

Fact Sheet: Local Legislative Alternatives

What is a city Ordinance?

An ordinance is a law passed by a governing body by a majority vote. An ordinance can also be passed by placing a measure on the ballot by the initiative process.

What is a city or county Resolution?

A decision or statement of intent voted on by a local council or board. This is only a statement of official policy and not enforceable by law.

Initiative?

This is a process to establish a law by a vote of the electorate. Initiatives are sponsored by an organization or group of citizens that work together to get the initiative on the local ballot in order to get it passed into a city law or ordinance.

How do you get an initiative on the local ballot?

An initiative gets put onto the local ballot via the petition process. In CA, this process requires 1/10 of the voting base in that jurisdiction to sign a petition showing support for the initiative.

An example:

(from www.stopwaste.org) - Dublin, CA, February 16, 2000: Dublin has become the first city in Alameda County to adopt a Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance. The ordinance, which was unanimously adopted by the city council, requires a Waste Management Plan as part of the city permitting process for each construction, demolition or renovation project. The plan must include a way to divert at least 50% of the debris generated by the project from landfill, and must be filed for any project with a total value of \$100,000 or greater.