


TO: City Council  
 FROM: James L. App, City Manager   
 SUBJECT: City Organization - Elected Mayor  
 DATE: July 6, 1999

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**NEEDS:** For the City Council to consider placing a ballot question before the electorate to establish a directly-elected Mayor.

- FACTS:**
1. The City of Paso Robles is a general law City. As such, it is organized under, and subject to, the laws of the State.
  2. The Mayor of a general law City is generally selected by the City Council following a general election.
  3. Upon a vote of the electorate, a general law City may establish a directly-elected Mayor.
  4. An elected Mayor is a member of the City Council and has all of the powers and duties of a member of the City Council.
  5. An elected Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, may make all appointments to boards, commissions and committees. And, with the consent of the electorate, or by ordinance, an elected Mayor may draw a salary in addition to the salary established for members of the Council.

**ANALYSIS & CONCLUSION:**

The City Council may place a measure on a ballot asking voters if they wish to have a directly-elected Mayor, and whether they prefer a two or four year term. Establishment of a directly-elected Mayor requires a majority vote of the electorate.

The ballot question may be placed on a general, primary or special election. Near term options include a special election in November 1999, the primary election scheduled for March 2000, or the general election of November 2000. The Paso Robles School District recently decided to call a special election for November 1999 to seek voter support for a general obligation bond. The November 2000 election would allow for a directly-elected Mayor beginning November 2002. The March 2000 primary would allow election of a Mayor in November 2000, and avoid distraction from the school bond measure in the November 1999 special election.

If the measure passes, one of the Council seats on the next following ballot will be designated the Mayor's seat and the post filled by subsequent election.

**POLICY REFERENCE:**

California Government Code Sections 34900-34906, 36516, & 40601-40605.

**FISCAL  
IMPACT:**

Varies - A special election could cost as much as \$27-30,000. The March 2000 primary is estimated at \$13,000. The November 2000 general election may cost \$8-12,000.

**OPTIONS:**

- A. Determine Whether to Place a Ballot Question before the Electorate to Establish a Directly-Elected Mayor. And, if a Ballot Question is Authorized, Select an Election Date.
- B. Amend, Modify or Reject the Option Above.