

2021 SEP -7 AM 10: 22

The People of the County of Kern ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Title.

This ordinance shall be known as the Kern County Term Limits and Accountability in Government Act.

SECTION 2. Purpose and Intent

(a) Existing law allows members of the Board of Supervisors to be elected to and serve an unlimited number of terms on the Board of Supervisors.

(b) Keeping politicians in office for too long results in politicians taking advantage of the system and using it for their own benefit.

(c) Politicians that are allowed to stay in office for an unlimited number of terms are subject to undue influence by special interests and lobbyists who use campaign contributions to manipulate government in their own favor.

(d) Approval of term limits will reduce the influence of lobbyists and special interests in County government.

(e) The purpose of this measure is to restrict any person from serving more than two terms on the County Board of Supervisors, beginning with any term of office that commences after the effective date of this measure.

(f) In order to comply with Government Code section 25000, this measure shall apply prospectively so that any current or former member of the Board of Supervisors will be prohibited from serving more than two additional terms.

SECTION 3. Section 2.04.030 is added to Chapter 2.04 of Title 2 of the Ordinance Code of Kern County, to read as follows:

2.04.030 – Term limits of board members.

(a) A person may not serve more than two terms as a member of the board of supervisors for terms commencing after the effective date of this section.

(b) A person who is elected or appointed to the board of supervisors after the effective date of this section, and who serves more than one-half of a full term, shall be deemed to have served a full term for purposes of this section.

(c) The board of supervisors may not amend this ordinance. This ordinance may only be amended by majority vote approval by County voters.

SECTION. 4. Severability.

The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

SECTION. 5. Conflicting Measures.

In the event that this measure and another measure limiting or changing the number of terms a person may serve on the board of supervisors shall appear on the same election ballot, the provisions of the other measure shall be deemed in conflict with this measure; and in the event this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the other measure shall be void.

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