

MEASURE “B”:
CITY OF RIDGECREST COUNCIL MEMBER TERM MEASURE
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

The City of Ridgecrest (“City”) City Council voted to place a council member term measure (“Measure”) on the June 2, 2026 general municipal election ballot.

Part I, Chapter 2, Article II, Section 2-25 of Ridgecrest’s Municipal Code (“Section 2-25”) currently imposes a term limit on council members of eight consecutive years. After eight consecutive years of service, a person may not serve as a council member or as mayor until a period of two years has passed since such person last held office. The Municipal Code does not have any provisions for a partial term, which occurs when the City Council appoints someone to fill a vacancy on the Council during the departing Council Member’s term.

If approved, the Measure would amend Section 2-25, replacing the term limit of eight consecutive years with a limit of two consecutive four- year terms.

If approved, the Measure would also amend Section 2-25 to establish that an appointed term shall only count as a full term for the purpose of term limits, if it is for a period of more than two years. A council member appointed to fill a term of less than two years would still be eligible to run for and be elected to two consecutive four-year terms thereafter. The term limits apply to both the council members and the elected mayor.

A “YES” vote is a vote to approve the change from eight-year maximum service to two 4-year terms and to add a clarification that appointed terms of less than 2 years do not count as a term for the purposes of computing term limits. A “NO” vote is a vote to maintain the current eight year maximum service system and not provide clarification as to a partial term created by an appointment to a vacant seat. The Measure would take effect only if it receives a majority “YES” vote at the June 2, 2026 general municipal election.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the Measure. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the City Clerk’s Office at (760) 499-5002 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Dated: March 6, 2026

Martin Koczanowicz, City Attorney
City of Ridgecrest