

Impartial Analysis of Measure L
Prepared by Sacramento City Attorney

The Sacramento City Council has placed Measure L, the “Sacramento Checks and Balances Act of 2014,” on the ballot.

Measure L, if passed by a majority of the voters, revises the Sacramento City Charter, the voter-approved “constitution” that establishes the framework for city government. This measure changes the city’s current “council-manager” form of government to a “mayor-council” form. The chart below summarizes the revisions:

Current Charter	Measure L
Mayor is one of nine councilmembers	Mayor is no longer a councilmember, but may attend and be heard at council meetings Eight-member council with president and vice-president
City manager is city’s chief executive officer	Mayor is chief executive officer City manager is chief administrative officer
Council appoints city manager	Mayor appoints city manager with council concurrence Mayor must hold a public meeting regarding candidate qualifications before appointment
Vote of six councilmembers required to remove city manager	Mayor removes city manager
No mayoral veto	Mayor can veto ordinances, with exceptions, subject to council supermajority override (six votes) Mayor can veto council’s approved budget (includes line-item veto), subject to council supermajority override (six votes)

No term limits	Mayor has three-term limit; current terms grandfathered
City manager presents budget to council at least 60 days before fiscal year	Mayor presents budget to council at least 90 days before fiscal year
Council establishes district boundaries	New redistricting commission establishes district boundaries
Council must meet weekly, with up to four weeks off yearly	At least two regular council meetings each calendar month Two meetings annually held outside council chambers
Council must hold at least one public budget hearing	Council must hold at least two public budget hearings
Council appoints City Clerk, City Attorney, City Treasurer	Council must hold a public meeting regarding candidate qualifications before appointment
Councilmembers must deal with city manager regarding city government under manager's control	Councilmembers may deal with city manager and department heads

Measure L provides for new bodies and a new office:

- An independent citizens' redistricting commission responsible for modifying council district boundaries after the census
- An Ethics Committee responsible for reviewing and monitoring a new ethics ordinance
- A Neighborhood Advisory Committee to consider city neighborhoods' interests
- An Office of Independent Budget Analyst (appointed by council)

Measure L requires the council to pass ordinances:

- Establishing redistricting commission member qualifications and providing for their appointment
- Adopting a Code of Ethics and Conduct for elected officials and appointed board and commission members

- Adopting sunshine provisions for accessing city meetings, documents, and records
- Establishing an Ethics Committee
- Establishing a Neighborhood Advisory Committee
- Establishing the independent budget analyst's qualifications and duties

Measure L makes other charter changes consistent with the revisions described above.

If Measure L passes, all changes except those regarding establishment of district boundaries are subject to voter reapproval at an election no later than 11/3/2020. If not reapproved, the changes are automatically repealed on 1/1/2021.

A “yes” vote is in favor of revising the charter. A “no” vote is against revising the charter.

James C. Sanchez

City Attorney