

## **CITY AUDITOR'S IMPARTIAL FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE H**

Measure H allows the City of Oakland's City Council to appoint a City Attorney. Since 2001, the City Attorney has been an elected position with four year terms. Prior to 2001 the City Charter provided that the City Council or the Mayor had the authority to appoint a City Attorney.

Further, Measure H eliminates the provision in the City Charter that defines the formula to calculate the City Attorney's salary and instead allows the City Council to determine the salary. Currently, Charter provision 401(1) provides that the City Attorney's salary "shall be not less than 70% nor more than 90% of the average salaries of the City Attorneys of California cities within the three immediate higher and the three immediate lower cities in population to Oakland."

### Financial Impact

There are three main costs that should be considered as it relates to fiscal impact for Measure H. These are as follows:

- The City Attorney's salary would no longer be set according to current Charter provision 401(1). Instead, other factors such as market rate may need to be considered when determining a salary. The difference in salary between an appointed versus elected City Attorney is not anticipated to be significant.
- Recruitment costs associated with appointing a qualified City Attorney may need to be considered and is estimated to be approximately \$30,000.
- Special election costs would not be incurred. The cost of a special election ranges from approximately \$812,000 to \$1.5 million. Polling place elections range in cost from \$6 to \$8 per registered voter, whereas mail-in ballot elections range in cost from \$4 to \$5 per registered voter. However, it should be noted that the electorate may be voting on more than one issue or elected office during any election, therefore spreading the cost across all the issues and elected offices on the ballot.

We relied on the best data available at this time; however, actual results may vary from staff estimates.

s/COURTNEY A. RUBY, CPA, CFE

City Auditor