



**COUNTY OF EL DORADO**  
Recorder – Clerk – Commissioner of Civil Marriages

Janelle K. Horne, Recorder-Clerk

November 4, 2022

Dear Charter Review Committee,

Thank you for your letter requesting my input on the topic of staggering the terms of elected officials. I appreciate that the Committee values the thoughts and opinions of those who are affected by the changes that are being considered.

I have attended the two previous Charter Review Committee Meetings. So, I am aware of the new legislative changes for the Sheriff and District Attorney to be moved to the Presidential election in 2028. That would leave the Assessor, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller, Recorder-Clerk and Surveyor running during the Gubernatorial election year (Governor's Race). I personally believe that it is better for the five of us to continue to stay together and run during the Gubernatorial election year. I am not aware of any other Counties that run an election for my position during the Presidential election cycle. I know within our Recorder's Association, we need to keep track during election time who is running, if they are opposed or unopposed, if there is a runoff, if they are retiring so that we can keep our membership in order. This may be time consuming and inefficient if we must do it every 2 years instead of every 4 years especially if we are the only County doing it. I believe that the year of a Presidential election becomes very partisan for which our offices are non-partisan. People start to focus on what political party affiliation you are and not on your experience, skills, education, and background. Also, local elections can get lost with all the advertisements via newspaper, mail, social media, and television during a Presidential election. As well as cost of this type of advertising is usually higher as the demand is higher and competition for ad space becomes slim.

I would like to advise the Committee to contact our local elections office to see what the impact would be if we added everyone on to one ballot? Would it cost more by having to add another page to the ballot? Would they need to hire more staff at that time to assist with all the filings of these candidates?

I am not aware of any good reasons to make this change so the good old saying goes, "If isn't broke, don't fix it."

As always, please let me know if you have any additional questions. I am always a phone call, email, or text away. Please don't hesitate to contact me. My personal cell number is 530-333-5093.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janelle K. Horne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Janelle" on top and "K. Horne" on the line below it. To the left of the signature is a large, roughly circular blue ink mark or smudge.

Janelle K. Horne

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# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

## Recorder – Clerk – Commissioner of Civil Marriages

Janelle K. Horne, Recorder-Clerk

November 4, 2022

Dear Charter Review Committee,

Thank you for your letter requesting my input on the topic of changing those departments that are elected or consolidating some elected positions. I appreciate that the Committee values the thoughts and opinions of those who are affected by the changes that are being considered.

I really want to encourage you to take a closer look at where this request is coming from and why they are wanting/considering this change. I want to challenge you on your thoughts: Do you want more or less elected officials in El Dorado County who listen and work for the people to ensure that there is a balanced accountability of local government? Or do you prefer that we have less elected officials that the public can hold accountable and bigger government? Take a look at those Counties that have less like Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Do you think that their government works and listens to the people or for the institution they have created? Take a moment to think about some of the departments that are appointed. Planning & Building, Human Resources, Health & Human Services, IT, and Transportation just to name a few. What is the public's perspective on how those departments are run? How is their customer service? Is there a lot of turn over within the department including the department head? I ask these questions to have you comparatively think of the elected departments vs appointment departments. Most of the appointed positions are not long-term employees but have been here less than 5 years. Look at the number of turnovers we've had. Currently the longest appointed position is the CAO's. El Dorado County tends to be a training ground for appointed department heads who don't live in the County but have higher aspirations and tend to take the knowledge they have obtained from us to other Counties. Elected officials are personally invested in our community. Whether it's from a business aspect, volunteering or raising their families. I can tell you from personal experience that I take great pride in serving the public and making any changes to the department to make sure that we are efficiently serving the public while holding my staff accountable. I listen to my constituents and continue to provide public outreach so that I may do my job better. Most Counties have my position or combination of my position as elected. There are only 5 appointed Recorder-Clerk's out of 58 in the State. (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Mono)

The other topic of discussion is combining some of the County offices. It is hard to determine the pros and cons because we were not informed of what offices you are thinking about combining. I only know that I have been approached by constituents that would like to put the Elections department back under the Recorder-Clerk's office and was asked if I would be willing to take on the task. From a comparable standpoint, most Election offices are under the County Clerk's office in the state of California which are mostly elected. From a cost analysis, this makes sense as you are paying for two department head salaries and benefits as well as conferences like California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO). The voters of El Dorado County made their voice heard when they made the County Charter which is comparable to our neighbor Placer County (except for the Surveyor being elected).

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I would appreciate more open conversation and transparency on why these topics are being brought forward. What is wrong with the way we have it now? Why do we need to change it? Unless there is a problem, of which I haven't heard of any. Why are we trying to change or fix something that isn't broken? I would appreciate an open communication as I have invested in a lot of time and personal funds to run for this position. It was a big change and risk to me and my family to switch a lifelong successful career when I was approached 5 years ago. I didn't make the decision lightly. I am so thankful that the community has entrusted me to be their Recorder-Clerk. I have used all my skills and knowledge to make the department better little by little. I love serving El Dorado County every day!

As always, please let me know if you have any additional questions. I am always a phone call, email, or text away. Please don't hesitate to contact me. My personal cell number is 530-333-5093.

Sincerely,



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