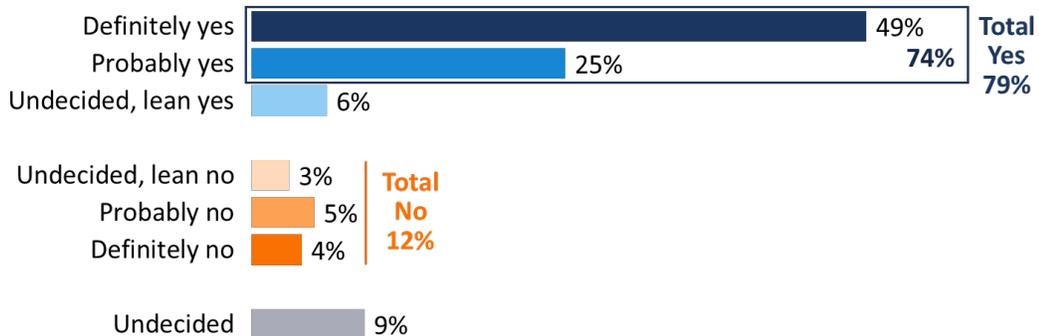




TO Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer
FROM FM3 Research
RE: San Diego County Charter Amendment Measure Survey – Summary of Key Findings
DATE March 3, 2026

A survey¹ of San Diego County voters likely to cast a ballot in the November 2026 statewide election finds the public believes County government requires major changes, and the vast majority would vote in favor of a County Charter Amendment Measure to improve governance by requiring more public disclosure and accountability of public officials. Specifically, more than eight in ten (83%) think San Diego County government has a “great” or “some” need for reforms, and as **Figure 1** shows, voters support a proposed Charter Amendment Measure by more than six to one. Furthermore, almost half (49%) would vote “*definitely yes*” to approve the Charter Amendment, a level of intensity that underscore voter sentiment that significant changes are needed.

Figure 1: Vote on San Diego County Charter Amendment Measure



The proposed County Charter Amendment receives strong support from voters across San Diego County and regardless of party affiliation. Voters in all five County Supervisorial Districts vote in favor of this measure by large margins -- more than three in four vote yes and opposition to the Charter Amendment does not reach 15% in any district. (See **Figure 2 on the next page**) Even more striking is the level of support across party as Democrats (80%), Republicans (80%) and nonpartisans (78%) all vote in favor at virtually the same level. In era of deep political polarization, it is rare that voters across the political spectrum respond similarly to ballot measures.

¹ **Survey Methodology:** From November 14-20, 2025, FM3 completed 737 survey interviews with San Diego County voters likely to vote in the November 2026 election. Results have a margin of sampling error of $\pm 3.6\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 2: Vote on San Diego County Charter Amendment Measure by County Supervisorial District & Party

Demographic Group	Yes	No	Undecided
Supervisorial District			
District 1	77%	12%	11%
District 2	81%	14%	5%
District 3	77%	13%	10%
District 4	83%	9%	8%
District 5	78%	11%	11%
Party			
Democrats	80%	13%	7%
Republicans	80%	8%	12%
NPP/Other	78%	14%	8%

Beyond voting in favor of a County Charter Amendment, the survey shows voters express very high levels of support for specific reforms and changes to San Diego County government. As Figure 3 illustrates, 93% of San Diego County voters embrace requiring full public disclosure, annual audits and independent oversight of County government spending. Additionally, nine in ten also back creating an independent ethics commission, more than eight in ten support a nonpartisan budget analyst and implementation with no cost to taxpayers and an independent auditor. It should be noted that the survey did not ask about creating term limits of three four-year terms for all county elected officials, including the Sheriff and District Attorney, or about extending term limits from two to three terms for Supervisors. The survey did test support for limiting Supervisors and a hypothetical elected County Executive to three four-year terms as part of a broader restructuring and modernization package, with results indicating strong voter support for a consistent, twelve-year term limit structure.

Figure 3: Most Important Uses of Funds from the Bond Measure

Features, Elements, or Provisions	Percentage Support
Requires full public disclosure, annual audits, and independent oversight of all County government spending	93%
Creates an independent ethics commission to investigate allegations of misconduct by County officials	89%
Creates a nonpartisan budget analyst to assess the impact of proposed County legislation	88%
Requires implementation without cost to taxpayers	87%
Establishes an Independent Auditor to directly report to the Board of Supervisors to increase transparency and accountability	85%
Limits the elected members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors/County Executive to serve three, four-year terms or a total of twelve years	75% ²
Requires an elected County Executive who is accountable to the voters and implements policies approved by the elected Board of Supervisors	73%

San Diego County voters overwhelmingly support a County Charter Amendment Measure to implement reforms that will improve transparency, public disclosure and increase accountability to improve County governance. These survey results suggest that the public strongly embraces these proposed reforms and would be likely to approve a County Charter Amendment Measure were it to appear on the ballot in an upcoming election.

² Question was split sampled