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TO: Jeremy Green, City Clerk/Elections Official for the City of Culver City

Pursuant to the California Elections Code and as directed by the City Council of the City of Culver City, I am providing you with an Impartial Analysis of Proposed Measure ____, amending the City Charter to allow City residents aged 16 and 17 to vote in City and School District elections, which the City Council placed on the ballot of the November 8, 2022, General Municipal Election.

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE ____

The City Council of the City of Culver City (City) placed Measure ____ on the ballot to amend the City Charter (Charter) by allowing City residents aged 16 and 17 to vote for City Council candidates, City ballot measures, and Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Board candidates and measures once certain conditions are met by the City and CCUSD Board.

The City Charter states that "unless otherwise provided by this Charter," state law will control the procedures for holding all City elections and elections for members of the CCUSD school board. See Charter Sections 1500 and 1503. California Constitution Article II section 2 states that "United States citizens 18 years of age and resident of this state may vote." The California Elections Code also requires that a valid registered voter must be a California resident, a United States citizen, and at least 18 years of age.

However, the California Constitution, Article XI Section 5, grants charter cities the right to govern their municipal affairs, which includes the conduct of city elections. Measure ____ proposes to add Section 1506, "Voting Age", to the Charter, which would allow 16- and 17-year-old City residents, who are otherwise eligible under state and local law, to vote in City and CCUSD elections. The Measure also amends Section 1500 regarding School Board elections, to refer to the provisions of Section 1506.

Measure ____ provides that in order for the voting age to be lowered to 16, the City Council and the CCUSD Board must each decide to do the following for their respective elections: (1) approve the budgetary funds to cover any additional election costs that may be incurred; (2) determine that logistical systems are in place to conduct the election; and (3) determine that including 16- and 17-year-olds in the election would not prevent consolidation of the election with the County election, which has occurred since 2020.

The conditions described in the preceding paragraph include having equipment, software, and procedures in place for voter registration and for casting votes during the election. These systems and logistics must be technically capable and ready to handle accommodating 16- and 17-year-old voting. Additionally, the Measure allows the City and the CCUSD to independently decide, as to their respective elections, the manner, method and times at which 16- and 17-year-olds may cast their votes, which do not need to be the same as those for persons 18 and older.

The requirements of this Measure, if approved, would apply to the City and the CCUSD independently of each other.

To be adopted, State law requires that this Measure be approved by a majority of Culver City voters. A "Yes" vote on Measure ____ would lower the age requirement to 16 for City and CCUSD elections, but before the Measure is implemented, the City Council and the CCUSD Board must determine that the conditions listed in the Measure are met. A "No" vote would not lower the voting age to 16.

Dated: August 16, 2022



Heather Baker
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City of Culver City