

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026  
Agenda Item No. 14  
Distribution Date: April 16, 2026  
Batch No. 02

**From:** [Rob/Kelly Reape](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] charter "reform" package vote NO!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 1:21:44 PM

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Board of Supervisors,

The Board of Supervisors will soon vote on a charter "reform" package that will let supervisors serve 12 years instead of 8.

This was NOT asked for by the public. This was driven by a politician who benefits from it.

This is a hard NO! The voters made their voices heard in 2010. 2 term maximum for supervisors!

No tyrants, no arrogance, no supervisors who think they are smarter than the public! Tighten the government's belt, no more overspending!  
San Diego County deserves better!

Respectfully,  
Kelly Reape

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Melody Seekins](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Opposition to Extending County Supervisors' Term Limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 3:21:56 PM

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Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to increase supervisors' term limits from 8 years to 12 years.

Term limits exist to ensure fresh perspectives, accountability and responsiveness to the community. Extending the limit risks concentrating power for longer periods and reducing opportunities for new leadership to step forward. At a time when public trust and transparency are more important than ever, maintaining the current limit helps preserve a healthy balance between experience and renewal.

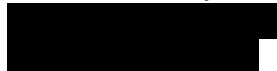
Eight years already provides ample time for supervisors to gain experience, implement policy and serve their constituents effectively. Increasing that limit does not clearly benefit the public, but it does reduce the frequency of voter choice and input.

I respectfully urge you to reject any proposal to extend term limits and to prioritize policies that strengthen accountability and public trust.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Melody Seekins



**From:** [Mowad, Michelle](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#); [Potter, Andrew](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: [External] Supervisors term increase  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 3:09:43 PM

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Good afternoon,  
Please see the public comment that came in  
Thank you.  
Michelle Mowad

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**From:** Melody Seekins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 2:24 PM  
**To:** FGG, Communications <Communications.FGG@sdcounty.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Supervisors term increase

NO, NO on term limit from 8 to 12 years.

BELL, McANDREWS & HILTACHK, LLP  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

455 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 600  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 442-7757  
FAX (916) 442-7759

April 16, 2026

Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer  
Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov

RE: Proposed Charter Amendment

Dear Supervisor Lawson-Remer:

This firm represents the California District Attorneys Association (“CDAA”) an organization that represents over 3500 prosecutors including all 58 elected district attorneys. CDAA has learned that you have proposed a charter amendment and have requested your fellow Board members to place it on the November 3, 2026 ballot. One provision of your proposal is unlawful and may result in the whole proposal being kept off the ballot. We bring this to your attention now so that you can modify the content to preserve the proposal legality.

The provision at issue is described in your memorandum dated April 21, 2026 as follows:

...establishing a Charter framework that would apply the same three four-year limit to other Countywide elected offices if enabling legislation is ever enacted in the future by the State of California.

Obviously, you are aware that the voters have no current legal authority to impose term limits by Charter amendment or by ordinance on countywide elected officers, like the Sheriff and District Attorney. That issue has been clearly resolved by our Supreme Court in *Younger v. Board of Supervisors* (1979) 93 Cal.App.3d 864. As your memorandum indicates, imposition of term limits on the Sheriff or District Attorney would require either state legislation or a constitutional amendment of the county charter provision.

Your proposed charter amendment seeks to impose terms limits on the Sheriff and District Attorney *if* the Legislature or voters take one of these actions in the future. Unfortunately, the voters of San Diego county have no legal power to adopt such a conditional provision and thus, a court would be authorized to remove the whole proposed charter amendment from the ballot.

Your proposed measure also appears misleading as it clearly seeks to expand the term limits of current board members, including yourself, by linking board member term limits to other county officials not subject to term limits.

The voters power to propose and enact legislation, including charter provisions, is provided for by the California Constitution and implemented by State law. But that power is limited to the enactment of “legislation.” There are numerous cases in which the courts have removed measures from the ballot because the voters had no power to enact the non-legislative measure in the first

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instance. Indeed, your proposal is very much like the measure removed from the ballot in *AFL v. Eu*, (1984) 36 Cal. 3d 687. There, the California Supreme Court removed a measure from the ballot that would have required the state Legislature to ask Congress to pass a national balanced budget amendment to the United State Constitution. The Court held:

The initiative power is the power to adopt ‘statutes’ -- to enact laws -- but the crucial provisions of the balanced budget initiative do **not** adopt a *statute* or enact a law. They adopt, and mandate the Legislature to adopt, a *resolution* which does **not** change California law and constitutes only one step in a process which might eventually amend the federal Constitution. Such a resolution is **not** an exercise of **legislative** power reserved to the people under the California Constitution.

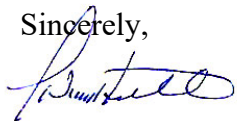
Real party in interest argues that we should ‘let the people's voice be heard.’ Even if the initiative is invalid, he implies, the election will give the voters the opportunity to express their views on the desirability of a balanced budget, and the legislators may respond to the outcome of the election. This argument misunderstands the purpose of the initiative in California. It is **not** a public opinion poll. It is a method of enacting legislation, and if the proposed measure does **not** enact legislation, or if it seeks to compel **legislative** action which the electorate has no power to compel, it should **not** be on the ballot.

(*AFL v. Eu*, *supra*, at 694-695). Many other preelection cases have reached the same conclusion and result. (See, *Widders v. Furchtenicht* (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 769 and *City of San Diego v. Dunkl* (2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 384.)

The reason for this rule is best shown by way of example in this very situation. Assume the voters approve the charter amendment proposed in November of 2026, but the Legislature does not act on county officer term limits for 40 more years. Your proposal would then impose term limits on those officers in 2066, without the voters of that era having had any opportunity to consider the wisdom of doing so at that time.

If the Legislature or the voters of California ever act to authorize term limits on countywide officers, the voters in San Diego can consider the wisdom of doing so at that time, either by ordinance or charter amendment, proposed by the people or by the Board. Your attempt to do so now jeopardizes the legality of your entire proposal. We urge you to reconsider inclusion of the clearly unlawful provision.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Hiltachk

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CC:

Paloma Aguirre

Joel Anderson

Monica Montgomery Steppe

Jim Desmond

Damon Brown, County Counsel

Kelly Martinez, Sheriff

Summer Stephan, District Attorney

Dan Dow

Greg Totten