

City of Dublin
City Attorney's Impartial Analysis of the of the Dublin Government Accountability Act
Measure

The Dublin Government Accountability Act (the "Measure") seeks voter approval to prohibit elected officials and commissioners from accepting gifts from lobbyists, to restrict lobbyists from serving on City commissions, to require public posting of city contracts and financial statements, and to update the term limits for elected officials. The City Council placed the Measure on the Ballot.

If adopted, the Dublin Government Accountability Act (the "Measure") would amend the Dublin Municipal Code to:

1. Prohibit the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and members of commissions created by the City Council (hereafter "City Officials") from receiving gifts from a City Contractor or lobbyist.
2. Prohibit any person from making, and any City Official from accepting, any gift with the intent to influence the City Official in the performance of any official act.
3. Prohibit any City Official from accepting or receiving any gift from anyone other than the City for the performance of a specific service or act that the City Official is expected to perform in his or her City duties or for providing advice about City processes.
4. Prohibit lobbyists from serving on commissions created by the City Council.
5. Require the City to post on its website most City contracts that require City Council approval before City Council action.
6. Require the City to post on its website monthly financial reporting including budget-to-actual results for revenue and expenditures for major funds within the City's annual budget.

7. a) Increase the number of city council terms from the equivalent of 2 terms (8 years) to the equivalent of 3 terms (12 years); b) make clear that half of a term or less is not counted toward the term limit; and c) specify that the current Mayor and City Councilmembers may serve only the number of consecutive terms allowed prior to the enactment of the Measure.

In the Measure, “gift” means: any payment or other benefit that confers a personal benefit for which a City Official does not provide a payment or services of equal or greater value, unless returned or donated to charity or a government agency within 30 days; and “lobbyist” means: a person who during the prior 12 months knowingly attempted to influence a City Official in any legislative or administrative action.

DATED: August 2, 2024

/s/ John Bakker
John D. Bakker, City Attorney