



**CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE A  
[DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS/VOTING METHOD]**

This ballot measure would amend Santa Clara City Charter Sections 600 and 700.1, and add a new Section 700.2 to establish a by-district election system and implement a new method of voting: single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. The City of Santa Clara currently elects its Council Members from the entire City at large and each candidate must designate which numbered seat they are running for. If the ballot measure is approved by the voters, there would be two districts, with three Council Members representing each district, and all elected officers would be elected using the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. Candidates could only represent the district in which they reside, and could only be elected by voters residing in that district. If approved, each district will elect three Council Members to four year terms every other election using the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting. The Mayor, City Clerk, and Police Chief would continue to be elected at large, but using the single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting.

In order to transition to the new election system (three Council Members per district elected every other election), the measure provides:

- Two members to be elected to four year terms in District 1 in 2018;
- One member to be elected to a two year term in District 1 in 2020; and,
- Three members to be elected to four year terms in District 2 in 2020.

The single transferable vote method of ranked choice voting allows voters to rank up to three candidates in order of preference, and votes are tallied in rounds using the voters' indicated preferences. If approved, City Council would be required to adopt an ordinance to implement the new voting method in time for the November 2020 election. If the Registrar of Voters is unable to support the new voting method by 2020, then implementation would be delayed until the next election at which it could be implemented and plurality elections to continue to be used in the interim.

A "Yes" vote would serve to establish two districts in the City, comprised of three Council Members each of whom shall be elected by means of a form of ranked choice voting. A "No" vote would leave the by seat and at large election system as is.

This measure was placed on the ballot by action of the Santa Clara City Council on March 6, 2018.

Handwritten signature of Brian Doyle in blue ink.

BRIAN DOYLE  
City Attorney

**FILED**  
**MAR 20 2018**

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

By                      Deputy