

# CHARTER

of

San Bernardino County, California

(REVISED)

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### FOREWORD

The original Charter was framed and adopted in accordance with Section 7 1/2 of Article XI of the Constitution of California in 1913. A board of fifteen freeholders was selected at a special election held on May 14, 1912. Drawn up by this board, the original Charter was presented to the County electors on November 5, 1912. A majority favored adoption. Both houses of the State Legislature voted approval and the original Charter was filed with the Secretary of State on April 7, 1913.

Since that time, 36 amendments to the original Charter have been proposed and 27 have been adopted by the voters. The amendments that have been adopted are:

Amendment 1. Approved by the Legislature January 30, 1915; published on Page 1726, Statutes and Amendments to the Codes, 1915; election of officers other than Supervisors.

Amendment 2. Approved March 24, 1919; published on Page 1454, Statutes and Amendments to the Codes, 1919; addition of Article 2 1/2.

Amendment 3. Approved January 29, 1923; published on Page 1294, Statutes and Amendments to the Codes, 1923; salary of Sheriff fixed.

Amendment 5. Approved January 27, 1925; published on Page 1185, Statutes and Amendments to the Codes, 1925; traffic officers.

Amendment 6. Approved January 18, 1927; copied in this book from a copy certified by the Secretary of State and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of this County; salaries fixed by Supervisors.

Amendment 7. Approved January 6, 1943; amends Article I, Sections 1 and 2; election of Supervisors by district, rather than County-wide balloting.

Amendment 8. Approved January 15, 1945; amends Article I, Section 10; provides salaries of Supervisors to be fixed by legislature.

Amendment 9. Approved January 15, 1945; amends Article III, Section 1; provides number of officers in Class A Justice Court fixed by general law.

Amendment 10. Approved January 15, 1945; amends Article VIE, Section 1; Supervisors may suspend provision prohibiting wartime raise in compensation for elective officers.

Amendment 12. Approved January 25, 1957; amends Article II, Section 9; establishes office of County Counsel.

Amendment 13. Approved January 25, 1957; amends Article II, Section 10; establishes office of Registrar of Voters.

Amendment 17. Approved January 25, 1957; amends Article V, Section 2; provides filing of reports by County officers.

Amendment 18. Approved January 25, 1957; amends Article V, Section 6; provides inspection of books of County and Judicial District Officers by Auditor.

Amendment 19. Approved January 25, 1957; amends Article VII, Section 1; fixes compensation of elective officers.

Amendment 20. Approved January 25, 1957; amends Article VII, Section 3; provides biweekly salary payment.

Amendment 21. Approved January 25, 1957; adds Section 6 to Article 2 1/2; establishes County Board of Education.

Amendment 22. Approved February 19, 1959; amends Section I to Article IV; establishes office of County Purchasing Agent.

Amendment 23. Approved February 19, 1959; adds Section 4 1/2 to Article VII; provides for establishment of fixed benefit retirement system for employees ineligible for federal insurance.

Amendment 24. Approved February 8, 1967; amends Article V; relating to reports and accounts.

Amendment 25. Approved March 15, 1971; amends Articles I, II, III, IV, and VII, and repeals Articles 2 1/2 and VI; eliminates obsolete and unnecessary language and rennumbers Charter provisions.

Amendment 26. Approved March 15, 1971; adds Section 1.1 to Article II and repeals Sections 9 and 10 of Article II and Article IV; places all County department heads in the Unclassified Service.

Amendment 28. Filed and operative December 26, 1974; repeals Section 6 of Article I and Sections 1 and 5 of Article VI; eliminates obsolete and unnecessary language and brings Charter into conformity with the California Constitution.

Amendment 29. Filed and operative December 26, 1974; repeals Section 1.1 of Article II and amends Sections 2, 5, and 10 of Article II; brings Charter into conformity with California Constitution and reflects and provides greater flexibility in the governmental structure and administration of the County.

Amendment 30. Filed and operative May 2, 1979; adds Section 9 to Article I; provides procedures for and limitations on setting of salaries for supervisors. (Repealed by Amendment 36, filed and operative November 18, 1985).

Amendment 31. Filed and operative May 2, 1979; adds an unnumbered section to Article VI (Miscellaneous); requires any increase in compensation of county-elected officers to be approved by the voters. Initiative amendment. (Repealed by Amendment 36, filed and operative November 18, 1985).

Amendment 33. Filed and operative November 16, 1981; adds Section 3A to Article II; makes office of County Clerk appointive rather than elective.

Amendment 36. Filed and operative November 18, 1985; adds Section I to Article VI; provides procedures for and limitations on setting of salaries for elected officials. Section 9 of Article I is repealed; unnumbered initiative amendment in Article VI is repealed.

Amendment 37. Filed and operative November 7, 2006; adds Section 5 of Article VI; limits eminent domain and protects property rights.

Amendment 38. Filed and operative November 7, 2006; amends Section 2 of Article I; limits terms of office; amends Section 1 of Article VI; sets salaries for Board of Supervisors.

Amendment 39. Filed and operative November 4, 2008; adds Section 11 to Article II; establishes a higher standard of ethics for staff members of County elected officers.

Amendment 40. Filed and operative November 6, 2012; amends Section 1 of Article VI; enacts a permanent cap on compensation and mandatory transparency for members of the County Board of Supervisors.

On July 24, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted an entirely new, revised Charter for San Bernardino County, subject to ratification by the voters at the election on November 3, 2020.

## **PREAMBLE**

We the People of San Bernardino County, do establish this Charter to provide for more local control to serve the diverse communities of the largest geographic county in the United States by advancing freedom, equality, justice, health, safety, and prosperity with effective, transparent, accountable, innovative, and inclusive governance.

## **ARTICLE I: NAME AND RIGHTS OF THE COUNTY**

### **Section 101. County Powers.**

San Bernardino County, as it now exists, is a body corporate and politic, and as such has and shall have all the powers that are now or may be hereafter specified by the Constitution and laws of the State of California, and by this Charter, and such other powers as are necessarily implied.

### **Section 102. County Authority.**

The powers mentioned in the preceding section can be exercised only by the Board of Supervisors or by agents and officers acting under its authority or by the authority of law or of this Charter.

### **Section 103. County Name.**

The corporate name shall be "San Bernardino County," which must be thus designated in all actions and proceedings touching its corporate rights, properties, and duties. San Bernardino County's boundaries and county seat shall remain as they are now, until otherwise changed by law.

## **ARTICLE II: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **Section 201. Governing Body.**

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of San Bernardino County. The Board of Supervisors shall consist of five persons, hereafter identified as Members or Supervisors.

### **Section 202. Election.**

Supervisors shall be elected by Supervisorial District. Each candidate for the office of Supervisor shall be an elector in the District which the candidate seeks to represent and shall be elected by the electors of such District. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, candidates shall be nominated and elected pursuant to the general law. The five Supervisorial Districts shall be apportioned by ordinance pursuant to the general law and this Charter. A Supervisor must reside in his or her District during the Supervisor's incumbency.

### **Section 203. Term of Office.**

At each general election, there shall be elected two or three Supervisors, as the case may be, for a term of four years beginning at noon on the first Monday after the first day of January next following their election and ending at noon on the first Monday after the first day of January four years thereafter. Supervisors shall be elected from the First, Third, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts in those years in which a presidential election is held, and Supervisors shall be elected from the Second and Fourth Supervisorial Districts in those years in which a gubernatorial election is held.

However, the term for the Supervisors elected from the First, Third, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts on either March 3, 2020, or November 3, 2020, shall commence at noon on Monday, December 7, 2020, and end at noon on Monday, January 6, 2025. The term for the Supervisors elected from the Second and Fourth Supervisorial Districts on either June 5, 2018, or November 6, 2018, shall end at noon on Monday, January 2, 2023.

### **Section 204. Term Limits.**

No person may serve for more than three terms as Supervisor, regardless of the District represented. Any Supervisor who serves more than one-half of a term, either through election or appointment, shall be deemed for purposes of this section to have served a full term. Any Supervisor who resigns or is removed from office with less than one-half of a term remaining shall be deemed for purposes of this section to have served a full term.

This section shall only apply to those Supervisors who are first elected to the Board of Supervisors after the effective date of this section, and who have not previously served on the Board of Supervisors. Members of the Board of Supervisors who were elected before the effective date of this section may serve only the number of terms allowed at the time of the last election before the effective date of this section.

### **Section 205. Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors.**

The Board of Supervisors shall elect from among its Members a Chair and a Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors. The election, term of office, duties, and removal of the Chair and Vice Chair shall be provided for by ordinance, resolution, or policy of the Board of Supervisors.

## **Section 206. Powers and Duties of the Board of Supervisors.**

The Board of Supervisors has all the powers granted to it by the Constitution of California, the general law, and this Charter. The Board of Supervisors shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are required by the Constitution of California, this Charter, and ordinance, and by the general law except as otherwise provided in the Constitution of California, this Charter, and any ordinance adopted pursuant to this Charter.

Given the size and complexity of San Bernardino County, the office of Supervisor is recognized as a position that requires a considerable investment of time and due diligence from Board Members in order to effectively fulfill their duties in service to the public. These duties include but are not limited to: ensuring fiscal responsibility; representing the interest of the public during public meetings and hearings of the Board of Supervisors; participating in the response to natural disasters and other emergencies; conducting meetings with members of the public; ensuring that the County is effectively represented with respect to federal, state, and other local government agencies; and reviewing issues impacting the County and its residents, businesses, built and natural environment, and health and safety. The position of Supervisor requires Supervisors to be responsive to the needs of the public on a 24 hours a day, seven days a week basis.

Furthermore, Members of the Board of Supervisors also have duties with respect to, and must attend the meetings of, many other public entities and other entities. Each member of the Board of Supervisors shall serve on such public entity or other entity governing boards, commissions and committees, as designated by or appointed in accordance with, and perform such duties as are required by, the Constitution of California, this Charter, general law, ordinance, or contract, as may be amended from time to time. Such public entities and other entity governing boards, commissions, and committees include, without limitation, as of July 28, 2020, the following:

- Agua Mansa Industrial Growth Association
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Joint Conference Committee
- Behavioral Health Commission
- Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
- Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District
- Bloomington Recreation and Park District
- Board of Supervisors Governed County Service Areas
- CAL-ID Remote Access Network Board
- California State Association of Counties
- Children and Families Commission (First 5)
- Children's Policy Council
- Crafton Hills Open Space Conservancy
- Head Start Shared Governance Board
- High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority
- Indian Gaming Local Benefit Committee

- Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
- In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority
- Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership
- Inland Empire Health Plan
- Inland Empire Public Facilities Corporation
- Inland Valley Development Agency
- Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
- Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority
- Morongo Basin Transit Authority
- Mountain Area Regional Transit Authority
- National Association of Counties
- Ontario International Airport Authority
- Omnitrans Board of Directors
- Quad State Local Governments Authority
- San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association Board of Retirement
- San Bernardino County Financing Authority
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District
- San Bernardino County Flood Control District
- San Bernardino County Industrial Development Authority
- San Bernardino County Law Library Board of Trustees
- San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission
- San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
- San Bernardino International Airport Authority
- San Bernardino Municipal Water District Advisory Committee on Water Policy
- Santa Ana River Parkway Policy Advisory Group
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority OWOW Steering Committee
- Solid Waste Advisory Taskforce
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Southern California Associated Governments
- Southern California Water Coalition
- Successor Agency to the San Bernardino County Redevelopment Agency



- Upper Santa Ana River Washland Management and Habitat Conservation Plan Taskforce
- Urban Counties Caucus
- Victor Valley Economic Development Authority
- Victor Valley Transit Authority
- Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority

### **Section 207. Filling of Vacancies.**

If there is a vacancy in the office of Supervisor, the remaining Members of the Board of Supervisors shall within 60 days of the effective date of the vacancy either appoint a replacement Supervisor or call a special election. The appointee shall be from among the qualified electors of the Supervisorial District in which such vacancy exists. Nomination and election of a Supervisor shall be by district as provided in Section 202.

If the effective date of the appointment is no less than 130 days from the statewide general election in November of an even-numbered mid-term year of the vacant office, the appointment is provisional to the first Monday after the first day of January next following the election. When making the appointment, the remaining Members of the Board of Supervisors shall call for a special election for this office for the remaining term and shall order the special election to be consolidated with such statewide general election. The special election shall be a single-winner election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

If the effective date of the appointment is less than 130 days from the statewide general election in November of an even-numbered mid-term year of the vacant office, then the appointee shall serve the remainder of the term of the office.

If the remaining Members of the Board of Supervisors do not make an appointment and instead call a special election, the special election shall be held on the next established election date, as defined in Division 1 (commencing with Section 1000) of the Elections Code, that is no less than 130 days from the date that the special election is called. When calling a special election to be held on the next established election date that is no less than 130 days from the date that the election is called, the remaining members of the Board of Supervisors may authorize the election to be conducted wholly by mail, provided that the special election is not held on the same date as a statewide primary or general election or is not consolidated, as defined in Elections Code section 10400, with any other election. The special election shall be a single-winner election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

If the remaining Members of the Board of Supervisors do not make an appointment or call a special election within 60 days of the effective date of the vacancy, then a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy. The special election shall be held on the next established election date, as defined in Division 1 (commencing with Section 1000) of the Elections Code, that is no less than 130 days from the 60th day after the effective date of the vacancy. In the discretion of the Register of Voters, the special election to be held on the next established election date that is no less than 130 days from the 60th day after the effective date of the vacancy may be conducted wholly by mail, provided that the special election is not held on the same date as a statewide primary or general election or is not consolidated, as defined in Elections Code section 10400, with any other election. The special election shall be a single-winner election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

If an election is required pursuant to this section and the date of such election as required by one of the preceding paragraphs of this section would be less than 180 days from the statewide primary election applicable to the Supervisorial District as set forth in Section 203, then notwithstanding such preceding paragraph, the regular nomination and election process shall be followed pursuant to Sections 202, 203, and 204.



## **Section 208. Compensation of the Board of Supervisors.**

Members of the Board of Supervisors shall be paid an annual base salary that is equal to 80 percent of the annual base salary prescribed by law for Judges of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, and shall be provided, to the extent legally permissible, the regular benefits that are offered to Exempt Group employees in the benefits category for department heads as provided by ordinance.

Thereafter, the annual base salary of the Members of the Board of Supervisors shall be changed at such times and in such percentages as changes made by law to the Judges of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. Any increase in the salary of the Members of the Board of Supervisors pursuant to this paragraph shall become effective only if such increase is ratified pursuant to an ordinance that is introduced at a noticed public hearing and is thereafter approved. The Board of Supervisors may approve a salary increase that is less than the amount permitted under this paragraph.

Thereafter, the benefits provided to the Members of the Board of Supervisors shall be changed at such times and in such amounts as changes made to Exempt Group employees in the benefits category for department heads as provided by ordinance, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. Any increase in the benefits of the Members of the Board of Supervisors pursuant to this paragraph shall become effective only if such increase is ratified pursuant to an ordinance that is introduced at a noticed public hearing and is thereafter approved. The Board of Supervisors may approve a benefit increase that is less than the benefit increase permitted under this paragraph.

The salary and benefits that members of the Board of Supervisors are eligible to receive shall be posted on the County website and accessible from a link located on the home page of the County website.

This section shall only apply to those Supervisors who are elected to the Board of Supervisors after the effective date of this section.

## **Section 209. Staff Members of the Board of Supervisors.**

The staff members of the Board of Supervisors shall serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. The terms and conditions of employment of such staff members shall be established by contract approved by the Board of Supervisors. A contract for any such staff members may be terminated without cause, by the individual employing Supervisor or by action of the Board of Supervisors by four votes.

## **Section 210. Removal of a Supervisor.**

Any Supervisor may be removed from office in the manner provided by law.

## **Section 211. Rules of Order.**

The Board of Supervisors shall adopt by ordinance, from time to time, rules of order for the conduct of meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

# **ARTICLE III: OTHER ELECTIVE COUNTY OFFICERS**

## **Section 301. Elective County Officers.**

Article III applies to all elective County officers other than the Members of the Board of Supervisors. The elective County officers shall be:

Assessor

Auditor

Coroner

County Superintendent of Schools

District Attorney

Public Administrator

Recorder

Sheriff

Tax Collector

Treasurer

### **Section 302. Powers and Duties.**

Each elective County officer shall have the power and perform the duties now or hereafter prescribed by the general law, except as otherwise provided in this Charter or by an ordinance adopted pursuant to this Charter, and shall have and perform such other powers and duties as are prescribed in this Charter or by ordinance adopted pursuant to this Charter.

### **Section 303. Elections and Term of Office.**

The term of office of each elective County officer is four years. All elective County officers shall be elected at the general election at which the Governor is elected, and shall take office at noon on the first Monday after the first day of January next succeeding their election and shall hold office until their successors are elected or appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed as provided by this Charter. All such elective County officers shall be nominated and elected in the manner provided by general laws for the nomination and election of such officers.

### **Section 304. Consolidation and Segregation of Elective County Offices.**

The Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, consolidate any two or more County offices or may separate any offices now or hereafter consolidated. In the event of consolidation of an elective office with an appointive office, such consolidated office shall be filled in the same manner in which the elective office is filled.

### **Section 305. Removal of Elective Officers.**

Any elective County officer may be removed from office in the manner provided by law. Any elective County officer other than a Supervisor may be removed by a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors, for cause, after such officer has been served with a written statement of alleged grounds for such removal, and such officer has been given a reasonable opportunity to be heard in the way of explanation or defense.

For the purposes of this section, cause is defined as: a flagrant or repeated neglect of duties; a misappropriation of public property; a violation of any law related to the performance of the officer's duties; or a willful falsification of a relevant official statement or document.

### **Section 306. Filling of Vacancies.**

If there is a vacancy in an elective office, the Board of Supervisors shall within 60 days of the effective date of the vacancy either appoint a replacement or call a special election. Nomination and election of the elective County officer shall be as provided in Section 303.

If the effective date of the appointment is no less than 130 days from the statewide general election at which the United States President is elected, the appointment is provisional to the first Monday after the first day of January next following the election. When making the appointment, the Board of Supervisors shall call for a special election for this office for the remaining term and shall order the special election to be consolidated with such statewide general election. The special election shall be a single-winner election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

If the effective date of the appointment is less than 130 days from the statewide general election at which the United States President is elected, then the appointee shall serve the remainder of the term of the office.

If the Board of Supervisors does not make an appointment and instead calls a special election, the special election shall be held on the next established election date, as defined in Division 1 (commencing with Section 1000) of the Elections Code, that is no less than 130 days from the date that the special election is called. When calling a special election to be held on the next established election date that is no less than 130 days from the date that the election is called, the Board of Supervisors may authorize the election to be conducted wholly by mail, provided that the special election is not held on the same date as a statewide primary or general election or is not consolidated, as defined in Elections Code section 10400, with any other election. The special election shall be a single-winner election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

If the Board of Supervisors does not make an appointment or call a special election within 60 days of the effective date of the vacancy, then a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy. The special election shall be held on the next established election date, as defined in Division 1 (commencing with Section 1000) of the Elections Code, that is no less than 130 days from the 60th day after the effective date of the vacancy. In the discretion of the Register of Voters, the special election to be held on the next established election date that is no less than 130 days from the 60th day after the effective date of the vacancy may be conducted wholly by mail, provided that the special election is not held on the same date as a statewide primary or general election or is not consolidated, as defined in Elections Code section 10400, with any other election. The special election shall be a single-winner election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

If an election is required pursuant to this section and the date of such election as required by one of the preceding paragraphs of this section would be less than 180 days from the statewide primary election vacant office, then notwithstanding such preceding paragraph, the regular nomination and election process shall be followed pursuant to Section 303.

### **Section 307. Staff Members of the Elective County Officers.**

Staff members of the elective County officers, at the level of assistant department head or its equivalent level, shall serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the appointing elective County officer and in that elective officer's sole discretion. Except for the offices of Sheriff and District Attorney, qualifications for all staff members in the unclassified service of elective County officers shall be established by the elective County officer and approved by the Board of Supervisors. The persons to be appointed as Undersheriff shall be certified by the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) and the persons to be appointed as Assistant District Attorney shall be a member in good standing of the State Bar of California. This section shall not apply to the staff of the County Superintendent of Schools.

### **Section 308. Compensation of Elective County Officers.**

The annual salaries of elected County Officers, excepting that of the County Superintendent of Schools and other than Members of the Board of Supervisors, shall be set by, but shall never exceed, the average of the salaries paid to corresponding officers in the following California Counties: Riverside, Kern, San Diego, Orange and Ventura. The salaries shall be computed each year on December 1 as follows: On December 1, 1985, 70 percent of the average, on December 1, 1986, 80

percent of the average, on December 1, 1987, 90 percent of the average, and on December 1, 1988, and thereafter, 100 percent of the average; provided, however, that on December 1, 1989, and each December 1 thereafter, regardless of the amount of increase in the average salaries from the other counties, no increase shall exceed 4 percent of the annual salary of the elected officer unless submitted to and approved by the voters of the County at a County-wide election. Where no comparable offices exist in a majority of named counties, the salary of the office shall be adjusted by the average of the percentage adjustments of the other county officers governed by this section. No provision of this amendment shall provide retroactive benefits. No salary adjustment shall be made on December 1, 1985, for any elected official whose salary has been adjusted since November 7, 1978, but such salaries shall be adjusted thereafter in accordance with this section. This section is intended to operate as a continuous application of the third paragraph of Section 1 of Article VI of the County Charter of 1913.

The salary and benefits that elective County officers are eligible to receive shall be posted on the County website and accessible from a link located on the home page of the County website.

## **ARTICLE IV: APPOINTIVE COUNTY OFFICERS**

### **Section 401. Appointive County Officers.**

The appointive County officers shall be:

Chief Executive Officer

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

County Clerk

County Counsel

The Board of Supervisors shall appoint the above-identified County officers. The appointive officers of the County shall also be any such officers as are otherwise required by this Charter, the general law, or ordinance. The Chief Executive Officer shall appoint all other appointive County officers, unless such appointment authority is designated by the Constitution of California, the general law, or by ordinance.

### **Section 402. Powers and Duties.**

Each appointive County officer shall have the power and perform the duties now or hereafter prescribed by the general law, except as otherwise provided in this Charter or by ordinance, and shall have and perform such other powers and duties as are prescribed in this Charter or by ordinance.

### **Section 403. County Officer Appointing Assistants and Others.**

Each appointive County officer shall be the appointing authority for all assistants, deputies, clerks, and other persons employed or serving in his or her office, except as otherwise provided by the general law, this Charter, or by ordinance.

### **Section 404. Boards and Commissions.**

The Board of Supervisors may by ordinance create such boards and commissions as in its judgment are required and may grant to them such powers and duties as are consistent with this Charter and the general law. The ordinance may provide for the number of members of the board or commission, the manner of appointment, term of office, qualifications of members, the remuneration of members, and any other necessary provisions.

## **ARTICLE V: PERSONNEL**



## **Section 501. Number, Duties, and Compensation.**

The Board of Supervisors shall establish, where not otherwise expressly provided by the general law or this Charter, the number, qualifications, appointment, powers, and duties of all County officers and employees. Compensation of officers and employees shall be established by ordinance, resolution, memorandum of understanding, or contract. All such officers and employees, except those designated by the Board of Supervisors by ordinance, shall be in the classified service of the County and subject to civil service rules and regulations. Nothing herein shall be deemed to impinge upon any authority otherwise conferred by law upon an officer to appoint deputies. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to limit the authority of the Board of Supervisors to employ persons for positions in the unclassified service.

## **Section 502. Civil Service System.**

The Board of Supervisors shall by ordinance establish a civil service system. The purpose of the civil service system is to provide the County government with a productive, efficient, and stable workforce. The Board of Supervisors shall by ordinance prescribe civil service rules and regulations.

# **ARTICLE VI: ETHICS AND ELECTION INTEGRITY**

## **Section 601. Responsibilities of Public Office.**

County officers and employees shall uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of California, and this Charter, and shall carry out impartially the laws and regulations of the United States, California, and the County. County officers and employees shall discharge faithfully their duties, recognizing that the public interest is paramount.

## **Section 602. Training to County Officers and Employees.**

The Board of Supervisors shall establish by ordinance training requirements pertaining to ethics, the prohibition of discrimination and harassment, the prohibition of nepotism, and other areas of ethics pertinent to public service.

## **Section 603. Ethics Training for the Staff of Elective Officers.**

Staff members of the Board of Supervisors, and staff members of other elective County officers at the level of assistant department head or its equivalent level, shall receive the same ethics training as is provided to the members of the Board of Supervisors and other elective County officers pursuant to the general law.

## **Section 604. Campaign Finance Regulations.**

The Board of Supervisors shall establish by ordinance campaign contribution limits and other campaign finance regulations, and effective enforcement procedures thereof.

## **Section 605. Campaign Transparency.**

The Board of Supervisors shall by ordinance provide that campaign statements required by the Political Reform Act may be filed electronically with the Registrar of Voters, and that copies of such statements shall be posted electronically in a location convenient to the public.

## **Section 606. Redistricting Commission.**

The Board of Supervisors shall establish by ordinance a redistricting commission. The commission shall be either advisory or independent. The commission shall ensure that, when Supervisor district boundaries are redrawn, public input is effectively solicited and considered, the Voting Rights Act and

other laws are complied with, neighborhood and community interests are considered, the interests of stakeholders are considered, and the process is transparent.

### **Section 607. Lobbyists.**

The Board of Supervisors shall establish by ordinance requirements regarding lobbyist transparency.

## **ARTICLE VII: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Section 701. Limitation on Exercise of Eminent Domain.**

The County may not exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire property from any private owner thereof, without such owner's consent, when the purpose of the acquisition is to convey the property so acquired to any private party. As used in this section, "owner" means the owner or owners of the fee title interest in the property to be acquired.

### **Section 702. Charter Review.**

The Board of Supervisors shall convene a Charter Review Committee within 10 years of the effective date of this Charter and within 10 years of the last Charter review thereafter. The Charter Review Committee shall review the Charter and, after at least two public hearings, make recommendations for amendments to or revisions of this Charter to the Board of Supervisors.

### **Section 703. Referendum of Ordinances.**

Ordinances adopted by the Board of Supervisors, not otherwise exempt under State law, shall be subject to referendum prior to their effective dates in accordance with the general law.

### **Section 704. County Code Review.**

The Board of Supervisors shall establish by ordinance a procedure through which the County Code of Ordinances may be reviewed on an annual or other periodic basis for purposes of efficiency, completeness, and effectiveness. Such reviews will be presented in public at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

### **Section 705. Review of Orders of the County Health Officer.**

All orders issued by the County Health Officer addressed to the public at large shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting within 30 days of issuance.

### **Section 706. Emergency Preparedness.**

The County shall establish and maintain a discretionary strategic stockpile of vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties needed for the protection of life and property in the event of a natural, biological, infectious disease, or any other disaster or emergency.

### **Section 707. Severance Clause.**

If a provision of this Charter or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Charter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.