



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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MendocinoCountyCharter.org



Make
Mendocino
a Charter
County

❖❖ Charter Facts ❖❖

Vote YES! on
Measure W



Charter Project of Mendocino County

To protect our County, our families and our future.

General Law County vs Charter County

Q&A

The California Constitution recognizes two types of counties: general law and charter counties. General law counties adhere to state law as to the number and duties of county elected officials. Charter counties, on the other hand, have a limited degree of “home rule” authority that may provide for the election, compensation, terms, removal, and salary of the governing board; for the election or appointment (except the sheriff, district attorney, and assessor who must be elected), compensation, terms, and removal of all county officers; for the powers and duties of all officers; and for consolidation and segregation of county offices. A charter does not give county officials extra authority over local regulations, revenue-raising abilities, budgetary decisions, or intergovernmental relations.

— CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

General Law County

- Structure of county government specified in State Constitution and Statutes. Only amending the State Constitution or law can change structure.
- Counties have limited powers of self-government as prescribed by the State Legislature.
- Unexpected supervisory vacancies are filled by the Governor.
- State Statutes do not require an Administrative Code.
- Acts of the County government are subordinate to those of the State.
- County has less autonomy and control over County finances.
- State, federal and corporate institutions have more Rights than the citizens of a county.
- Counties have no Rights to protect natural resources from corporate exploitation.

Home Rule Charter County

- Structure of county government specified in Charter as approved by the voters. Structure can be tailored to meet the needs of the county.
- Counties have home-rule authority as long as it doesn't conflict with the Constitution or State law.
- Can provide a local method to fill interim supervisory vacancies.
- County Charter can require an Administrative Code detailing all regs, policies and procedures.
- Provisions of the County charter have the same force and effect of State legislative enactments.
- County Charter can provide more autonomy and greater control over County finances.
- Can level the playing field against the incursion of corporate Rights.
- Can protect natural and financial resources from exploitation by Wall Street or transnational corporations.

What have some other counties done with their charters?

Alameda: Exceeds state mandates for recycling & prohibits incineration.

Butte: Mandates a public 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.