

**PUBLIC NOTICE — CITY OF GROVER BEACH
NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Grover Beach for the purpose to adopt an **ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF THE ELECTED CITY ATTORNEY**.

A statement of the reasons for adoption of the proposed action by the petition is as follows:

The Grover Beach City Attorney should be part of our community and represent the Voters of Grover Beach, answer to Voters, and provide to the elected City Council, City Clerk, appointed City Manager and Department Heads independent advice and counsel faithful to California's Constitution and Law. The City Attorney should not file any suit, writ or appeal without first being authorized by the City Council. Current contract city attorneys that represent multiple governments risk conflicts of interest and cannot keep faith exclusively with the Voters of Grover Beach.

The City Attorney is the one City official able to protect Voters' rights to Open City Records, Open Public Meetings, and City action free from officials' conflict of interest and corruption.

An Attorney serving a city population of less than 14,000 should not receive pay that exceeds the State Attorney General, who brings civil and criminal suits on behalf of 39 million Californians.

The appointed Grover Beach City Attorney firm, has violated the public interest by impairing access to city records, authorizing closed city council meetings, been complicit in impairing voters' right to circulate and file petitions for recall in violation of California's Constitution and Election Law, filed Appeal of a Superior Court ruling ordering certification of recall without prior City Council approval, has contracts with cities and districts all over California, and charges the City of Grover Beach for part-time civil work more than the State of California pays the Attorney General for full time representation in civil and criminal matters. The Voters find that the Office of Appointed City Attorney shall be immediately terminated for cause, as against the public interest.

An elected City Attorney should be, and must be a resident, be a City Elector (registered voter), and have continuously been an active licensed California Attorney for more than 10 years prior to filing nomination papers for the Office of City Attorney.

/s/ Debra Diane Peterson 160 S 3rd St Grover Beach 93433

/s/ Lesley Marr 1465 Farroll Road Grover Beach 93433

/s/ Sharon Elaine Biddle 900 Charles St Grover Beach 93433

**AN INITIATIVE MEASURE PROPOSING TO CHANGE THE GROVER BEACH CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FROM AN
APPOINTEE TO AN ELECTIVE OFFICE**

Under current local law, the Grover Beach City Attorney's Office is appointive, meaning that the City Attorney is appointed by the City Council and serves at the pleasure of the City Council until removed by them.

This initiative would amend section 2017(C) and add sections 2110 through 2115 to the Grover Beach Municipal Code to change the City Attorney's Office from a Council-appointive office to an elective office, meaning that Grover Beach voters would directly elect the City Attorney. The initiative would provide as follows:

- The City Attorney would be elected to a four-year term at each General Municipal Election that coincides with the Statewide Gubernatorial Election (Nov. 2026, 2030, 2034);
- The elected City Attorney's salary would be capped at no greater than 80% of the compensation received by the California Attorney General in the year prior to the City Attorney's elected four-term term;
- The elected City Attorney would not receive any severance pay or compensation upon resignation, not seeking re-election, or another being elected as City Attorney;
- The elected City Attorney must represent the City exclusively and could not individually represent any other city, district or county; nor be employed by or be a partner in a firm that represents such other agencies;
- A City Attorney candidate must, prior to filing nomination papers, be a resident elector of the City and must have continuously been a licensed California attorney for 10 or more years and not have served as Grover Beach Acting City Attorney within 2 years of filing nomination papers; and
- The City Council may establish subordinate positions in the City Attorney's Office, such as assistant city attorneys, paralegals and secretaries. The elected City Attorney would have the exclusive authority to hire and fire such subordinate employees;
- If a court holds that Grover Beach voters may not directly elect a City Attorney, the City Clerk shall accept nomination papers from qualified candidates, and the City Council must place an advisory measure on the ballot in the general election asking voters which nominated persons shall serve as City Attorney. Upon certification of the advisory vote, the City Council must immediately appoint the person receiving the highest number of votes in each such election for a four-year term;
- Within 30 days of adoption of this initiative measure, the City Council shall meet to temporarily fill the office of City Attorney with an Acting City Attorney to perform until the next General Municipal Election. The Acting City Attorney must have continuously been a licensed California attorney for 10 or more years prior to appointment, must be a resident of San Luis Obispo County and meet the fidelity and compensation requirements of this measure;
- This measure could not be amended, except upon future voter approval.

/s/ William J. "Jim" Priest, Special Legal Counsel Acting on behalf of the Grover Beach City Attorney

Feb 6, 2025

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