



# ***Atascadero City Council***

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## ***Staff Report - City Clerk's Office***

### **Discussion of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Selection**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Council:

1. Adopt Draft Resolution A, consistent with Council direction at the January, 2009, Strategic Planning Workshop, repealing Resolution No. 2006-084, which provided a method for the selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; and,
2. Give the City Clerk direction concerning a ballot measure: Does the City Council want to submit a ballot measure establishing a directly elected Mayor position to the voters? And if yes, when?

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### Repeal of Resolution

The California Government Code provides that the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem of a General Law City are selected by a majority vote of the City Council. Atascadero followed this direction from incorporation until 2003. In 2003, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2003-055 to provide a rotation method for the selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. In 2006, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2006-084 to amend the previous Resolution to provide that no first year Council members may serve as Mayor.

The City Council, at their Strategic Planning Workshop in January 2009, directed staff to place on a future agenda, an item to repeal Resolution No. 2006-084. The repeal of the Resolution returns the Atascadero City Council to the California Government Code for reference concerning the determination of a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; the City Council will once again select their future Mayors by a majority vote.

Ballot Measure for the Election of Mayor

The City Council has briefly discussed the possibility of placing a ballot measure on a future ballot for the Atascadero citizens to decide whether the City should have an elected Mayor. The Council directed the City Clerk at their Strategic Planning Workshop in January 2009 to bring to the Council information necessary to make a decision concerning placing this issue on a ballot.

California Government Code Section 34900 provides that at any general municipal election, or at a special election held for that purpose, the City Council may submit to the voters the question of whether electors want to elect a Mayor and four City Council Members, and whether the Mayor shall serve a two-year or four-year term. The ballot measure would need to include the following questions:

Shall the electors elect a Mayor and four Council Members?	YES
	NO
Shall the term of office of mayor be two years?	YES
	NO
Shall the term of office of mayor be four years?	YES
	NO

If a majority of the votes cast on this proposition are in favor of an elected Mayor, the office of Mayor shall be an elective office. Therefore, if this ballot measure is successful, one of the offices of Council Member to be filled at the next general municipal election, will be designated as the office of Mayor. For example, if the ballot measure is on the ballot in November 2010, the election of Mayor would be on the ballot in November 2012. If the Council wants the election of Mayor to be on the ballot in November 2010, the ballot measure would have to be on the ballot in a special election before that date.

The next general municipal election will be held on November 2, 2010. The City of Atascadero will have two Council Members, City Clerk and City Treasurer on the ballot. Adding a ballot measure to this ballot will cost an estimated \$2,000.00.

If the City Council decides to place the ballot measure on the ballot in a special election, two options are available:

1. The City may consolidate with the County's Primary Election on June 8, 2010 at an estimated cost of \$35,000.00.
2. A stand-alone special election would cost approximately \$100,000.00.

The City Council will need to consider its options for placement of a ballot measure and give direction to the City Clerk. If the Council decides to submit a ballot measure, the City Clerk will return to the Council the appropriate Resolutions for adoption to call for the election.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

- The repeal of Resolution No. 2006-084 has no fiscal impact.
- Ballot Measure Election Costs:

<b>ELECTION DATE</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>
June 8, 2010 (Special Election)	\$35,000.00
November 2, 2010 (Regular Election)	\$2,000.00
Stand-Alone Special Election (Date to be determined)	\$100,000.00

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Council may decide to amend Resolution No. 2006-084.
2. Council may take no action, thereby leaving Resolution No. 2006-084 in force.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution No. 2006-084
2. Draft Resolution, repealing Resolution No. 2006-084