



E

City of Laguna Beach, An Ordinance of the People of the City of Laguna Beach, California, Adding Section 2.04.080 to the Laguna Beach Municipal Code to Establish Term Limits for City Council Members

Shall an ordinance to amend the Laguna Beach Municipal Code by enacting a limit on consecutive years of service by members of the City Council to a combined total of two four-year consecutive terms, with the ability to again serve as a Councilmember after a lapse of service of at least two years, be adopted?

What your vote means

YES	NO
A “yes” vote on Measure E will approve the establishment of City Council term limits as described above.	A “no” vote on Measure E will not approve the establishment of City Council term limits as described above and the City of Laguna Beach will continue not to have City Council term limits.

For and against

FOR	AGAINST
Michael E. Morris Treasurer, Nimblegov PAC George Weiss Former City Councilman Andy Coyle Jean Arovas Physician Assistant	Chris Quilter Rebecca Visconti Joe Hanauer Joy Dittberner S. Cody Engle



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Section
11

Full Text of Measure E City of Laguna Beach

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, ADDING A NEW SECTION 2.04.080 TO CHAPTER 2.04 TO TITLE 2 OF THE LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO TERM LIMITS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING ON THE MEASURE.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code.

Pursuant to California Government Code section 36502(b) and subject to the approval of a majority of the voters of the City of Laguna Beach, the Laguna Beach Municipal Code is hereby amended to add a new Section 2.04.080, Term Limits, to Chapter 2.04, City Council, to Title 2, Administrative and Personnel, to read as follows:

“§ 2.04.080. Term Limits.

(A) No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of the City Council for more than two consecutive four-year terms following the adoption of this ordinance commencing with the, and including those persons elected to serve as a member of the City Council in the November 3, 2026 election. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any person who is appointed by the City Council or elected to fill a vacant office of a member of the City Council for the balance of a four-year term, but serves less than two years in that office, shall be eligible for nomination and election for two consecutive four-year terms thereafter.

(B) Any person who shall be ineligible for election, appointment, or further services as a member of the City Council due to the limitation set forth in subsection A of this section, shall again be eligible for election or appointment as a member of the City Council, and a new period of consecutive years of service shall commence, provided that at least two years has or will have elapsed between the most recent date of such person's prior service as a member of the City Council and the effective date of such person's most recent election or appointment to such office.

(C) The phrase “two years” as used in subsection B of this section shall mean the period between the date of the declaration of the results of any general municipal election held in November of an even numbered year and the date of the declaration of the results of any general municipal election held in November of any immediately preceding or immediately succeeding even-numbered year, even though such period may be more or less than an actual period of two years.”

Section 2. Voter Approval, Prospective Application, and Effective Date

Except as provided in section 3 below, this ordinance shall take effect if approved by a majority of the eligible voters of the City of Laguna Beach voting on the measure in the general municipal election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and shall only apply prospectively beginning with the terms of members of the City Council that start after the November 3, 2026 election. If so approved, this ordinance becomes effective 10 days after the City Council declares and certifies the results of the election by resolution.

Section 3. Severability

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable. The People hereby declare that it would have adopted this ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

Section 4. Publication

The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this ordinance at least once, within 15 days after the election results are certified, in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City of Laguna Beach.

Section 5. Attestation of Ordinance

The Mayor is hereby authorized to attest to the adoption of this Ordinance by the People voting thereon on November 3, 2026, by signing where indicated below.



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Impartial Analysis
City of Laguna Beach
Measure E

The City of Laguna Beach is governed by a five-member City Council whose members are elected by Laguna Beach voters to four-year terms of office. Currently, the City of Laguna Beach does not have term limits on elected City Council office.

Measure E was placed on the ballot by a citizens' initiative petition. On December 9, 2025, the City Council voted to place Measure E on the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election, in compliance with the California Elections Code.

If approved by a majority of voters (50% +1), Measure E would add Section 2.04.080 to the Laguna Beach Municipal Code to establish term limits on City Council service. Measure E would provide that no person may serve more than two consecutive four-year terms as a Council Member. In the event a person is appointed or elected to fill a vacant City Council office for less than two years of a four-year term, that individual will be eligible to serve two consecutive four-year terms thereafter.

Any person whose Council Member service has reached the term limits described above is not eligible to serve again as a Council Member, whether by appointment or election, for two years following the conclusion of that person's last term of office as a Council Member. The term "two years" is defined, for purposes of re-eligibility for office, to mean the period between the date of the declaration of the results of any general municipal election held in November of an even-numbered year and the date of declaration of the results of any general municipal election in November of any immediately preceding or immediately succeeding even-numbered year. After this two-year period, a person may serve another two consecutive four-year City Council terms, as described above.

Measure E will only apply to City Council terms starting as of the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election. State law does not allow local term limits to apply retroactively to prior terms. Therefore, any four-year term for any City Council office elected at the November 5, 2024 General Municipal Election or at any prior election, or any prior-appointed or prior-elected partial City Council terms, will not count toward these term limits.

A "yes" vote on Measure E will approve the establishment of City Council term limits as described above.

A "no" vote on Measure E will not approve the establishment of City Council term limits as described above and the City of Laguna Beach will continue not to have City Council term limits.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure E. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the Elections Official's office at (949) 497-0309 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

/s/ Megan Garibaldi, City Attorney



Ballot Measures-E

Argument in Favor of Measure E

82% of OC cities have term limits for their City Councils. As it turns 100 years old, the City of Laguna Beach is one of the few that doesn't.

The power of incumbency is immense. It often results in entrenched politicians who become less responsive to voters and more beholden to special interests.

Running against an incumbent is a big deterrent for newcomers, as incumbents have the advantage of inside information, free media exposure, staff support, name recognition, and an established political base with donors in place. The pattern is indisputable; new comers have to spend significantly more than incumbents in order to win a seat. Term limits helps level the playing field.

Term limits ensure that no one person can amass enough political power to effectively control the city. Term limits also enliven our democracy by bringing more people with fresh new ideas onto council.

Term Limits would add a common sense restriction on who can stand for election to council, similar to requirements of minimum age, citizenship, and city residence.

If passed, starting after the 2026 general election, council members will be limited to two sequential four-year council terms. They would be eligible to run again after a two-year hiatus. Councilpersons who term-out needn't disappear; they can continue contributing to civic life through advisory roles, appointment to commissions or boards, or other forms of public service before becoming eligible to run again for council.

With Laguna's staggered election cycle, there will always be at least two members remaining on the Council to help ensure there's a continuity of experience and governance.

We urge you to vote YES for this common sense tool to reduce the power of special interests, broaden the pool of candidates, and revitalize Laguna's governance.

s/ Michael E. Morris
Treasurer, Nimblegov PAC

s/ George Weiss
Former City Councilman

s/ Andy Coyle

s/ Jean Arovas
Physician Assistant

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure E

Laguna Beach works. Our coastline is protected, our neighborhoods are walkable, and our community events still feel like community events. People choose to live here because this city is governed well and held accountable. Laguna voters turn out at over 80%, one of the highest rates in Orange County.

Now a small group wants to change the rules, not because the system is broken, but because they keep losing under it. The same people who pushed a rejected ballot measure in 2022 and failed to win a council seat in 2024 are back, this time asking voters to surrender the right to reelect the leaders they trust.

The record does not support their case. Since 1992, 76% of Laguna Beach council members served two four-year terms or less. Only two have ever served four consecutive terms. Today, three of five council members are serving their first terms. In our last election, a fourth-term incumbent won more votes than any other candidate on the ballot, because the voters chose him.

A UC San Diego study of all 50 states found that when experienced officials are forced out by a schedule, power does not shift to the public. It shifts to lobbyists, unelected staff, and special interests who never have to face a ballot.

Elections are the real accountability tool. Laguna uses them exceptionally well.

What we have is working. Do not let a small group repeatedly rejected by voters rewrite the rules for the rest of us.

s/ Chris Quilter

s/ Rebecca Visconti

s/ Joe Hanauer

s/ Joy Dittberner

s/ S. Cody Engle



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Argument Against Measure E

Does Laguna need term limits? No. Will we be better off with them? No!

Is there a need? The record shows Laguna voters are among the most civically engaged in Orange County, with turnout typically over 80%. Council members win elections because they're good and constituents trust them— not because the system is broken. Since 1992, 76% of city council members served two terms or fewer; four served three consecutive terms, and just two served four. In our last election, a councilmember won his fourth term with more votes than any other candidate. Laguna Beach city council has 3 fresh faces serving their first term, two elected in 2022 and one in 2024. In the last four elections, four incumbents were voted out, losing their seats to new council members. The system already turns over.

Will Laguna be better off with limits? No! They don't create a "wider range" of candidates — they force out experienced officials on an arbitrary clock. That hands power to unelected staff and insiders while newly elected members are still learning the ropes. Laguna faces complex, long-term issues that benefit from experienced leadership. Equating tenure with corruption insults the officials and the voters who chose them.

Term limits don't add accountability — elections are the real accountability mechanism. Voters should be able to choose who they want without artificial barriers. Tenure doesn't guarantee competence, but term limits guarantee the opposite: a less experienced council plus voters stripped of the right to reelect leaders they still trust.

Proponents of term limits ask you to trade your right to vote for candidates you trust. Don't let them. This same group sponsored a losing 2022 ballot measure. They then lost a 2024 council bid. Don't surrender your right to choose because they lost under the current system.

Protect your right to vote. No on term limits.

s/ Chris Quilter

s/ Rebecca Visconti

s/ Joe Hanauer

s/ Joy Dittberner

s/ S. Cody Engle

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure E

Laguna Beach is a unique city, but our system of government is no different from that of any other city. While we face complex challenges, keeping councilmembers in office for many years is not the solution. Over time, some long-serving officials run out of new ideas while others lose touch with the residents they were elected to represent.

We currently have one councilmember who will have served 16 years by the end of their term and another running for their 3rd term. Despite significant resident opposition, they continue to strongly advocate for the purchase of Laguna Canyon Road. Are they still listening to the people they represent? Did the decision to remove the mature trees on Forest Avenue reflect the wishes of the community?

Opponents of term limits argue that we would lose valuable experience on the City Council. That argument overlooks an important fact: councilmembers can continue serving Laguna in many meaningful ways after completing two four-year terms and they may run again after a two-year break. In addition, Laguna's staggered election cycle ensures that experienced councilmembers remain on the dais to provide continuity and institutional knowledge. Our initiative preserves the opportunity for respected former councilmembers to return while giving qualified new candidates a fair chance to serve.

Incumbency is one of the greatest advantages any elected official has in seeking re-election. This initiative creates a thoughtful balance between preserving experience and opening the door to new leadership, fresh ideas, and greater accountability.

Please vote YES for term limits.

s/ Michael E. Morris
Treasurer, Nimblegov PAC

s/ George Weiss
Former City Councilman

s/ Andy Coyle
Citizen

s/ Jean Arovas
Physician Assistant