

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO AN OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST

The purpose of this initiative measure, which is a proposed ordinance, is to create a new City department responsible for budgetary and fiscal analysis. The ordinance would establish within the City of Sacramento a department known as the "Office of the Independent Budget Analyst." This department's function would be to assist the City Council in conducting budgetary inquiries and making budgetary decisions.

The measure, if approved, would add Chapter 2.33 to the Sacramento City Code. Chapter 2.33 would set forth the method of appointment, qualifications, and duties of the Independent Budget Analyst, the head of the department. The Independent Budget Analyst would be appointed, and removed, by majority vote of the city council. The Independent Budget Analyst would be required to have a college degree in finance, economics, business, other relevant field, or a relevant professional certification, plus experience in municipal finance or equivalent experience. Persons who, during the eight years prior, served on the staff of a City chief executive officer or council member or who were registered lobbyists with the City would be ineligible for the position. All employees of the department would be required to complete and file statements of economic interest in compliance with a conflict of interest code adopted for the department. The City Council would be required to appropriate a reasonable budget for the department.

The Independent Budget Analyst's specified duties would include: providing a formal review and analysis of the proposed annual budget; gathering and analyzing information related to budgetary issues; providing comparative studies of other cities' finances; fiscal forecasting and planning; analyzing city revenue and expenditures; reviewing existing and potential tax revenues; analyzing government programs for funding sources and appropriate expenditure options; reviewing the economic effects of proposed legislation; constructing economic models; preparing fiscal and economic project analyses; providing policy research and fiscal analysis of proposed legislation; preparing other budgetary and legislative policy reports as directed by the council; and making recommendations to the council in connection with the exercise of these duties.

In addition to adding Chapter 2.33 to the City Code, this initiative measure, if approved, would amend the Sacramento City Code to make the City's department of finance responsible to the City's "chief executive officer," rather than the "city manager."

This initiative measure allows the City Council to further the measure's purposes by amendment, without voter approval. Additionally, after nine years, but not later than ten years, the City Council would assess the cost of the Independent Budget Analyst's office and cost savings attributable to its recommendations. After that assessment the City Council could abolish the office if the assessment demonstrates the department does not provide the City a net cost savings.