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City Clerk's Office
City of Laguna Beach, CA

Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Laguna Beach for the purpose of amending the Laguna Beach Municipal Code to impose term limits for members of City Council. This shall serve as a formal written request that a ballot title and summary of the initiative be prepared by the City Attorney. A statement of the reasons for the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

Statement of Reasons for the Initiative

The people of Laguna Beach deserve a City Council that is responsive to their needs and desires, one that listens and adapts to the evolving priorities of the community, and seeks to maintain the unique charm of our city. Unfortunately, when politicians are beholden to special interests or entrenched in power for extended periods, they can become disconnected from the very people they were elected to serve. Long-term incumbency often leads to complacency and a sense of entitlement, with elected officials focusing more on maintaining their political positions than on addressing the real concerns of their constituents. This can result in stagnation in city policies and a lack of progress in solving the issues that matter most to the people of Laguna Beach.

One way to prevent this stagnation and ensure that the City Council remains engaged with the community is through the implementation of term limits. Term limits encourage fresh ideas, prevent the rise of career politicians, and promote greater community engagement. With new voices entering local politics regularly, the City Council would remain dynamic and in touch with the desires and needs of residents.

A majority of cities in Orange County, including Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills, Irvine, Aliso Viejo, San Clemente, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Anaheim, Dana Point, Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, and Seal Beach, have already enacted term limits for their elected officials. The same is true for the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and California's state Senate and Assembly legislators. These cities and regions seem to recognize the value in establishing term limits.

Term limits in Laguna Beach would provide our city with the opportunity to thrive through a more open, dynamic, and accessible government. The proposed initiative measure would amend the Laguna Beach Municipal Code to impose a limit of two consecutive four-year terms for service on the City Council. After serving two consecutive terms, a person would be prohibited from running for or being appointed to the City Council for a period of two years. This approach would create opportunities for new voices to emerge, ensuring that residents feel that they can actively participate in local governance without being discouraged by entrenched politicians who prioritize their own political survival.

Signed By,

Proponents:

	Laguna Beach, CA 92651	4/29/25
Michael Morris	Address	Date
	Laguna Beach, CA 92651	4/29/25
Michèle Monda	Address	Date
	Laguna Beach, CA 92651	4/26/25
Jerome Pudwill	Address	Date

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO VOTERS

The Laguna Beach City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

[Insert title and summary prepared by City Attorney]

To the City of Laguna Beach and its City Council:

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the State of California, residents of the City of Laguna Beach, present to the City Council of the City of Laguna Beach, pursuant to Section 3 of Article XI of the California Constitution, present to the City of Laguna Beach and its City Council this Petition and request that the following proposed Section 2.080 of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code either be adopted by the City Council without alteration, or submit the same to the voters of the City of Laguna Beach for their adoption or rejection at the next regular and/or statewide election pursuant to Section 1405, subdivision (a) of the California Elections Code. The following is the full text of the proposed measure.

**Full Text of Measure ____
City of Laguna Beach**

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, ADDING A NEW SECTION 2.04.080 TO CHAPTER 2.04 TO TITLE 2 OF THE LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO TERM LIMITS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING ON THE MEASURE AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code.

Pursuant to California Government Code section 36502(b) and subject to the approval of a majority of the voters of the City of Laguna Beach, the Laguna Beach Municipal Code is hereby amended to add a new Section 2.04.080, Term Limits, to Chapter 2.04, City Council, to Title 2, Administrative and Personnel, to read as follows:

“§ 2.04.080. Term Limits.

(A) No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of the City Council for more than two consecutive four-year terms following the adoption of this ordinance commencing with the, and including those persons elected to serve as a member of the City Council in the November 3, 2026 election. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any person who is appointed by the City Council or elected to fill a vacant office of a member of the City Council for the balance of a four-year term, but serves less than two years in that office,

shall be eligible for nomination and election for two consecutive four-year terms thereafter.

(B) Any person who shall be ineligible for election, appointment, or further services as a member of the City Council due to the limitation set forth in subsection A of this section, shall again be eligible for election or appointment as a member of the City Council, and a new period of consecutive years of service shall commence, provided that at least two years has or will have elapsed between the most recent date of such person's prior service as a member of the City Council and the effective date of such person's most recent election or appointment to such office.

(C) The phrase "two years" as used in subsection B of this section shall mean the period between the date of the declaration of the results of any general municipal election held in November of an even numbered year and the date of the declaration of the results of any general municipal election held in November of any immediately preceding or immediately succeeding even-numbered year, even though such period may be more or less than an actual period of two years."

Section 2. Voter Approval, Prospective Application, and Effective Date

Except as provided in section 3 below, this ordinance shall take effect if approved by a majority of the eligible voters of the City of Laguna Beach voting on the measure in the primary election held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, and shall only apply prospectively beginning with the terms of members of the City Council that start after the November 3, 2026 election. If so approved, this ordinance becomes effective 10 days after the City Council declares and certifies the results of the election by resolution.

Section 3. Severability

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

Section 4. Publication

The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this ordinance at least once, within 15 days after the election results are certified, in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City of Laguna Beach.

PROPONENT STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, Michael Morris, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under State Law (Section 18650 of the California Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the proponent.

(Signature of Proponent)

Dated this 29 day of April 2025, 2025

PROPONENT STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, Michele Monda, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under State Law (Section 18650 of the California Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.



(Signature of Proponent)

Dated this 29 day of April, 2025

PROPONENT STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, Jerome Pudwill, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under State Law (Section 18650 of the California Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.



(Signature of Proponent)

Dated this 26 day of April, 2025