



HAWTHORNE
C A L I F O R N I A

HAWTHORNE VOTERS TO VOTE ON A PROPOSED CITY CHARTER, MEASURE I

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAWTHORNE CA - During the upcoming November 8 election, Hawthorne voters will have the opportunity to vote on ballot Measure I to ask voters to choose if they would like to adopt a city charter. If a majority of voters decide to adopt the proposed city charter, Hawthorne would transition from a general law city to a city governed by a charter.

In California, cities are divided into general law cities and charter cities. In general law cities like Hawthorne, cities must abide by California Constitution and state laws when they want to impose local changes. With voter approval, a city can adopt a charter document making the city a charter city. As a charter city, the city can adopt laws regarding "municipal affairs" that are different from state statutes as long as they remain consistent with the US and California Constitutions. While a majority of cities in California are governed under general state law, approximately a quarter of cities have adopted a city charter in an effort to gain more municipal autonomy.

In November, Hawthorne voters will vote on the proposed charter. The Charter stipulates four (4) primary functions that would change in the City of Hawthorne if it were to become adopted. First, it would allow the city to obtain maximum authority over municipal affairs such as local land use, zoning matters, use of public parks and facilities. Second, the Charter would allow all Council members (rather than just the Mayor) to nominate members to City commissions subject to approval of the entire council. Third, the Charter would uphold the authority of the City Attorney to prosecute misdemeanors. Fourth, the Charter would set annual compensation for Council members at the 2021 HUD low-income level for a family of two.

The City began drafting the proposed charter in February, and the City Council held a series of public meetings to discuss the option of submitting a proposed city charter to the voters during the November 2022 election. To gain more community feedback, the City Council held two public hearings on June 14 and July 14, 2022 to discuss the content of the proposed charter. On August 9, the City Council adopted a resolution to Resolution 8373, approving the submission of the charter to voters during the upcoming election.

To continue public input and education, the City will continue its robust education outreach effort to inform the public about Measure I and what it will mean for voters. The City has created a dedicated webpage on the City website, www.HawthorneMeasureI.org to share general information about the measure, frequently asked questions and more.

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