Information About the June 5, 2018 Special Municipal Election

As of 4/13/18

The City of Santa Clara will be conducting a Special Municipal Election on June 5, 2018 which is consolidated with the California Statewide Primary Election.

Measure A is the only local City of Santa Clara measure on this ballot.

Over the last 10 years, the Santa Clara City Council and its residents have been engaged in efforts to review how the City elects local officeholders. Measure A was placed on the June ballot following more than a year of grassroots input and community engagement. These efforts included the work of two separate committees composed of volunteer City residents who received input from hundreds of residents through 16 public hearings and the City's online platforms.

After months of careful deliberation, a thirteen-member Charter Review Committee recommended that the City's Charter be amended to change the way the voters elect our City Council by establishing two Council districts map coupled with a Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) system. This charter amendment has been placed on the June 5 ballot as Measure A.

Q: What is Measure A?
A: Measure A is the ballot measure setting forth a proposed charter amendment that updates the way that future local officeholders would be elected. The Santa Clara City Council unanimously placed Measure A on the June 5th ballot based on the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee composed of City resident volunteers appointed by City Council.

Official Measure A Ballot Question	
BY-DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS & VOTING METHOD. Shall the City Charter be amended: to establish two districts starting in 2018 to be represented by three council members each; and when available, use ranked choice voting to allow voters to select candidates in order of choice to determine the winners of elections of all city elected officers?	YES
	NO

Q: What does Measure A do?
A: If enacted, Measure A would update the way Santa Clara voters elect local officeholders as follows:

➢ *Establishes two voting districts*, with registered voters electing three Council Members per district.
   - A district boundary map has been recommended by the Ad-hoc Advisory Districting Committee and will be considered by the City Council at two meetings scheduled for May 8th and 22nd.
   - Candidates seeking election to the Santa Clara City Council will be required to reside within the district they are running in and only voters residing in the district can vote on City Council Candidates from their given district.
   - The Mayor, City Clerk and Police Chief would remain elected Citywide.

➢ *Establishes a voting process known as "ranked choice voting"* for all city candidates for office.

- o The single transferable method of ranked choice voting would be implemented by ordinance.
- o The election by the most votes cast would continue to be used to determine the winner until the Registrar of Voters can implement the new voting method.

In developing Measure A, the City also conferred with FairVote, a national, nonpartisan organization providing advice on electoral reforms.

Q: How were these City Council district boundaries decided?
A: The City Council established an Ad Hoc Advisory Districting Committee to solicit input from residents and determine the optimal way to establish the voting boundaries. By law, all districts must meet two criteria: First, Districts must be approximately equal in population; and second, Districts cannot prevent protected groups (such as Asian-Americans and Hispanics) from selecting an elected official of their choice. The Ad Hoc Advisory Districting Committee was charged with recommending a map meeting these two requirements. After five public meetings to deliberate and obtain community input, the Committee recommended the City Council select a map that results in a north district and a south district, roughly along El Camino Real. To view a copy of the Committee-recommended map, visit **[http://santaclaraca.gov/home/showdocument?id=57241]**

Q: Is it too late to provide input on the map?
A: No. The Ad-hoc Advisory Districting Committee's recommended map will be considered by the City Council at two meetings scheduled for May 8th and 22nd. Also, the district boundaries will only become effective if Measure A is approved by voters on June 5. The City encourages all voters to make an informed decision.

Q: How does Measure A affect voting for Mayor, Police Chief and City Clerk?
A: Measure A preserves the City's existing citywide elected offices. The Mayor, Chief of Police, and City Clerk will continue to be elected at large, but would also be elected using ranked choice voting.

Q: What is "Ranked Choice Voting?"
A: If approved by voters, Measure A would implement the single transferable vote method of RCV, sometimes known as "Instant Runoff Voting." This will allow voters the opportunity to rank candidates in order of preference. Votes are then tallied in rounds based on the voters' indicated preferences, so both the numbers of votes as well as the rankings determine the winner. A number of Bay Area cities including Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco and San Leandro have adopted RCV.
To see a visual representation of how this works, Click here.

Q: When will we start using Ranked Choice Voting if Measure A is approved?
A: If approved by voters, Ranked Choice Voting would be implemented as soon as the Santa Clara Registrar of Voters can support this type of voting system, which could be as soon as 2020. Until then, the City will continue to determine the winner of an election as its elections have always been conducted -- by the most votes cast.

Q: When is the Election and how do I get information on how to vote?
A: June 5, 2018. To register to vote online, request an absentee ballot or get polling place information, visit the Santa Clara County Elections Department at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx

View draft district boundary maps and other information about the City of Santa Clara's Special June Municipal Election, visit the City's website at http://www.santaclaraca.gov/government/departments/city-clerk-auditor/measure-a-district-elections-voting-method-ballot-measure