



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Tom Umberg
1000 E. Santa Ana Blvd., Suite 220B
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Honorable Tom Daly
2400 East Katella Ave., Suite 640
Anaheim, CA 92806

The Honorable Janet Nguyen
17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 1120
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Steven R. Jones

Mayor

Kim Bernice Nguyen

Mayor Pro Tem - District 6

George S. Brietigam

Council Member - District 1

John R. O'Neill

Council Member - District 2

Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen

Council Member - District 3

Patrick Phat Bui

Council Member - District 4

Stephanie Klopfenstein

Council Member - District 5

Dear Senator and Assemblymembers:

On behalf of the City of Garden Grove, I am writing to request your support in sponsoring or advocating for legislation amending Government Code 36502 to establish a 30-day residency requirement for candidates for elective office, or authorizing general law cities to enact such a residency requirement as requested by the City Council.

General law cities are currently preempted by Government Code 36502, which provides that to qualify as a council member, a person must be a registered voter of the city at the time nomination papers are issued. At the same time, we found that charter cities are not bound by Government Code 36502 and can enact and benefit from 30-day residency requirements for candidates for elective office.

Having the ability to establish a 30-day residency requirement for city council candidates would help prevent the appearance of impropriety whereby a candidate may appear to move into a district solely to seek election and not in the district's best interest. The democratic process is strengthened when residents feel they are voting for council members who truly live in their neighborhoods and understand their needs and concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact Garden Grove's Assistant City Manager, Maria Stipe at (714) 741-5106, or Garden Grove's City Attorney, Omar Sandoval at (714) 415-1049, if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Jones
Mayor