: DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS/VOTING METHOD:
Shall the City Charter be amended to establish two districts starting in 2020 to be represented by three Council Members each; and , when available, use ranked choice voting to allow voters to select candidates in order of choice to determine the winners of elections of all city elected officers?
(Failed) Yes – 9,169 No – 10,023

November 6, 2018 (Municipal Election)

Measure N: ADVISORY VOTE: BY DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Shall the City of Santa Clara engage the voters in a public process to draft a Charter Amendment ballot measure to elect its Council Members, other than the Mayor, by district?
(Passed) Yes – 21,902 No – 9,208

March 3, 2020 (Special Municipal Election)

Measure C: DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS:
Shall the City Charter be amended to elect City Council Members by district, excepting the Mayor, as follows: for the 2020 election to establish six districts for the election of one Council Member to represent each district; and, beginning in 2022 to establish three districts for the election of two Council members to represent each district; and to require an independent redistricting committee?
(Failed) Yes – 9,731 No – 15,458

June 7, 2022 (Special Election)

Measure D: DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS:
Shall the City Charter be amended to elect city council members by district, excepting the mayor, to establish six districts for the election of one council member to represent each district; and to establish a 30-day residency requirement for all elected officials?
(Passed) Yes – 14,172 No – 3,835

November 8, 2022 (Municipal Election)

Measure G: CITY OF SANTA CLARA NO TAX INCREASE/SERVICES PROTECTION MEASURE:
To protect essential services without raising taxes, such as 9-1-1 response; police patrols, fire protection; street/storm drain repair, and maintaining reliable local utility service; shall Section 1320 of the Charter continuing the annual budget transfer of funds from City utilities to the general fund at 5% of gross receipts until ended by voters, generating approximately $30,000,000 annually, with independent audits, all funds local, be reaffirmed/adopted?
(Passed) Yes – 24,643 No – 4,629

March 5, 2024 (Special Election)

Measure A: PROPOSES TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE POSITIOON OF CITY CLERK FROM A POSITION ELECTED EVERY FOUR YEARS TO A POSITION APPOINTED BY THE CITY MANAGER, SIMILAR TO OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Shall an amendment to the City Charter providing that the City Clerk position be appointed by the City Manager be adopted?

(Failed) Yes – 6,580 No – 13,735

March 5, 2024 (Special Election)

Measure B: PROPOSES TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE POSITIOON OF CHIEF OF POLICE FROM A POSITION ELECTED EVERY FOUR YEARS TO A POSITION APPOINTED BY THE CITY MANAGER, SIMILAR TO OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Shall an amendment to the City Charter providing that the Chief of Police position be appointed by the City Manager be adopted?

(Failed) Yes – 5,680 No – 14,887