

Argument in Favor of Measure SL

Vote YES on Measure SL. The current version of the City's term limits ordinance is impractical in practice and will disrupt the City's stability.

In 2011, the residents of the City of Commerce voted to adopt a terms limits ordinance. The ordinance provides that a person "is ineligible to hold office as member of the city council if that person has served in the office for three full terms." The ordinance also provides that no person may serve as a councilmember for "longer than twelve years total."

Subsequently, the California Legislature passed SB 415. SB 415 prohibits a city from holding an election on any date other than a statewide election date if doing so in the past has resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout. Consequently, the City has moved its election dates twice to comply with SB 415.

As a result of being forced to move the City's election dates, a current councilmember will be required to resign from office two years prior to his current term's expiration date. Additionally, the other current members of the City Council would be required to resign from office prior to the expiration of their respective terms if each councilmember sought and secured a third council term. The early resignation from office will cause instability within the City Council and the City.

City staff believes the intent of the voters will be honored by the proposed amendment while preventing the disruptive potential that all five of the current councilmembers may have to resign from council prior to the completion of their respective terms, provided the councilmembers successfully secure a third term. For the sake of the City's stability, City staff requests that you support the proposed amendment to the City's existing term limit ordinance.