

**CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY*
MEASURE “L”**

Currently, Thousand Oaks City Councilmembers may serve an unlimited number of City Council terms. Measure L will impose term limits on members of the City Council. Specifically, the Measure will limit Councilmembers to serve no more than three consecutive four-year terms of office. An individual who serves three such consecutive terms of office will be required to wait at least four years from the expiration of their third consecutive term before again seeking election to the Thousand Oaks City Council and then a new three consecutive term limit will apply. A partial term served in office of more than two years will count as a full four-year term for purposes of computing the term limitation.

As required by California law, this Measure will apply prospectively only to terms commencing on or after the effective date of the Measure. In other words, no previous term of office for an existing Councilmember, or the term of office of any Councilmember elected to the City Council at the November 2012 election, will count toward the term limitation. Term limits will first apply to those Councilmembers elected to the City Council (or re-elected) in the November 2014 regular election. These Councilmembers will be eligible to serve three consecutive full terms until December 2026. Therefore, 2026 will be the first City Council regular election year this Measure will apply to preclude a Councilmember from running for office if that Councilmember has served three consecutive terms since the 2014 City Council election. However, if a special election to fill a vacant Councilmember seat is held between June 2013 and November 2014, this Measure could apply as early as December 2024.

*Section 9280 of the California Elections Code requires the city attorney to prepare an impartial analysis for each city measure appearing on the ballot.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE “L”

Term limits create more competitive elections, encourage more people to run for office and give voters a wider choice of who they can select to represent them.

This term limits measure allows Council members to serve a maximum of 12 years, or three consecutive four-year terms, and then wait a term before seeking election again. It is not a lifetime ban and it is not retroactive.

Term limits will:

1. End the spiraling costs of local campaigns
2. Limit the amount of pension benefits paid out to Council members
3. Increase the ability for good people to run for office regardless of their income
4. Reduce special interest money that usually goes to those already in power
5. Encourage good government decisions versus governing to win the next election
6. Open the field to citizens with new ideas and fresh thinking

Term limits are not a new concept. Dozens of California cities have instituted term limits to promote competitive elections. The term limits measure that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors placed on the ballot received 77% approval by voters in 2008. Over 12,000 people signed my Thousand Oaks Citizens for Term Limits Initiative that is now before you to approve.

It has been argued that we can oust politicians whenever we go to the polls but incumbency has significant advantages especially in fundraising. Incumbents stay in the public eye at the public's expense which makes campaigning easier for them. It was our Founding Fathers' intent that government should consist of citizen legislators rotating in and out of office.

Thomas Jefferson knew that term limitation was necessary to “prevent every danger which might arise to American freedom for continuing too long in office.”

Encourage good government! Vote Yes for Term Limits. Vote Yes for Measure L.

Visit TOTermLimits.com

s/Al Adam
Author & City Council Candidate

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE “L”

Voters already have term limits. It's called “the next election” and voters can exercise their vote and remove any councilmember they think isn't worthy of re-election. In the history of Thousand Oaks an average of 12 candidates run in each election. Voters did not need term limits to defeat incumbents 6 times since 1990. The average length of service of councilmembers in Thousand Oaks has been 7 years, far less than what Measure L would impose.

In Thousand Oaks we have:

1. Public Safety unmatched by any other city in California
2. One of the four Best Cities in the nation in which to raise a family
3. Public Finances that have been managed successfully to protect vital governmental services while other cities are facing bankruptcy

Measure L would change the local election process that has produced these outstanding results.

Why would we want to even consider such a change?

The answer is simple. A man who has run for city council twice and lost both times thinks he might do better under different rules. So, he wants to rip apart the fabric of the government that has made Thousand Oaks special. You'll notice he is the only one who was willing to sign the argument in favor of the measure.

The Ventura County STAR Calls Measure L “a non-solution to a non-problem” and URGES VOTERS TO REJECT THE MEASURE”.

There's a saying: If it isn't broken, don't fix it.

Thousand Oaks City Government isn't broken, VOTE NO on MEASURE L.

s/Herbert E. Gooch III
Professor of Political Science

s/Jere Robings
President – Alliance of Taxpayers – Retired

s/Henry L. Lacayo
State President Congress of CA Seniors

s/Carol Freeman
Senior/Healthcare Administrator

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE “L”

Thousand Oaks is one of the best governed cities in the nation. We are consistently one of the safest cities in the U.S. according to the FBI and we have been ranked among the four best cities in which to raise a family.

With a record like that, it doesn't make sense to change the way we elect our city leaders.

That's why the Ventura County Star took an early and strong position AGAINST Measure L.

Measure L would change the rules and TAKE AWAY the RIGHTS of LOCAL VOTERS to re-elect City Councilmembers who they believe are doing a good job and are providing the leadership to keep our city great.

Measure L was put on the ballot by a small group of residents who have tried to elect their friends to the City Council and been defeated by local voters. Apparently, they think they would have a better chance if they changed the rules.

But it's a rules change that could hurt our city by depriving us of the leaders who have protected the city's finances during difficult economic times, led the successful efforts to protect our precious open space, and made Thousand Oaks a safe and wonderful place to raise a family.

Please VOTE NO on Measure L to keep Thousand Oaks one of the best governed cities in the nation.

s/Herbert E. Gooch III
Professor of Political Science

s/Jere Robings
President – Alliance of Taxpayers – Retired

s/Carol Freeman
Senior/Healthcare Administrator

s/Henry L. Lacayo
State President Congress of CA Seniors

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE “L”

FACT: More than 12,000 Thousand Oaks voters signed the petition to put this term limits measure on the ballot.

FACT: Term limits will not change the way we elect our City leaders but will change how long they can stay in office.

FACT: Measure L is not retroactive and does not ban termed-out officials from running again after sitting out a term.

FACT: The Thousand Oaks City Council will have the same 12-year limit that applies to members of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and the California State Legislature with the approval of Measure L.

FACT: If Measure L does not pass it will mean more taxpayer dollars will be spent on benefits for longtime councilmembers.

FACT: The knowledge and experience of people who have spent their lives in the real world is every bit as valuable as that of career politicians.

A 12-year term limit is reasonable and needed in Thousand Oaks.

VOTE YES on Measure L for Term Limits!

s/Al Adam
Author & City Council Candidate

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE “L”

THOUSAND OAKS CITIZENS FOR TERM LIMITS

The people of the City of Thousand Oaks do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. Title.

This initiative shall be known as the THOUSAND OAKS CITIZENS FOR TERM LIMITS INITIATIVE.

Section 2. Findings and Objectives.

A. Full and free access to elected office is a right of all citizens of the City of Thousand Oaks.

B. Unchecked multiple terms of incumbency have allowed the entrenchment of politicians creating an inequitable advantage in the electoral process.

C. Ensuring equal access to the elected positions of City Council is a critical public benefit. Not only will term limits help reduce the costs of running for this most important local public office, it will remove the inherent advantage of incumbency allowing increased public participation in the electoral process.

D. Setting a three (3) term limit on occupying the position of a member of the City Council will cause a rejuvenation of the Council bringing fresh ideas and broadening the range of persons making the important decisions affecting our City.

Section 3. Implementation to Achieve Objectives.

This initiative hereby adds a new Chapter to Title 1 of the Thousand Oaks Municipal Code. The new chapter is designated “Chapter 14,” and immediately follows Chapter 13 which sets forth contribution limits to council candidates and reporting requirements. Chapter 14 continues the theme of striving to achieve good government by limiting the terms of entrenched incumbency.

AMENDMENT TEXT

The Thousand Oaks Municipal Code, Title 1, Chapter 14 is hereby added as follows:

Chapter 14. Term Limits

Sec. 1-14.01. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to create more competitive elections by ensuring that periodically the advantages of incumbency of a City Council member will yield to increased citizen participation in seeking elective office.

Sec. 1-14.02. Limits

No person shall serve more than three consecutive terms as a member of the Thousand Oaks City Council, either by election or appointment, until at least four years after the expiration of the third consecutive term in office. After a four year absence, a new three consecutive term limit applies.

Sec. 1-14.03. Appointed Terms

Any person, who, whether by appointment or election, serves a partial term of office as a member of the City Council for more than two years shall be deemed, for the purpose of this Chapter, to have served a full four-year term.

Sec. 1-14.04. Applicability

This provision shall apply prospectively only, so that any City Councilmember commencing a term of office on or after the effective date of this initiative may serve up to three consecutive terms from and after that date.

Section 4. Insertion Date.

The effective date of this initiative shall be in accordance with Elections Code §9217.

Section 5. Severability.

If any portion of this initiative is declared invalid by a court, the remaining portions are to be considered valid.

Section 6. Amendment or Repeal.

This initiative may be amended or repealed only by the voters at an election duly certified under the California Elections Code.