

✓ MAYORS

# A two-term SC mayor is a sometime thing ...

By GUY LASNIER  
Sentinel staff writer

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SANTA CRUZ — The re-election of Mardi Wormhoudt as mayor Tuesday is the first time in 37 years a city mayor was chosen to serve two consecutive terms.

The last mayor to serve two consecutive terms was Jack Chiorini, who was elected in April 1951 and again in April 1952, according to records kept by the city clerk's office.

Since the city began a city manager-city council form of government in 1948, the mayor has been elected yearly by his or her peers on the council. Sam McNeely was the first mayor to serve under the revised charter in 1948. He served two consecutive terms, from May 1948 to May 1950. McNeely, age 29 when elected, was also the youngest mayor in Santa Cruz.

Before the 1948 charter revision, the mayor was elected at large. The city government at

that time consisted of a mayor and four commissioners. Each commissioner oversaw different city departments, such as public works, finance, and police, Chiorini recalled.

Numerous mayors were elected for consecutive terms under the direct election system before 1948. Several served for four years.

Current Councilman Joe Ghio wants to return to the direct election of a mayor. He pledged to bring a referendum to the ballot calling for a citywide vote next year.

Since 1953, several mayors have served for two or more terms, but none consecutively. In 1981, Ghio served an additional 7½ months when the city moved its election from spring to fall.

Fred W. Swanton served the longest consecutive term as mayor, six years from July 1927 until July 1933, according to city records.