



**PROCEDURES FOR
SELECTION OF THE
MAYOR & MAYOR PRO TEM**

City Council Meeting of March 28, 2024



PALM DESERT

BACKGROUND

September 30, 2021: Current Procedures Adopted

The City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-61 establishing the current seniority-based rotation, adding provisions to address tie breakers when two or more members are in the same or different districts.

February 15, 2024: Ad Hoc Committee Appointed

The City Council appointed Mayor Quintanilla and Mayor Pro Tem Harnik to an Ad Hoc Committee to review selection procedures for the positions of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

March 11, 2024: Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation

The Ad Hoc Committee met and considered seniority-based, district-based, and nomination-based options. The Committee recommended adoption of a district-based rotation.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-61

Seniority-Based Rotation: Members must have one year experience to serve as MPT and two years experience to serve as Mayor.

01

Regular Rotation

Priority shall be given to the Member with the longest continuous service since last serving as Mayor, if ever.

02

Same District Tie Breaker

When two or more Members are sworn into office the same day, the member with the highest number of votes shall be inserted first into the rotation.

03

Different Districts Tie Breaker

When two or more members are sworn in on the same day in different districts, ties shall be broken with a coin toss.

PROPOSED PROCEDURES

In Dec. 2024, the MPT shall succeed to Mayor and the longest serving Member, without previous service as Mayor, shall be MPT.

In Dec. 2025, the MPT shall succeed to Mayor. To commence a district-based rotation, the Member representing District 3 shall be MPT.



Regular Rotation

Thereafter, the MPT shall succeed to Mayor and the member representing the next sequential district shall be MPT.



MPT Not Re-Elected

If the MPT is not re-elected, the newly-elected Member is not eligible to serve as Mayor. Therefore, the next eligible sequential district shall serve as Mayor and the regular rotation shall resume.



Minimum Exp.

A Member shall not serve as Mayor during their first year on City Council.



Removal

The Mayor or MPT may be removed by 4/5ths vote of the City Council.

PROPOSED PROCEDURES (CONTINUED)



Declining Service

A Member may decline to serve as Mayor or MPT. If declined, the next eligible sequential district shall fill the vacancy and the regular rotation shall continue.



Resignation

If the Mayor or MPT resigns, the next eligible sequential district shall fill the vacancy. If the new Mayor's partial term is six months or less, that Member shall continue to serve as Mayor another year.



No Option

If these procedures result in no Member being eligible to serve in either position, then the City Council may appoint any of its members to serve.

Regular Rotation Forecast		
	Mayor	MPT
Dec. 2026	D-3	D-4
Dec. 2027	D-4	D-5
Nov. 2028	Election: Districts 1, 2, and 3	
Dec. 2028	D-5	D-1
Dec. 2029	D-1	D-2
Nov. 2030	Election: Districts 4 and 5	
Dec. 2030	D-2	D-3
Dec. 2031	D-3	D-4
Nov. 2032	Election: Districts 1, 2, and 3	
Dec. 2032	D-4	D-5

Hypothetical: Incoming Mayor Declines and Incumbent MPT Not Re-Elected		
	Mayor	MPT
Dec. 2026	D-3	D-4
Dec. 2027	D-5 (D-4 Declines)	D-1
Nov. 2028	Election: Districts 1, 2, and 3	
Dec. 2028	D-2 (D-1 Not Re-Elected)	D-3
Dec. 2029	D-3	D-4
Nov. 2030	Election: Districts 4 and 5	
Dec. 2030	D-4	D-5
Dec. 2031	D-5	D-1
Nov. 2032	Election: Districts 1, 2, and 3	
Dec. 2032	D-1	D-2

Note: If an incoming Mayor declines service, this will result in the next eligible sequential district serving as Mayor and forgoing their term as MPT

Note: If an incumbent MPT is not re-elected, this will result in the next eligible sequential district serving as Mayor and forgoing their term as MPT

ALTERNATIVE MODELS

Seniority-Based Rotation (Based on Existing Procedures):
Members must have one year of experience to serve as MPT and two years of experience to serve as Mayor.

01

Regular Rotation

Priority shall be given to the Member with the longest continuous service since last serving as Mayor (or MPT), if ever.

02

Tie Breaker

When two or more members are sworn in on the same day in different districts, ties shall be broken with a coin toss.

03

Declining Service as MPT

If a Member declines service as MPT, that member shall retain their seniority and will have priority in subsequent years until such time as they decide to serve.

ALTERNATIVE MODELS

Seniority-Based Rotation (Based on Q&A Memo Response): Members must have one year of experience to serve as MPT and two years of experience to serve as Mayor.

01

Regular Rotation

Priority shall be given to the Member with the longest continuous service since last serving as Mayor or MPT, if ever.

02

Tie Breaker

Mutual Agreement: If two or more members are tied, they may come to a mutual agreement on the sequence of serving as MPT.

By Lot: If mutual agreement is not reached, ties will be broken by lot: coin toss, drawing straws, or high card from a standard deck.

03

Declining Service as MPT

If a Member declines service as Mayor or MPT, then that member's future placement in the rotation will be as if they served in the year for which service is waived.

ALTERNATIVE MODELS

Nomination-Based Rotation: Members will be solicited to nominate any eligible member to serve as Mayor or MPT. The City Council may impose minimum qualifications such as having served on City Council for a specified number of years in order to be eligible to serve as Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.

01

Floor Nominations

The presiding officer calls for nominations. A member may nominate any eligible member to the office.

02

Viva-Voce Election

If there is more than one nominee, the candidates are voted upon in the order they were nominated.

03

Majority Vote

As soon as one of the nominees receives a majority vote, the candidate is declared elected.

QUESTIONS?