

## Notice of Intent to Circulate a Petition

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate a petition within the City of Santee for the purpose of putting before the voters a policy to establish term limits for elected officials. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

**WHAT IT DOES:** The Santee Term Limits Initiative requires that no person shall serve more than 12 years, or three four-year terms as a member of the Santee City Council, with any portion of a term, whether by election or appointment, counting as a full term. The term limits are applicable to candidates elected on November 6, 2018 and candidates who run for future election.

**WHY WE NEED IT:** Incumbent politicians in Santee hold a significant advantage in fundraising that has traditionally entrenched officials for multiple terms and concentrated office holders in certain portions of the City, sometimes leaving other neighborhoods without adequate representation. Development interests cultivate extended relationships with some officials who themselves have held occupations that benefit financially from development decisions. Periodically, the City can benefit from a broader base of Council members with the fresh ideas and energy that are generated by competitive, non-incumbent elections.

**WHO'S SPONSORING IT?** This Initiative is sponsored by **preservewildsantee.org**, the organization that sponsored a successful referendum that overwhelmingly defeated a massive project on Fanita Ranch approved by the City Council in 1999. This Initiative is sponsored by **Van K. Collinsworth**, Preserve Wild Santee **Geographer/Director** and also by **Santee City Councilman Stephen Houlahan**, who worked together to defeat the Quail Brush power plant and to designate a segment of SR-52 through Mission Trails Park a California State Scenic Highway.

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Van K. Collinsworth  
9222 Lake Canyon Road  
Santee, CA 92071

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Stephen W. Houlahan  
8824 Annandale Way  
Santee, CA 92071

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## **THE SANTEE TERM LIMITS INITIATIVE**

**To the honorable Clerk of the City of Santee:** We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the City of Santee, hereby propose an initiative measure to establish Term Limits for elected officials. We petition you to submit this measure to the City Council for the City of Santee for adoption without change, or for submission of the measure to the voters of the City of Santee at the earliest regular or special election for which it qualifies. The measure provides as follows:

## **THE SANTEE TERM LIMITS INITIATIVE**

### **SECTION 1: PURPOSE, EFFECT AND FINDINGS**

**WHEREAS**, the elected officials of the City of Santee currently are Mayor and members of the City Council; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santee currently does not have term limits for City elected officials; and,

**WHEREAS**, term limits for City elected officials will:

- Avoid potential abuses of power by elected officials who stay in office too long
- Encourage new people to get involved in local government
- Broaden the base of potential candidates
- Increase responsiveness to the public
- Encourage fresh ideas
- Provide voters with more choices
- Increase voter turnout
- Ensure a healthy balance of power among different interest groups
- Encourage more diversity among City Council members
- Encourage broader representation of different neighborhoods; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the City that term limits be established for all elected offices in the City, and it is the purpose and intent of this Ordinance to achieve the positive impacts of term limits mentioned above.

## **SECTION 2: AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF SANTEE MUNICIPAL CODE**

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SANTEE, CALIFORNIA, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Title 2 Administration And Personnel. Chapter 2.08 City Council, a new Section “2.08.030 Term Limits For Mayor And City Council” is added to Title 2 of the Santee Municipal Code to read, in its entirety, as follows:

### **2.08.030 TERM LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

#### **Section 2.08.03010. Elected Official**

The term "elected official" as used in this Chapter includes the offices of:

- A. Mayor, and
- B. Member of the City Council.

#### **Section 2.08.03020. Partial Terms of Office.**

Any portion of a term, whether by election or appointment, shall count as a full term.

#### **Section 2.08.03030. Term Limits.**

The Santee Term Limits Initiative requires that no person shall serve as an elected official more than twelve years, or three four-year terms as a member of the Santee City Council, with any portion of a term, whether by election or appointment, counting as a full term.

#### **Section 2.08.03040. Application.**

The term limits described in this Chapter shall apply to terms of office beginning on or after the general election held on November 6, 2018.

## **SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION**

**A. Effective Date.** The effective date means the date that the Santee Term Limits Initiative becomes effective pursuant to State law.

**B. Severability.** If any subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance or any part thereof. The People of the City of Santee hereby declare that they would have passed each subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable.

**C. Amendment or Repeal.** This initiative may be amended or repealed only by a simple majority of the voters at a City election.

**D. Enforcement and Defense of Initiative.** The Mayor and City Council shall take all steps necessary to enforce this Initiative and to defend it against any challenge to its validity.