

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEASURE “A”

County Charter Amendment

The Question asked by County Measure “A” is: Should the LA County Board of Supervisors be authorized to remove a Sheriff from office for cause by a four-fifths vote, after written notice and an opportunity to be heard?

“For Cause” is defined as:

1. Violation of a law related to the Sheriff’s duties
2. Flagrant or repeated neglect of Sheriff’s duties
3. Misappropriation of public funds or properties
4. Willful falsification of documents
5. Obstruction of an investigation into the Sheriff’s or the Department’s conduct

Background:

1. The LA County Sheriff leads one of the largest law-enforcement agencies in the US. The LA County Board of Supervisors has recently expressed concern over a lack of accountability and transparency in the Sheriff’s Department.
2. In 2016, the Board implemented a Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, whose charter is to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the Department.
3. In March 2020, voters approved [Los Angeles County Measure R](#), which authorized the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission to develop a plan designed to reduce jail population and incarceration and granting the Commission subpoena power to investigate complaints.
4. There has been resistance to the Commission’s oversight by current and previous Sheriffs.
5. The California Constitution allows a county charter to provide for the terms and removal of any elected or appointed county officer.

What the Charter Amendment says: Measure A would amend the Charter of the County of Los Angeles to allow the Board of Supervisors to remove a Sheriff from office for cause. The action would require a four-fifths vote by the Board and the Sheriff would have to be given written notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Fiscal impact would be negligible.

Supporters:

LA County Supervisors Sheila Kuhl, Hilda Solis, Holly Mitchell and Janice Hahn. Holly Mitchell writes: "The issue of sheriff accountability before us is both urgent and systemic, having impacted past generations of Angelenos, but also with important consequences for the future. Unfortunately, the county has had long and troubling history with sheriff oversight and transparency."

Opponents:

LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva. Kathryn Barger writes: "Giving the Board of Supervisors authority to remove an elected sheriff unequivocally takes away power

from the public. It's a move that has the potential to disenfranchise voters. It also overlooks the fact that a recall process already exists to remove elected officials who fail to perform their duties." Sheriff Villanueva writes: ""This motion is a recipe for public corruption, particularly when `cause' remains so broad and undefined. Allowing political appointees with an agenda to determine `cause' is fundamentally flawed."

A YES vote on County Measure A would support allowing the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, by a four-fifths vote, to remove the sheriff from office for *cause*, which is defined to include: violation of laws related to the sheriff's duties; repeated neglect of the sheriff's duties; misusing public funds or properties; willful falsification of documents; or obstruction of an investigation into the department's conduct.

A NO vote on County Measure A would oppose allowing the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, by a four-fifths vote, to remove the sheriff from office for *cause*.