



Currently 14 of the 58 California counties are Charter Counties: Alameda, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Tehama.

Mendocino will be 15th.

Let's put the  
"FREE"  
back into  
Freedom!



## From the California Constitution

### Art. 1 (Declaration of Rights) §1.

All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.

### Art. 11 (Local Government) § 3a.

The provisions of a charter are the law of the state and have the force and effect of legislative enactments.

Art. 11 § 7. A county or city may make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws.



For more information:

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Make  
Mendocino  
a Charter  
County



### Potential Charter Benefits

Vote YES! on  
Measure W



Charter Project of Mendocino County

To protect our County, our  
families and our future

# Why become a charter county?

Having a charter empowers the voters of the County. Only the voters can ratify a charter, amend it or repeal it. Legislative enactments of a charter county hold the equivalent weight of laws passed by the California Legislature. Thus, with a charter, Mendocino County can protect our environment, our water, our scenic beauty, our property values, and our economy.

## A list of the potential benefits of a county charter

Becoming a charter county could:

1. Empower the People to make the laws that fit their county (Home Rule). Charter laws passed by a majority of the voters have the same legal weight as laws passed by the California Legislature;
2. Enact into strong charter law our Human Rights and the Rights of Nature;
3. Authorize use of electric composting toilets—odorless and efficient—in all residences, thus saving the 40% of household water currently flushed down the toilet.
4. Strengthen local environmental ordinances such as no fracking, no GMO agriculture, and no nuclear power plants.
5. Prohibit neonicotinoids to save the bees that are essential to pollinate farmers' crops.
6. Protect our economy and property values by preventing 75% of illegal foreclosures. The State of Nevada required an Affidavit of Authority from foreclosing banks for robo-signed documents and, as a result, illegal foreclosures declined by 75%.
7. Require that Mendocino County's public funds be ethically invested, shunning investments in companies that support GMO foods, pay no income tax, exploit their workers, pollute, produce fossil fuels, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms, or banks with unethical business models based on fraud.
8. Limit corporations' constitutional rights by stating that those rights are for natural persons only.
9. Institute Instant Runoff Voting, a ballot system where voters rank the candidates by preference. It could save the county money in runoffs and encourage people to vote for their favorite rather than the lesser of two evils.
10. Enact anti-corruption laws for public financing of electoral campaigns so corporations would not be able to buy elections with huge amounts of campaign contributions.
11. Authorize a Mendocino County Public Bank to protect Mendocino County and its citizens from future recessions by keeping its money local, investing in infrastructure and other county needs with low-cost loans, eliminating debt service currently being drained away from our county. A public bank does not compete with community banks, but partners with local community banks and credit unions to better serve public needs.

What have some other counties done with their charters?

**Alameda:** Exceeds state mandates for recycling & prohibits incineration.

**Butte:** Mandates a public Treasury Oversight Committee to review policies & guide investment of public funds.

**Fresno:** Prohibits Board members from certain financial conflicts of interest.

**Los Angeles:** Sets term limits for County elected officials.

**Orange:** Caps retirement benefits unless voter approved. Requires an actuarial study before measures go on the ballot.

**Placer:** "Silence in the charter on a given subject does not relegate the county to compliance with general law." Board members' salaries are based on those in surrounding counties.

**Sacramento:** BOS may adopt regulations limiting contributions to & expenditures by county candidates. County can own and operate public utilities.

**San Francisco:** BOS term limits. Precautionary Principle. Plans to establish a public bank and to use non-pesticide alternatives.

**Santa Clara:** No charge for candidate statements in voter pamphlets.

**Tehama:** Extraction of groundwater for off-parcel use is forbidden except as permitted by law.