



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
www. CityofSacramento.org

Staff Report  
June 22, 2010

Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

**Title:** Accountability Plan of 2010

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** (1) Discuss the proposed charter changes identified in the "Accountability Plan of 2010"; (2) provide direction to the City Attorney's Office to return on July 13, 2010 with proposed charter language; and (3) direct staff to return on July 13, 2010 with the necessary resolutions to have a charter change ballot measure placed on the November 2, 2010 ballot.

**Contact:** Kunal Merchant, Mayor's Chief of Staff, 808-5377

**Presenters:** Kunal Merchant

**Department:** Office of the Mayor

**Division:** N/A

**Organization No:** 0700

### Description/Analysis

#### Issue:

At the February 16, 2010 Council Meeting, Mayor Johnson laid out a five-point framework for the "Accountability Plan of 2010," a proposal to update the City of Sacramento Charter. Since that time, the Mayor has held a series of community meetings and town halls to gather input and develop more specific recommendations for the plan.

These efforts culminated in a "detailed conceptual draft" of the Accountability Plan, prepared in consultation with the City Attorney's Office. This conceptual draft was shared with the Council and general public in May, and will serve as the basis for Council discussion and the charter amendment language placed before voters in

November.

**Policy Considerations:** The plan provides the Mayor and Council an opportunity to engage voters in the ongoing dialogue on how best to increase accountability, efficiency and transparency within the city.

**Environmental Considerations:** None.

**Sustainability Considerations:** None.

**Commission/Committee Action:** None.


**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Drafting charter amendment language is an essential next step in furthering discussion on the Accountability Plan and meeting the required deadlines to place items on the November 2010 ballot.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Kunal Merchant  
Mayor's Chief of Staff

**Table of Contents:**

Report

pg. 1

**Attachments**

1 Detailed Conceptual Draft

pg. 3

2 Presentation

To Be Delivered

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

KEVIN JOHNSON  
MAYOR



CITY HALL  
915 I STREET, FIFTH FLOOR  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2672

PH 916-808-5300  
FAX 916-264-7680  
mayor@cityofsacramento.org

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CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

May 25, 2010

Dear Citizens,

Please find enclosed a detailed draft of the Accountability Plan of 2010 for your review. The plan centers around five components:

- An **elected Mayor as chief executive** with the ability to align city leadership and resources behind a shared vision for the city;
- An **independent council** with separate legislative and oversight authority;
- A requirement for an **ethics ordinance** to ensure adherence to high standards of conduct and transparency;
- Options for **term limits** on the Mayor and Council; and
- A **voter re-approval** provision that allows citizens to confirm the plan at a future date before making changes permanent

This plan represents the culmination of 18 months of public debate and discussion on how best to modernize our City Charter. The plan includes elements not only from the original initiative proposed in December 2008, but also several additions and modifications suggested by the Charter Review Committee and via other forums that address questions and concerns with the original proposal. Specifically, the plan draws on elements put forth via:

- an initiative supported by 50,000 citizens to transition to an executive mayor governance form;
- the Charter Review Committee which, through 60 hours of public discussion over seven months, discussed several recommendations included in the plan (e.g. Council-appointed charter officers, limited Mayoral appointment power, ethics provisions);
- public discussion and analysis at more than ten City Council meetings;
- an ongoing series of town halls, community meetings, and other events where over 1,500 citizens to date have provided input and feedback; and
- innumerable contributions by the media and citizens via editorials, op-eds, letters to the editor, blogs, news reports, and other formats

The enclosed materials, developed with support from the City Attorney's Office, represent the latest draft of the plan. Final terms and language will be determined by the Mayor and Council via public discussions beginning at the June 15, 2010 Council Meeting.

Please contact me at [chiefstaff@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:chiefstaff@cityofsacramento.org) or 916-808-5300 with questions or feedback. In addition, our office welcomes requests to present the plan to a particular group or organization.

Sincerely,

Kunal Merchant  
Mayor's Chief of Staff

# Accountability Plan of 2010

DRAFT 5.25.10

## SUMMARY

### 1. Executive Mayor

- Mayor is Chief Executive
- Proposes budget
- Appoints/removes City Manager and department heads
- Limited veto

### 2. Independent Council

- Council President leads Council Meetings
- Approves budget
- Confirms City Manager and department heads
- Appoints/removes City Clerk, City Attorney, City Treasurer, City Auditor and Independent Budget Analyst
- Overrides Mayoral vetoes
- Ninth council district created in 2012

### 3. Ethics Ordinance

- Training and education
- Compliance
- Whistleblower resources
- Transparency reforms

### 4. Term Limits

- Option 1: No term limits
- Option 2: 2-3 terms in lifetime
- Option 3: 2-3 terms in succession

### 5. Voter Reapproval

- Effective 30 days after election (December 2, 2010)
- Sunsets if voters do not re-approve in 8-10 years

**ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN OF 2010: DETAILED CONCEPTUAL DRAFT (Updated 5.25.2010)**

Below is a summary of proposed changes to the City of Sacramento Charter. This document was prepared by the Office of the Mayor in partnership with the City Attorney's Office. It is intended to advance public dialogue on key issues and options under discussion. Please note this is only a draft; exact terms and language will be determined by the Mayor and Council at a future City Council meeting.

	CURRENT CHARTER	PROPOSED PLAN
<b>Executive duties</b>		
Chief Executive Officer	City Manager	Mayor <sup>1</sup>
State of the City required?	No	Yes. Present annually to public by March 1
Contracting Authority	Council; City Manager per ordinance	Same as current
<b>Council Meetings</b>		
Runs council meetings	Mayor	Council President elected by Council. <sup>2</sup>
Assumes role of Mayor in case of declared vacancy	Vice Mayor	Council President
Mayor's role in open session	Participate <sup>3</sup> and vote	May not participate or vote.
Mayor's role in closed session	Participate and vote	May participate, no vote.
City Manager's role at Council Meeting	Participate, no vote	Same as current
<b>Appointment Responsibilities</b>		
City Manager	Appoint: Council (5 votes) Remove: Council (6 votes)	Appoint: Mayor w/Council concurrence (5 votes) Remove: Mayor
City Clerk, Treasurer, Attorney, Auditor and Independent Budget Analyst	Appoint: Council (5 votes) Remove: Council (5 votes)	Same as current
Assistant City Managers and Department Heads	Appoint: City Manager Remove: City Manager	Appoint: Mayor w/Council concurrence (5 votes) Remove: Mayor
Other city employees (unrepresented and represented)	Appointed/removed by appointing authority <sup>4</sup>	Same as current
Boards & Commissions	Appoint: Mayor w/Council concurrence (5 votes) Remove: Council (5 votes)	Same as current
<b>Budget</b>		
Propose and present preliminary budget	City Manager 60 days before fiscal year	Mayor 90 days before fiscal year
Amend and adopt budget	Mayor and Council	Council
Required number of public hearings	One hearing	Two hearings - first within 15 days of proposal
Council deadline to return modified budget to Mayor	N/A	30 days prior to end of current fiscal year
Contingency if budget not adopted on time	Prior budget effective until new budget passed	Same as current
Budget amendments	Same process as for adoption	Same process as for adoption
<b>Veto</b>		
Scope of veto	N/A	Budget and Ordinances only <sup>5</sup>
Mayoral veto timeline	N/A	Veto within 10 days or automatically approved
Council override timeline	N/A	Budget: Override (6 votes) within 10 days Ordinances: Override (6 votes) within 30 days
<b>Term Limits<sup>6</sup></b>		
Maximum terms as Mayor	None	Option 1: None Option 2: 2-3 full terms in succession Option 3: 2-3 full terms in lifetime
Maximum terms as Council Member	None	Option 1: None Option 2: 2-3 full terms in succession Option 3: 2-3 full terms in lifetime
<b>Ethics Program</b>		
Charter requires Council to adopt ethics ordinance?	No	Yes
<b>Voter Re-approval</b>		
Effective Date	N/A	December 2, 2010 (30 days after Election Day)
Timeframe to place re-approval measure on ballot	N/A	Between November 2018 and November 2020
<b>Other Issues</b>		
Residual Powers	Council	Same as current
Ninth Council District	N/A	Election in 2012 after 2011 redistricting.
Minimum votes needed to pass Council item	5 votes	Same as current. <sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> City Manager will retain several specific administrative duties laid out in charter, such as sitting on specific boards and commissions.

<sup>2</sup> Council President will be elected by Council, similar to how the Vice Mayor is currently selected. The Council President may be re-elected to successive terms.

<sup>3</sup> "Participate" in this sense means to speak alongside the Council from the dais. The Mayor, as with any other member of the public, would always be able to attend and speak as a citizen.

<sup>4</sup> Currently, the Mayor, Council, City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Attorney, City Auditor and Independent Budget Analyst have appointing authority over their respective staffs.

<sup>5</sup> Budget veto includes line items. Exceptions where Mayor may not veto include: emergency ordinances; ordinances required by state law; election-related ordinances; re-zoning; development agreements; land use decisions/actions; Council budget; and any other matters under the exclusive purview of the Council.

<sup>6</sup> Term limits would impact terms that commence after effective date. Council terms would not count towards future Mayoral service (and vice versa). Full term: >2 years. Partial: ≤ 2 years

<sup>7</sup> Before 9<sup>th</sup> council member added in 2012, 4-4 council votes will not pass, as in other cities.