



SDIPR San Diego Survey, September 2007
 505 City of San Diego,
 Margin of Error 4.4% City
 Field dates: Sept. 4-9

Hi this is _____ with Competitive Edge Research, a national polling firm and we're calling the good folks of San Diego County to ask your opinion on local issues. We are not selling anything. Most people find it interesting and all your answers will be kept strictly confidential. Please let me begin by asking . . .

Now I would like to ask you for your opinions about issues in the City of San Diego.

Q. How much, if anything, have you seen, read or heard about the city of San Diego's Charter Review Committee. Have you . . . (n=476)

	Sep City %
Heard a lot about it	1.5
Heard a little about it	22.8
Have heard almost nothing about it	25.3
Have heard nothing about it	48.8
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	1.5
Refused (<i>Not Read</i>)	0.1

Over the past few months a Committee convened by the Mayor and the City Council has been meeting and it recently proposed some changes to the City Charter. The Committee has suggested three changes to the Charter so far.

(Proposals were rotated)

One proposal would be to make permanent the change to the strong mayor form of government that voters first adopted in 2004.

Q. If an election were held today, would you vote to approve or vote to reject a measure that makes the strong Mayor form of government permanent?

	Sep City %
Approve, definitely	21.3
Approve, probably	28.2
Reject, probably	16.2

Reject, definitely	19.6
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	14.7

Q31a. Let me read you two opinions about the proposal.

Nelson says that the past year shows that the change to a strong-Mayor form of government is working. The Mayor and City bureaucrats are now much more accountable to the public. Making the system permanent will ensure that we don't go back to the old strong-manager system which got us into the mess we're in now.

Miller says that when the strong-Mayor measure was approved, voters were told it would be a five year experiment. It has only been 18 months and that's not enough time to tell if the experiment is a success. Rather than rush to renew the strong-Mayor system in 2008, we should wait until 2010 before deciding whether to make the change permanent.

Do you agree more with Nelson or Miller?

	Sep City %
Nelson (Pro-making strong Mayor permanent), strongly	15.0
Nelson, somewhat	20.0
Miller, somewhat	30.0
Miller (Anti-making strong Mayor permanent), strongly	28.2
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	6.8

Q. One proposal would expand the council from the current eight City Council districts to 11. City Council Members would still represent individual districts and serve full-time. If an election were held today, would you vote to approve or vote to reject a measure to expand the number of Council seats to 11?

	Sep City %
Approve, definitely	25.3
Approve, probably	35.0
Reject, probably	10.7
Reject, definitely	16.2
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	12.8

Q. Let me read you two opinions about the proposal.

Johnson says we need an odd number of council seats to break ties. Expanding the City Council to 11 seats would also create smaller districts so Council members could get to know their constituents better and more accurately reflect the needs of individual communities.

Taylor says that the last thing that San Diego needs is three more full-time politicians. And between office space and staff salaries, the proposal would cost between 3 million and 4 million dollars a year. To avoid tie votes we could just add a single seat to make the total 9.

Do you agree more with Johnson or Taylor?

	Sep City %
Johnson (Pro-Council expansion), strongly	20.8
Johnson, somewhat	21.0
Taylor, somewhat	23.9
Taylor (Anti-Council expansion), strongly	29.0
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	5.3

Q. One proposal is to change the way the Mayor’s veto works. The City Council can now pass a bill with a vote of 5 to 3. When the Mayor vetoes a bill, the Council can now override the veto and make the bill law with the same 5 votes. If the number of City Council seats were increased to 11, under the committee’s proposal it would take 6 votes to pass legislation and, if the Mayor vetoes a bill, 8 votes would be needed to override the veto. If an election were held today, would you vote to approve or vote to reject a measure to increase the number of votes it takes to override the Mayor’s veto?

	Sep City %
Approve, definitely	25.7
Approve, probably	28.6
Reject, probably	15.8
Reject, definitely	16.2
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	13.7

Q. Let me read you two opinions about the proposal. (*Opinions were rotated*)

Clark says that it should take a large majority of Council Members to override a veto. Otherwise the Mayor doesn’t really have veto power and we don’t really have a strong Mayor. By ensuring that it takes more than a simple majority to override the Mayor’s veto, it is a good check on the City Council and will help the Mayor enact reforms.

Martin says that because the Mayor’s veto will be so hard to override this puts too much power in the hands of the Mayor. Checks and balances are important in a democracy and this proposal, because it makes the City Council weaker, will end up hurting neighborhoods at the expense of the establishment.

Do you agree more with Clark or Martin?

	Sep City %
Clark (Pro-stronger veto power), strongly	21.7
Clark, somewhat	31.2
Martin, somewhat	19.0
Martin (Anti-stronger veto power), strongly	20.5
Unsure (<i>Not Read</i>)	7.5