

CITY OF VERNON
NOVEMBER 2011 BALLOT MEASURES

The following amendments to the Vernon City Charter will be proposed to City residents at the November 8, 2011 election:

- **Councilmember Term Limits:** An amendment to the City Charter limiting Vernon councilmembers to two five-year terms in office. After serving two five-year terms, councilmembers would be barred from office for life. Terms of office that began before the enactment of the measure would not count towards the two term limit.
- **Prevailing Wages:** An amendment to the City Charter to require that Vernon comply with prevailing wage laws for public works projects. Although Vernon has long supported and complied with California law requiring the payment of prevailing wages for public works projects, recent litigation has raised questions about whether the state's prevailing wages provisions apply to charter cities, like Vernon.
- **At-Will Employment:** An amendment to the City Charter to get rid of the requirement that City employees be employed "at-will." An "at-will" employment relationship is one where the employer is free to terminate individuals for any reason. The "at-will" charter provision prevents the City from adopting alternative employment arrangements such as civil service rules, which often provide employees rights to greater job security.
- **City Administrator Terms:** An amendment to the City Charter to get rid of limitations on the ability of the City Council to remove the City Administrator or to change his or her compensation. Currently, the City Charter contains a number of limitations on the ability of the City Council to remove the City Administrator or change his or her compensation, including written notice and public hearing requirements.

Additionally, the following amendments to the Vernon City Charter will be proposed to City residents at the November 22, 2011 election:

- **Housing Commission:** An amendment to the City Charter requiring the City to maintain its recently-created Housing Commission to provide oversight for the day-to-day management, leasing, and maintenance of City-owned housing. This measure would ensure that the Housing Commission continues to exist and carry out its current duties.
- **Independent Reform Monitor:** An amendment to the City Charter requiring the City to hire an Independent Reform Monitor for four years to review City policies and recommend governance reform measures. The Independent Reform Monitor would have the power to conduct audits of all City operations and budgets, would have the power to review proposed service contracts, and would be required to report annually to the State legislature on the progress of the City's reform efforts.
- **Councilmember Appointments:** An amendment to the City Charter to prohibit the City Council from appointing a councilmember under any circumstances. Currently, the City Council is allowed to fill councilmember seats by appointment when there is a vacancy or if less than two people are nominated for an open position. The proposed Charter

amendment would instead require that each councilmember seat be filled through an election.

- **Councilmember Compensation**: An amendment to the City Charter to prohibit Vernon City councilmembers from increasing their compensation in excess of cost-of-living adjustments under any circumstances.
- **Light and Power Funds**: An amendment to the City Charter to get rid of the requirement that funds from the City's Light and Power Fund be used only to support the City's Light and Power enterprise. The requirement prevents transfers of funds to the City's General Fund to support general City services or funding needs as they may arise.
- **Competitive Bidding Process**: An amendment to the City Charter to require that the City establish an open and competitive bidding process for City service contracts by ordinance.