IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE T (CITY TREASURER MEASURE)

The City Council has placed before the voters the question whether to amend the City’s municipal code to transition from an elected City Treasurer to an appointed City Treasurer. A full copy of the proposed ordinance is printed in these ballot materials.

Currently, the City Treasurer is elected by the El Segundo voters to a four-year term of office. Except the City Council members and the City Clerk, who are also elected, all other city officers and department heads are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the City Council.

The current City Treasurer’s term ends in March 2020, and the elected City Treasurer seat is included on the March 2020 ballot, along with this measure. If someone is elected as City Treasurer and the measure passes, then the elected City Treasurer could choose to serve the entire four-year term, until March 2024. Upon conclusion of the four-year term, or if the City Treasurer’s office becomes vacant at any point during the term, the position would then automatically convert to an appointed position, and either the City Council or the City Manager could then appoint someone to be the City Treasurer without holding an election.

The ballot measure was proposed by the current elected City Treasurer who believes that converting the office to an appointed position ensures the position is filled with someone with the required skills and experience in managing public funds. The city’s finance department estimates that, if the voters approve the measure, the city could potentially save up to $39,000 per year on expenses associated with the elected position. This estimated amount includes, but is not limited to, election costs every four years as well as special compensation paid to the elected City Treasurer in the form of a monthly stipend, health benefits and CalPERS pension benefits.

A “Yes” vote is a vote in favor of the ordinance converting the elected City Treasurer office to an appointed position.

A “No” vote is a vote against the ordinance and keeps the City Treasurer office an elected position.

This measure will be approved if it receives a simple majority of “Yes” votes.

Mark D. Hensley,
City Attorney