

May 15, 2026

The Honorable Paloma Aguirre
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Monica Montgomery Steppe
The Honorable Jim Desmond

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Conditional Support for Item 25, Revised County Charter Amendments

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the North San Diego Business Chamber and it's more than 800 Members representing more than 300,000 employees, I am writing regarding Item 25 on the May 19, 2026, agenda titled:

"Adopting a Revised Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Proposing Amendments to the Charter of the County of San Diego Entitled 'A Transparent, Accountable, Modern County Government' and Amending the Ordinance Modernizing the San Diego County Charter to Strengthen Transparency, Accountability, and Independent Oversight."

The North San Diego Business Chamber recognizes that the effective administration of County government is not merely a governmental concern, but a direct business and economic issue affecting employers, workforce development, infrastructure delivery, public contracting, regulatory predictability, fiscal stewardship, and overall regional economic confidence. The administration of County services and systems impacts businesses of every size throughout San Diego County and therefore falls squarely within the Chamber's advocacy interests and publicly adopted Legislative Principles.

Following review of the original April 21 proposal, the revised resolution now before the Board reflects several important and meaningful modifications that substantially improve the proposal and address a number of the concerns raised publicly by stakeholders, residents, and members of the business community.

Specifically, the Chamber supports the revised proposal's efforts to:

- Strengthen transparency and accountability through independent fiscal analysis, program evaluation, and expanded public access to County spending and performance information

- Preserve appropriate administrative independence by removing provisions that would have expanded Board involvement in confirmation and removal of senior executive staff appointed through the Chief Administrative Officer structure
- Clarify and reinforce protections against political interference in County purchasing and contracting processes
- Improve the independence and credibility of oversight and audit functions
- Remove legally uncertain provisions related to term limits for Countywide elected offices where enabling state law authority does not presently exist

These revisions more closely align the proposal with principles of good governance, administrative clarity, transparency, operational stability, and public accountability.

The Chamber's Legislative Principles support policies that improve efficient delivery of public services, promote transparency and value-added fiscal analysis, reduce inefficiency and waste, and strengthen responsible stewardship of public resources. Likewise, the Chamber opposes policies that unnecessarily increase costs, create instability, or undermine confidence in governmental processes.

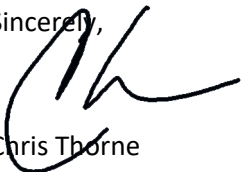
At the same time, we believe it is important to acknowledge that public trust in institutional reform efforts is essential. The significant public feedback submitted regarding the original proposal demonstrated the importance of ensuring that any modernization effort be clearly focused on improving governance structures and public accountability, rather than creating the appearance of institutional self-interest. The revisions now presented in Item 25 meaningfully improve that posture.

Accordingly, the North San Diego Business Chamber offers conditional support for the revised Item 25 proposal as currently amended and presented to the Board for consideration. Our support is specifically grounded in the revised provisions that strengthen transparency, accountability, procurement integrity, fiscal oversight, and independent review functions, while removing or modifying provisions that generated substantial governance and public confidence concerns in the original draft.

We encourage the Board to continue prioritizing public engagement, transparency, implementation clarity, and fiscal discipline throughout any future Charter modernization and implementation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued service to the residents, employers, and broader business community of San Diego County.

Sincerely,



Chris Thorne
Chief Executive Officer
North San Diego Business Chamber