

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-007

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA APPROVING AND CALLING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF A CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED MEASURE TO AMEND CITY CHARTER SECTION 521 TO MODERNIZE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CITY CONTRACTS AND LEASES OF CITY PROPERTY AT A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY ON JUNE 2, 2026, AND AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 25-066, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, TO APPROPRIATE \$195,000 OF GENERAL FUND RESERVES

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to submit a proposed City Charter amendment to the voters at the Statewide Direct Primary Election on June 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to call a Special Municipal Election to be consolidated with the Statewide Primary Election/Presidential Primary Election June 2, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the proposed charter amendment does not alter any procedural or substantive protection, right, benefit, or employment status of any local government employee or any retiree or of any local government employee organization, and

WHEREAS, the proposed charter amendment is an exercise of the City's Constitutional home rule power regarding a matter of municipal affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to requirements of the Charter of the City of Santa Barbara and California Election Code, there is called and ordered to be held in the City of Santa Barbara on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, a Special Municipal Election for the purpose of submitting a City Council charter amendment proposal to the voters for approval.

SECTION 2. That the City Council, pursuant to its right and authority under State Government Code section 34458, and Elections Code sections 1415 (a)(2) and 9255, does order submitted to the voters at the municipal election on June 2, 2026, the following proposed charter amendment:

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE ____ -2026	
Shall the proposed measure to modernize City Charter Section 521 allowing flexibility related to terms and conditions of contracts and leases of City property be adopted?	YES
	NO

SECTION 3. The City Council approves and adopts the complete text of the amendment of City Charter Section 521 as follows, with deletions of existing text shown in strike out and additions shown in underlining for convenient reference only:

Section 521 ~~Contracts. Restrictions.~~

No contract or lease ~~or extension thereof~~ by which the City is bound for a longer period than five years shall be valid unless ~~said the~~ contract, or lease ~~or extension be made or is~~ approved by ordinance or resolution of the City Council. ~~which shall be subject to referendum; nor may the City lease property owned, held or controlled by it for any period exceeding 50 years.~~ The City has the authority and flexibility to approve contracts for the sale, lease, or use of city property as allowed by the City Charter or the California Constitution. The City may lease property owned, held, or controlled by it with terms established by the City Council. This section shall not apply to any franchise granted pursuant to the provisions of this Charter or to any contract for the furnishing or acquisition of the products, ~~commodity~~ commodities, or services of any public utility.

SECTION 4. The City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the proposed charter amendment to the City Attorney. The City Attorney is directed to prepare an impartial analysis of the proposal, not to exceed 500 words in length, showing the effect of the proposal on existing law and the operation of the proposal. The City Attorney is further directed to transmit the impartial analysis to the City Clerk within ten days of adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. Pursuant to Elections Code section 9282, the City Council authorizes the Mayor to file a written argument on its behalf regarding the measure, accompanied by up to four additional printed names and signatures of the persons joining the Mayor in submitting it.

SECTION 6. Pursuant to Elections Code section 9285, the City Council authorizes the City Clerk to select the arguments for and against the measure, which will be printed and distributed to the voters in accordance with this Resolution and state law. The City Clerk shall send a copy of the argument in favor of the measure to the authors of any argument against the measure and copy of an argument against the measure to the authors of any argument in favor of the measure immediately upon receiving the arguments. The author or a majority of the authors of an argument relating to the measure may prepare and submit a rebuttal argument or may authorize in writing any other person or persons to prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal argument. The rebuttal argument shall not exceed 250 words. A rebuttal argument may not be signed by more than five persons. Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments. Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut.

SECTION 7. That the City Clerk is authorized, instructed, and directed to procure and furnish any and all official ballots, notices, printed matter, and all supplies, equipment, and paraphernalia that may be necessary in order to properly and lawfully conduct the election.

SECTION 8. Notice of the time and place of holding the election is hereby given and the City Clerk is authorized, instructed, and directed to give further or additional notice of the election in time, form and manner as required by law.

SECTION 9. Pursuant to Elections Code sections 10401 and 10403, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is hereby requested to consent and agree to the consolidation of the Special Municipal Election with the Statewide Primary Election/Presidential Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, for the submission of the measure.

SECTION 10. The County Elections Division is hereby authorized to canvass the returns of the Special Municipal Election. The election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used.

SECTION 11. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is hereby requested to issue instructions to the County Elections Division to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.

SECTION 12. The City Council of the City of Santa Barbara recognizes that additional costs will be incurred by the County of Santa Barbara by reason of this consolidation and hereby agrees to reimburse the County for these costs. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1205 of the City Charter, the budget for the Fiscal Year 2026, as adopted by Resolution No. 25-066, is hereby amended as follows: The Council approves the appropriation of available General fund Reserves in the amount of \$195,000 to fund the cost necessary to support the County Elections Division with respect to the ballot measure to amend Charter Section 521.

SECTION 13. The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the County Elections Division of the County of Santa Barbara.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
)
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on February 3, 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Eric Friedman, Oscar Gutierrez, Meagan Harmon, Mike Jordan, Wendy Santamaria, Kristen W. Sneddon; Mayor Randy Rowse

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on February 3, 2026.



Sarah P. Gorman, MMC
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing resolution on February 3, 2026.

Randy Rowse
Mayor