

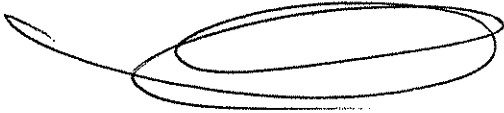
Karen Kalfayan
City Clerk
Room 360, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Ballot Simplification Committee hereby submits its summary for five measures appearing on the March 3, 2009, City Primary ballot. The Committee met on Thursday, November 13, 2008 and Friday, November 14, 2008. The Committee has prepared and submits ballot digests for:

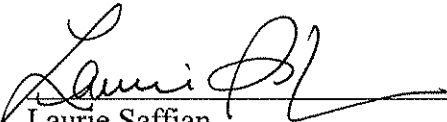
- Disabled Children Survivor Benefit of the Fire and Police Pension Plan
- Survivor Benefit Purchase Program for Retirees of the Fire and Police Pension Plan
- Appointment of an Independent Assessor by the Fire Commission
- Economic Incentives for Business Development
- Solar Energy and Job Creation Program



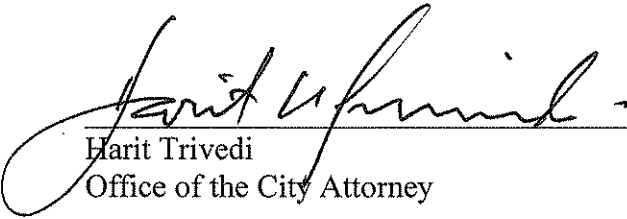
John Pérez,
Appointed by the Council President



Larry Fondation
Appointed by the Council President



Laurie Saffian
Appointed by the Mayor



Harit Trivedi
Office of the City Attorney



John Wickham
Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst

TITLE:

DISABLED CHILDREN SURVIVOR BENEFIT OF THE FIRE AND POLICE PENSION PLAN

THE ISSUE:

Shall the Charter be amended to allow disabled children of deceased members of the Fire and Police Pension Plan to marry or be adopted without losing their Dependent Child benefits and to provide additional options for the payment of benefits belonging to disabled children of deceased members that do not increase the amount of the benefits being paid?

THE SITUATION:

The Fire and Police Pension Plan provides survivor benefits to Dependent Children. Dependent Children are defined as a deceased member's children who are unmarried and became disabled before the age of 21. Currently, Dependent Children survivor benefits terminate if they marry or are adopted.

The Plan pays Dependent Children benefits directly to their guardian or conservator. The Plan does not allow benefits to be paid directly to Dependent Children Special Needs Trusts.

The Plan does not state that benefits may be paid directly to Dependent Children who are adults; however this is currently done to comply with State law.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure allows survivor benefits to be paid:

- (1) to Dependent Children who marry or are adopted;
- (2) to Dependent Children Special Needs Trusts; and
- (3) directly to Dependent Children who are adults.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to: (1) allow disabled children of deceased members of the Fire and Police Pension Plan to marry or be adopted without losing their Dependent Children benefits; and (2) provide additional options for the payment of benefits belonging to Dependent Children.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to: (1) allow disabled children of deceased members of the Fire and Police Pension Plan to marry or be adopted without losing their Dependent Children benefits; and (2) provide additional options for the payment of benefits belonging to Dependent Children.

TITLE:

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PURCHASE PROGRAM FOR RETIREES OF THE FIRE AND POLICE PENSION PLAN

THE ISSUE:

Shall the Charter be amended to allow retired members of the Fire and Police Pension Plan to purchase, at their own expense, a survivor benefit for a spouse or domestic partner?

THE SITUATION:

Currently, the Fire and Police Pension Plan provides a survivor benefit to a spouse or domestic partner of a retired member who married or formed a domestic partnership before retirement. The Pension Plan does not provide a survivor benefit to a spouse or domestic partner when a retired member marries or forms a domestic partnership after retirement.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would allow a retired member to purchase a survivor benefit when a retired member marries or forms a domestic partnership after retirement. If the retired member chooses to provide this benefit, it would be paid for through a reduction in the retired member's pension.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to allow retired members of the Fire and Police Pension Plan to purchase, at their own expense, a survivor benefit for a spouse or domestic partner when the marriage or domestic partnership occurs after retirement.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to allow retired members of the Fire and Police Pension Plan to purchase, at their own expense, a survivor benefit for a spouse or domestic partner when the marriage or domestic partnership occurs after retirement.

TITLE:

FIRE DEPARTMENT INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR

THE ISSUE:

Shall the Charter be amended to empower the Board of Fire Commissioners to appoint and remove an Independent Assessor, exempt from Civil Service, who shall be responsible for auditing, assessing and reviewing the Fire Department's handling of complaints against sworn and civilian employees?

THE SITUATION:

The City Charter provides that the Fire Department is under the control of the Fire Commission. The Fire Commission does not currently have an Independent Assessor to audit, assess, or review the activities of the Department, including its handling of complaints of misconduct against firefighters and civilian employees. The Charter currently does not give the Fire Commission the authority to appoint and remove an Independent Assessor.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would:

- (1) Establish the position of Independent Assessor, exempt from Civil Service, who reports to the Fire Commission;
- (2) Provide the Independent Assessor the responsibility for auditing, assessing and reviewing the activities of the Fire Department, including handling of complaints of misconduct against firefighters and civilian employees, under rules established by the Fire Commission; and
- (3) Authorize the Fire Commission to appoint and remove the Independent Assessor.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to establish the position of Independent Assessor and authorize the Fire Commission to appoint and remove the Independent Assessor.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to establish the position of Independent Assessor and authorize the Fire Commission to appoint and remove the Independent Assessor.

TITLE:

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

THE ISSUE:

Should the Los Angeles City Charter be amended to clearly express the authority of the City of Los Angeles to provide incentives to businesses that will encourage economic development and provide public benefits to the City of Los Angeles and its residents?

THE SITUATION:

The City Charter does not clearly state that the City can provide economic incentives to keep businesses in the City or to attract new businesses to the City.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would clearly state in the Charter that the City may provide economic incentives to attract new businesses to the City or to keep current businesses in the City. Incentives must result in clearly identifiable public benefits, must follow applicable law, and must be approved by the Mayor and Council.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to clearly state in the Charter that the City may provide economic incentives to retain or attract businesses to the City.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to clearly state in the Charter that the City may provide economic incentives to retain or attract businesses to the City.

TITLE:

SOLAR ENERGY AND JOB CREATION PROGRAM.

THE ISSUE:

Should the Charter and Administrative Code be amended to authorize creation of a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power program to require production of at least 400 megawatts of solar power energy by 2014; provide for voluntary participation in the program by commercial, industrial, and institutional customers to allow installation of solar power systems on the property which would be operated and maintained by the Department in exchange for potential incentives; establish a jobs program and training academy to meet program participation demand; provide contract bid preferences for local solar power equipment manufacturers; require quarterly oversight committee reports and annual City Controller audit; and utilize a variety of funding mechanism?

THE SITUATION:

The City of Los Angeles has a goal to generate at least 20% of its electricity from renewable sources, including solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and others.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would require the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to develop a solar plan that includes:

- Timelines/benchmarks for the phased implementation of a solar program that produces 400 megawatts of electric generation by 2014;
- An initial financing plan for program start-up;
- Timeline to develop and implement a new job training program for DWP employees and others to install solar equipment;
- Outreach to educate potential participants about the availability of the program; and
- Incentives, lease payments, rebates and other assistance for program participants.

Solar units may be constructed on public or private property. Participation by private property owners shall be voluntary. Power generated by this program shall go directly to DWP's electrical system.

The City Council must approve the plan in order for the plan to go into effect. Upon City Council approval, DWP shall submit to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and to the City Council a detailed financial analysis, including any potential rate impact. The DWP shall install and operate all solar power units constructed under this program.

Oversight committees will monitor the implementation of this program.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to require DWP to establish and implement the Solar Energy and Job Creation Program.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want DWP to establish and implement the Solar Energy and Job Creation Program.