

SC Charter Amendments

Editor's Note: Following are the rest of the proposed amendments to the Santa Cruz city charter which will appear on Tuesday's ballot. Yesterday's edition of The Sentinel presented the other

amendments. The first two columns present the current charter provisions. The third column presents the proposed amendment. The fourth column is an explanation of the proposed change.

Current Charter Provisions

ARTICLE X

APPOINTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SECTION 1021: LIBRARY BOARD: There shall be a library board consisting of five members to be appointed by the city council from the qualified electors of the city, and no member of said board shall hold any paid office or employment in the city government.

Proposed Change

ARTICLE X

SECTION 1021: LIBRARY BOARD: There shall be a library board consisting of five (5) members to be appointed by the city council from the qualified electors of the city; provided, however, that should the county of Santa Cruz consolidate its library functions with the city, and during such time as a consolidated library system is administered by the city, the library board shall consist of seven (7) members, four (4) of whom shall be appointed by the council from the qualified electors of the city, and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the council from the qualified electors of the county of Santa Cruz with the approval of the board of supervisors of the county of Santa Cruz. No member of said board shall hold any paid office or employment in the city or county governments.

Explanation

SECTION 1021: This change is to enlarge the library board to give the unincorporated part of Santa Cruz county greater representation, to more nearly match cost-sharing and book use by the county. The county supervisors have approved an agreement consolidating library functions, a prerequisite mentioned in the amendment. City approval of the agreement is considered a sure thing. If the agreement for consolidated service ever lapses, the library board will revert to its 5-man status, all residents of the city.

SECTION 1031. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: There shall be a civil service commission consisting of three members to be appointed by the city council from the qualified electors of the city. To be eligible for appointment, each appointee shall neither hold city office nor employment, nor be a candidate for any other city office or position and shall not be an officer of any local, state or national partisan political club or organization.

The first commissioners shall, by lot, fix their terms as two, three and four years from June 1, 1948.

SECTION 1031: CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: There shall be a civil service commission consisting of five (5) members to be appointed by the city council from the qualified electors of the city. To be eligible for appointment, an appointee shall neither hold city office nor employment, or be a candidate for any other city office or position, and shall not be an officer of any local, state or national partisan political club or organization.

SECTION 1031: This would increase membership of the civil service commission from three members to five. At present, it is difficult to get more than two members at any one meeting, due to business and other time pressures on members. It is felt that a larger membership would provide broader-based consideration of commission matters.

ARTICLE XII (RETIREMENT)

SECTION 1203. Excepted Officers and Employees. The city manager and assistant city manager, the city attorney and any assistant or deputy city attorney, police judge, auditorium manager, health officer, if any, and all elected officers and members of boards or commissions, the leader and members of any municipal band or orchestra shall, so far as permitted by the State Retirement System for city officers and employees, be excluded from said employees' retirement system and shall not be eligible for benefits thereof.

ARTICLE XII

SECTION 1203: EXCEPTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES—Repeal.

SECTION 1203: This amendment would repeal the present prohibition against certain non-classified employees and city officers receiving benefits of the city retirement program. The ban at present hinders city recruiting for these positions.

ARTICLE XIV (FISCAL ADMINISTRATION. BUDGET. TAXES.)

SECTION 1404. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION: The council shall meet at its usual meeting place on the second Monday in August of each year at ten o'clock a.m. as a board of equalization, and shall continue in session by adjournment from day to day until all returns of the assessor have been rectified and all assessments equalized. The board of equalization shall have power to hear complaints, to take testimony under oath, and to correct, modify, strike out, lower, or raise any assessment, provided, that at least one day's notice shall be given to any party whose assessment is proposed to be raised, excepting in case of a uniform increase in the assessed value of all property in the entire city. The city clerk shall act as secretary of such board, and it shall be

ARTICLE XIV

SECTION 1404. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION—Repeal.

SECTION 1418. BONDED DEBT LIMIT: The city shall not incur an indebtedness evidenced by general obligation bonds which shall in the aggregate exceed the sum of fifteen per cent (15%) of the total assessed valuation for purposes of city taxation, of all the real and personal property within the city, exclusive of any indebtedness that has been or may hereafter be incurred for the purpose of

SECTION 1404: The board of equalization procedures are handled by the county board of supervisors. This section is no longer needed.

SECTION 1418: This is a new section. Its aim is to change the legal debt limit provisions. At present, general bonded debt is limited to 15 per cent of the city's assessed valuation. The 15 per cent limit would be retained, but the figure would exclude debt which is paid off by utility fees rather than taxes. (The new sewer bond issue is an example). The city's financial consultants

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ARTICLE XV (FRANCHISES)

SECTION 1501. PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE CITY INALIENABLE: The rights of the city in and to the waterfront and tidelands vested in it in fee or in trust, are inalienable, and its parks and other public places, except as herein provided, are inalienable unless authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the qualified electors of the City of Santa Cruz, had at a general or special municipal election.

SECTION 1502. WATER SYSTEM INALIENABLE: The council shall never sell, lease, assign, convey, mortgage or hypothecate the water system, or any part thereof, or the rents or income therefrom, unless authorized so to do by vote of the people.

BRIDAL VEILS

The custom of wearing bridal veils originated with the ancient Greeks, who thought that the veil would be a protection for the bride against evil spirits flying around during the mar-

COASTAL DESERT

World's longest and driest coastal desert stretches along the Pacific littoral of Peru and northern Chile. Many weather stations in the

Further indebtedness may be incurred by the issuance of bonds, subject only to the provisions of the State Constitution and of this charter.

(Editor's Note: This is a new section.)

SECTION 1428: CITY PROPERTY: The rights of the city in and to the water front and tidelands vested in it in fee or in trust, are inalienable, unless authorized by the affirmative vote of the majority of the qualified electors of the city of Santa Cruz. Other city property in use for a public purpose shall be inalienable unless authorized by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the city of Santa Cruz, except such other property as may be determined by the affirmative vote of five (5) members of the council to be no longer necessary for public purposes.

(Editor's Note: The section on "City Property" is listed under Article XV, Section 1501 in the present city charter.)

SECTION 1429: WATER SYSTEM INALIENABILITY: The council shall never sell, lease, assign, convey, mortgage, or hypothecate the water system, or any part thereof, or the rents or income therefrom, unless authorized so to do by majority vote of the qualified electors of the city of Santa Cruz; provided, however, that property determined by the affirmative vote of five (5) members of the council to be surplus, and not necessary as a part of the operating water system, may be disposed of.

(Editor's Note: The section on "Water System Inalienability" is listed under Article XV, Section 1502 in the present city charter.)

ed utilities, and may improve the city's credit rating, which would lead to lower bond interest rates.

SECTION 1428: The proposed change would make it easier for the city to dispose of surplus land it holds — but not waterfront or tidelands. At present the city can only sell land if the sale is approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ public vote. The change would allow the city council by a $\frac{5}{7}$ vote to approve sale of surplus land. Sale of waterfront or tideland would still require a public vote but would take only a simple majority.

City officials say the city has several pieces of property, acquired by tax delinquency bought for rights-of-way, and so on. These lands could be sold and restored to the tax rolls more easily by this proposed change.

SECTION 1429: This proposal is like the one above, but applies to water department property. Only property not needed as part of the operating water system could be sold by council vote.

Cub Pack 75 Presents Awards

Awards were made to members of Cub Pack 75 at a recent meeting in the Live Oak

Dewey, Rudy Lucero, Richard Stamper, Leslie Gilbert. Denner, Harry Chis...