

Ibarra, Evelyn

From: Dale Helvig <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2024 8:20 PM
To: eComment; Carvalho, Sonia R.; Nunez, Alvaro; Mendoza, Steven; Hall, Jennifer; Amezcua, Valerie; Phan, Thai; Vazquez, Benjamin; Lopez, Jessie; Bacerra, Phil; Hernandez, Johnathan; Penalzoza, David
Subject: 2024-07-136 Letter to City Council-Item 26-3 Non-Citizen Voting for July 16th CC Meeting
Attachments: 2024-07-13 Letter to City Council-Item 26-3 Non-Citizen Voting.pdf

Attention: This email originated from outside of City of Santa Ana. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

See attached file

Dale Helvig
Resident, Santa Ana

Dale Helvig

Resident, Santa Ana CA 92706



July 13, 2024

Mayor Amezcua and Santa Ana City Councilmembers
City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, 8th Floor
Santa Ana CA 92702

Subject: Item 26-3, Non-Citizen Voting

Define “non-citizen”. I heard members on the dais say the City Council will define non-citizens after the election, if it passes. I have also heard anyone who can prove they have lived in Santa Ana for more than 30 days would be eligible to vote. Both of these ideas show a lack of foresight.

What other countries allow non-citizens to vote after 30-days....none that I can find. Chile considers all **legally present** foreign-born adults to be eligible to vote after **five-years** of residence. Ecuador allows **legally present** non-citizens to vote after **five-years** of residence. New Zealand allows **permanent residents** to vote after just **one-year** in the country. Norway lets foreign nationals vote in local elections after **three-years** of residence. Mexico requires a voter ID (*credencial para votar*) from the Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE, or National Electoral Institute).¹

This council has repeatedly stated that financial constraints need to be applied now due to Santa Ana’s projected budget deficit, and it seems that defending this half-baked idea, should it pass, will result in vast amounts of money being spent that instead should be used to benefit the lives of **all** Santa Ana residents.

Your constituents are already represented by you on City matters, whether citizens or not.

Be responsible! Use your authority and resources to assist non-citizens in obtaining citizenship status rather than placing this item on the ballot.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Dale A Helvig
Resident, Santa Ana

¹ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-emigrant-voting-rights> (May 1,2024)



Ibarra, Evelyn

From: Dale Helvig <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2024 8:25 PM
To: eComment; Carvalho, Sonia R.; Nunez, Alvaro; Mendoza, Steven; Hall, Jennifer; Alcala, Abigail; Amezcua, Valerie; Phan, Thai; Vazquez, Benjamin; Lopez, Jessie; Bacerra, Phil; Hernandez, Johnathan; Penaloza, David
Subject: 2024-07-13 Letter to City Council-Item 26-2 Council Compensation for July 16th CC Meeting
Attachments: 2024-07-13 Letter to City Council-Item 26-2 Council Compensation.pdf

Attention: This email originated from outside of City of Santa Ana. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

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Dale Helvig
Resident, Santa Ana

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Resident, Santa Ana CA 92706

July 13, 2024

Mayor Amezcua and Santa Ana City Councilmembers

City of Santa Ana

20 Civic Center Plaza, 8th Floor

Santa Ana CA 92702

Subject: Item 26-2, Council Compensation

City Council members can put in a lot of hours working on important issues, and the residents of City of Santa Ana should be grateful. Compensation of approximately \$1000 a month is not nearly enough. However, what is being proposed for future compensation is questionable, especially given the severe budget issues the City is facing.

CURRENT COMPENSATION

SAMC Sec. 402. - Compensation of members states: "Each member of the City Council and the Mayor shall receive as a monthly salary for their services, the maximum amount allowed by the population formula set forth in California Government Code General Section 36516 as of November 8, 2016. No increase in the monthly salary shall occur without first being approved by the voters pursuant to a Charter amendment.

2023 California Code Government Code – GOV TITLE 4 - GOVERNMENT OF CITIES DIVISION 3 – OFFICERS PART 1 – GENERAL Section 36516 states for cities over 250,000 population, up to and including three thousand two hundred dollars (\$3,200) per month. ¹

PROPOSED COMPENSATION

SAMC Sec. 402. - Compensation of members states: "Each member of the City Council and the Mayor shall receive as a monthly salary for their services not to exceed thirty-three (33%) percent of that of an Orange County Superior Court Judge. No increase in the monthly salary shall occur without first being approved by the voters pursuant to a Charter amendment.

This tells me two things: 1) Santa Ana will no longer be following the 2023 California Code Government Code General Section 36516, and 2) Santa Ana residents will no longer be able to limit City Council compensation as Superior Court Judge compensation is increased.

Currently, the salary per council person is \$12,000 per year. Given the current salary of an Orange County Superior Court Judge, Santa Ana residents would be asked to raise the salary per council person to \$78,696 per year, representing a 655% raise.

¹ <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/gov-sect-36516/>

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This, in addition to the \$60,000/year staff support amount allocated to each council person since 2022, **raises the maximum total salary + staff allocation expenses by \$466,000/year from 2024 to 2025**. All of this at a time when residents are being told about the huge loss of funds as Measure X sunsets. See (Table 1)

Table 1


	Councilperson Salary/Year	Support Staff Allocation/Council person/Year	Number of City Council Persons	Entire Council Salary + Support Staff Allocation/Year
2021	\$12,000		7	\$84,000
2022-2024	\$12,000	\$60,000	7	\$504,000
2025 Proposal	\$78,698	\$60,000	7	\$970,886

I do believe City council persons should see an increase in salary, but it should be limited to the maximum of \$3,200 specified in the California Code. This would still result in a 320% (percent) salary raise and a \$98,400 salary + allocation expense per council person, which is far more reasonable to expect of the City's residents. (See Table 2)

Table 2

	Councilperson Salary/Year	Support Staff Allocation/Council person/Year	Number of City Council Persons	Entire Council Salary + Support Staff Allocation/Year
2021	\$12,000		7	\$84,000
2022-2024	\$12,000	\$60,000	7	\$504,000
2025 Proposal	\$38,400	\$60,000	7	\$688,800

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Respectfully,
Dale A Helvig
Resident, Santa Ana