



## 2024 CHARTER AMENDMENT “REFERENDUM” FACT SHEET

### BACKGROUND:

[City of Venice Ordinance No. 2024-08](#) proposes an amendment to the City of Venice Charter (the “Charter”). The proposed amendment functions to realign the City’s current annual election cycle to an even-year election cycle coinciding with that of county, state, and federal level elections eliminating the odd-numbered year elections and their associated costs of approximately \$50,000 each. The proposed amendment must be adopted by a majority of the registered voters of the City voting in a referendum to become effective. This fact sheet lists the proposed charter amendment referendum question as it will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot and provides additional explanatory text, where appropriate, for voters to consider.

### REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION:

ALIGN CITY ELECTION DATES TO COUNTY/STATE/FEDERAL ELECTIONS, COINCIDING OFFICE TERMS, SHORTENING TERM LIMITS

Provides for the staggered election of councilmembers and mayor in November of even-numbered years coinciding with county, state, and federal elections; provides the elected term of office for the mayor and councilmembers shall be four years instead of three years; provides no person shall serve for more than two consecutive elected terms instead of three consecutive elected terms; authorizes two-year terms and addresses incumbent terms for implementation purposes.

Shall the above-described amendment be adopted?

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO VOTE “YES” FOR THE REFERENDUM QUESTION?

The following will occur if a majority of voters vote “Yes”:

- The Charter Amendment will take effect immediately upon adoption in that odd-year elections and associated costs will be eliminated, and only even-year elections will be held going forward as indicated:
  - The general election of the city will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year instead of every year.
- The elected term for mayor and councilmembers will be four-year terms instead of three-year terms.
  - Councilmember staggering of election terms would change to three councilmembers running every other year (even-numbered years) instead of two councilmembers running every year (even and odd years).
- Term limits will be reduced to allow two consecutive elected terms (8 years) instead of three consecutive elected terms (9 years).

To transition to an even-numbered year election cycle, the following will be applied:

- An individual in office as of Nov. 5, 2024, will only be eligible to appear on a future ballot for re-election if by the end of their current term of office the individual has not served 8 consecutive years.
- The individuals elected to seats 3 and 4 in November 2024 for a three-year term will automatically be extended one year to four-year terms.
- The mayor along with seats 5 and 6 elected in November 2022 for three-year terms will automatically be extended one year to four-year terms expiring in 2026.
- In the 2026 election cycle, the mayor and councilmember seat 6 will be elected for a single two-year term to transition the staggering of terms and then four-year terms thereafter beginning in 2028.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO VOTE “NO” FOR THE REFERENDUM QUESTION?

The following will occur if a majority of voters vote “No”:

- The Charter Amendment will not take effect and elections will continue to be held each year with associated costs of odd year elections:
  - The general election of the city will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each year.
- The elected term for mayor and councilmembers will remain at three-year terms.
  - Councilmember staggering of election terms will remain two councilmembers running every year (even and odd years).
- Term limits will remain at three consecutive elected terms (9 years).