

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE R1

The City Council has placed before the voters the question whether the Albany City Charter should be amended to dissolve the City's Civil Service Board and to add a definition for the term "classified service". A full copy of the Charter amendment text is printed in these ballot materials.

Currently, the Charter requires that the City have a Civil Service Board consisting of five members appointed by the City Council. The Board's duties include formulating rules and regulations governing the employment, promotion, transfer, etc. of employees within the "Classified Service." The Board is also responsible for holding examinations for applicants seeking employment, promotion, transfer, etc. The Charter also requires that there be a Hearing Board to hear disputes related to members of the "Classified Service". The cost for carrying out these duties is paid from the City's General Fund. The Charter does not clearly define the term "Classified Service", but that term has been interpreted to include all sworn police and fire employees except for the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

The proposed Charter amendment would dissolve the Civil Service Board. The duties previously carried out by the Board would be fulfilled by the City's management staff unless otherwise directed by the City Council. The proposed Charter amendment also would add a definition of "Classified Service" which clearly states that this term includes all sworn police and fire employees except for the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

A "Yes" vote is a vote in favor of dissolving the Civil Service Board and defining the term "classified service". A "No" vote is a vote against making these changes. This measure will be approved if a majority of the votes cast on it are "Yes" votes.

DATED: July 22, 2016

Craig Labadie, City Attorney