

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF MEASURE O

Measure O provides updates to the City's Charter, including requirements for an "independent" audit, funding of at least three staff positions for the Office of the Mayor, including a Public Information Officer, and changes dates for establishing Mayor and Council salaries.

Measure O makes changes to address fiscal matters, such as requiring Council to adopt a reserve policy for tough economic times; more clearly establishes dates, deadlines, and processes for adopting an annual balanced budget, issuing financial statements and audits; and adds the requirement of an exact street address for City-owned real property transactions.

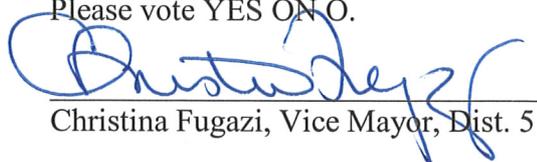
Community advocates have asked for transparency and accountability regarding the budget, financial statements, and the annual audit. Measure O adds these elements by setting a date specific – May 15 – that the proposed budget for the upcoming year must be available for public review; clarifies that financial statements must be prepared as soon as possible after the fiscal year ends; adds that the annual audit must be conducted by "independent" certified public accountants who are provided access to all financial information and that the final audit be posted to the City's website and available for public view with the City Clerk; and requires Council to adopt a reserve policy.

Measure O states the Council Salary Setting Commission will meet in even years to determine Councilmember compensation with changes effective every two years on January 1. The Commission will determine salary for the Mayor in the election year for the entire four-year term with changes effective at the beginning of the Mayor's term, January 1.

A YES vote means you want these changes proposed by a Charter Review Advisory Committee of community members and approved by the Council.

A NO vote means that you do not agree with these changes.

Please vote YES ON O.


Christina Fugazi, Vice Mayor, Dist. 5


Elbert H. Holman, Jr., Councilmember, Dist. 1


Cynthia Summers, Chair, Charter Review Advisory Commission