Ballot Measure O is a measure placed on the ballot by the City Council asking the voters to decide whether to change the term of the directly elected mayor from two years to four years.

In 2016, the electorate passed Measure C, providing that the mayor be elected directly by the people. Prior to that, the Councilmembers selected which of them would serve as the mayor and rotated the position annually. Measure C established a two-year term for the mayor. By contrast, the other four councilmembers are elected to four-year terms.

Under state law, the electorate may approve either a two-year or a four-year term for a directly elected mayor. If the proposed measure is approved, the mayor term would be changed to four years, commencing with the term starting in November 2020.

A “yes” vote is in favor of a four-year term; a “no” vote is to retain the existing two-year term. A majority vote is required for the measure to be enacted.

/s/ Michael Jenkins, City Attorney