



Meeting Date: May 19, 2026
Agenda Item No. 25
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May 18, 2026

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 331
San Diego, California 92101

Re: Opposition to Proposed Charter Amendment Provision Imposing Term Limits on Countywide Elected Offices

Honorable Chair and Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Diego County Deputy District Attorneys Association, representing 362 Deputy District Attorneys and 17 Child Support Program Attorneys, we respectfully oppose the provision contained within the proposed 2026 County Charter Amendment that would impose term limits on countywide elected offices.

We are specifically addressing the term limit provision impacting the Office of the District Attorney and Office of the Sheriff contained in the proposed Charter Amendment. Our position is narrowly tailored and is consistent with existing California law.

The Offices of the District Attorney and Sheriff are fundamentally distinct from many other elected positions within County government. These offices are entrusted with constitutional and statutory responsibilities to independently enforce the law, protect public safety, and safeguard crime victims. The District Attorney must exercise prosecutorial discretion free from political influence or external pressures. The proposed term-limit provision unnecessarily restricts the electorate's ability to retain experienced leadership in two of the County's most critical public safety positions.

San Diego County voters already possess the ultimate mechanism for accountability through regular democratic elections. If the public loses confidence in the leadership, policies, or performance of a District Attorney or Sheriff, voters retain the authority to remove that individual at the ballot box. Mandatory term limits substitute the considered judgment of the electorate with an inflexible political restriction.

The proposed provision also risks significant institutional harm to the administration of justice and public safety. Effective prosecutorial and law enforcement agencies require continuity, long-term leadership, and deep operational expertise. Complex criminal justice challenges—including organized crime, human trafficking, narcotics enforcement, cybercrime, gang violence, officer-involved incidents, consumer protection, and collaborative regional prosecution efforts—often

require years of experience and sustained leadership to effectively address. Forced turnover may weaken institutional stability precisely when continued experienced leadership is most needed to protect our communities and ensure the fair and equitable administration of justice.

Unlike legislative positions, where term limits may serve a distinct policy purpose, the Office of the District Attorney is fundamentally an executive and professional role. The District Attorney oversees thousands of criminal prosecutions annually, manages substantial legal and ethical responsibilities, supervises highly specialized attorneys and investigators, and maintains critical partnerships with courts, law enforcement agencies, victim advocacy organizations, state and federal prosecutors, and other public safety stakeholders. The public benefits from experience, continuity, and institutional knowledge in this role.

For these reasons, the San Diego County Deputy District Attorneys Association respectfully urges the Board of Supervisors to reject the proposed Charter Amendment provision imposing term limits on the Offices of the District Attorney and Sheriff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nereida M. Bowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nereida" being the most prominent part.

Nereida M. Bowman

President

San Diego County Deputy District Attorneys Association

cc:

Summer Stephen, District Attorney

Kelly Martinez, Sheriff

Larry Cohen, Treasurer-Tax Collector

Jordan Z. Marks, Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk

Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors