MEASURE _____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

The City Council voted to place Measure _____, which is a City of Richmond charter amendment providing for the City to implement Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in the elections of the offices of City Councilmember and Mayor beginning in November 2026 ("Measure").

Currently, candidates for City Council and Mayor are elected through a plurality system, where the candidate that receives the most votes cast for their office wins their election, even if they do not receive a majority of votes.

If approved, the Measure adds Article V, Sections 3, 4, and 5 to the City Charter, establishing that each elective office would be elected by an IRV system. The IRV system would effectively change the City's election process from a plurality to a majority system, where the winning candidate will receive more than half of the votes cast. The IRV process in many circumstances would involve multiple rounds of ballot counting, which would occur in one general municipal election.

The IRV system would require voters to rank a first-choice candidate, a second-choice candidate, etc. for each contested office. There would be an initial ballot count of all first-choice candidates for each office. If, after the first round of ballot counting, a candidate has not received a majority of the votes cast, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and a new round of ballot counting of the remaining candidates begins. The votes of those voters whose first choice of candidate was eliminated will go to their second-choice candidate. This process would continue for subsequent rounds until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

The Measure provides that, if approved, the Council is authorized to adopt an implementing ordinance that would establish the details for the IRV process that is consistent with the purpose and intent expressed in the Measure. Although intended to be implemented in the November 2026 election, the Measure also provides that if the voting equipment is not ready, the County elections official may opt out of using the IRV system for one election cycle.

If approved by a majority of the voters at the November 2, 2024 general municipal election, the Measure would be implemented and effective beginning in the November 2026 election cycle. On this general municipal election ballot there are two charter amendments modifying the City's election system. If both measures pass, the one receiving the most votes will be approved.

A "YES" vote is a vote to approve Instant Runoff Voting for the City's election process. A "NO" vote is a vote against adding Instant Runoff Voting to the City's election process.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the Measure. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the Richmond City Clerk's Office at _____ and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Dated:

_____ FOR

David J. Aleshire, City Attorney
City of Richmond