

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO**  
**Charter Review Committee**  
**Town Hall Meetings**  
**Community Input**

*Monday, October 5, 2009*

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*Questions (Q) /Answers (A) /Concerns (C)/Information (I)*

- I: Clarified that Committee is making recommendation to Council. The majority of the Council can decide to put an additional initiative on the ballot, do nothing, etc.
- Q: In Strong Mayor Initiative (SMI) who chairs the Council?
- A: A Council President would be selected by the Council to Chair the Council.
- Q: Question about 9<sup>th</sup> Council District being created w/Strong Mayor
- A: May be changes to Council Districts due to census, but, yes, 9<sup>th</sup> District would be created w/Strong Mayor (legal point of contention is timing)
- I: Redistricting will need to occur prior to election of 9<sup>th</sup> Council District Member. From 2010 to some time in 2012 Mayor would fill the 9<sup>th</sup> Council District seat until redistricting is complete and 9<sup>th</sup> Council member is elected.
- Q: What does veto mean?
- A: Veto means Mayor can say “no” to a Council action. Then 2/3 of Council can vote to override the veto (similar to federal government)
- C: Agree that City Manager should not be appointed by Mayor and should be the same as other Charter Officers
- C: Don’t change what is not broken.
- Q: Is there anything in the Strong Mayor Initiative (SMI) that requires recruitment of a professional for City Manager?
- A: No but the current charter does not require that either.
- C: What is “cause” for removal of City Manager under Committee recommendation? Would that include be non-responsive to the community? Right now, if I have issues with the City Manager I contact my Council member and get it corrected.
- C: Current City Council has too much power and is ineffective. Need a strong Mayor to get things done.

- C: Consider an alternative to current Committee recommendation – City Council would recommend candidate/s for City Manager and the Mayor would select/appoint the City Manager .
- C: Some of the policy decisions made by the City Manager and their implementation caused problems for poor families (e.g. identifying five Charter Schools in SCUSD)
- Q: Do changes in Mayor under the Strong Mayor Initiative result in changes in key city positions when a new mayor takes office impacting continuity of running the City?
- A: Generally yes.
- C: Clarify that under the SMI the Mayor can veto Council changes to Mayor's Proposed Budget and then Council would need to have 2/3 vote to override.
- C: Term limits are not needed those currently elected represent the majority
- C: Some local politicians use Council/Mayor positions as a stepping stone to higher office. Having local term limits would encourage more of that as they look for next position to hold.
- C: Term limits can work for or against. A lame duck office holder has nothing to lose in not acting on behalf of the community.
- C: There should be a comparison of costs for implementing SMI and Committee recommendations. Voter should know what the cost impacts are.
- C: How are you going to explain impacts and differences to voters in simple terms?
- C: If there is going to be a major change then community should have an opportunity to be part of the process and provide input on developing a proposal.
- C: The current SMI is based on current Mayor and does not transcend personality.
- C: Recommend that an alternative measure be placed on the ballot.

*Questions (Q) /Answers (A) /Concerns (C)/Information (I)*

- C: How long would it take for the redistricting if the strong mayor initiative passes?
- A: Redistricting will occur as part of the census process. If the SMI passes, then a ninth district will be included in the redistricting. The process will likely take until 2012 to complete.
- C: Is Sacramento a small town? is there a negative connotation?
- C: Do not have a structure that supports special interests.
- C: Term limits are not working.
- C: Have a transition implementation with new election. Don't tie to personality.