

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

L Shall Section 707 be added to the City of Santa Cruz Charter to allow the City Council, by resolution, to authorize any municipal election, other than on a date of a regular statewide primary or statewide general election, to be conducted by mail, in accordance with the mail ballot election procedures set forth in the Elections Code of the State of California?

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE L

Section 707. Mail Ballot Elections.

Any local, special, or consolidated election may be conducted wholly by mail provided that the City Council adopts a resolution authorizing the use of mailed ballots for the election; the election does not occur on the same date as a statewide direct primary election or statewide general election, and that it be conducted in accordance with the mail ballot election procedures set forth in the Elections Code of the State of California.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY MEASURE L

MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS

Currently the California Elections Code allows a city to conduct an election by mail ballots under a limited set of circumstances when the election in question concerns expenditure limitation overrides, the establishment of maximum property tax rates, or the approval or rejection of general taxes, special taxes, assessments or fees pursuant to Articles 13C and 13D of the California Constitution (Proposition 218 elections). This ballot measure, if adopted by City voters, would add Section 707 to the City of Santa Cruz City Charter and allow the City of Santa Cruz, in its constitutional capacity as a charter city with plenary authority over its municipal affairs, to conduct mail ballot elections under a broader set of circumstances. Specifically the City would be authorized to conduct any local, special or consolidated election by mail when the City Council adopts a resolution authorizing the use of mail ballots for that particular election. Mail ballot elections, however, would not be authorized when the election in question occurs on the same date as a statewide direct primary election or a statewide general election. Mail ballot elections conducted pursuant to this proposed charter amendment would be required to be conducted in accordance with the applicable procedures set forth in the California Elections Code.

Approved as to form:

s/ John Barisone, City Attorney

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE MEASURE L

MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS

This charter amendment would allow for special elections to be conducted by an all-mail ballot, and would authorize the City to conduct any local, special or consolidated election by mail when so authorized. The estimate of reduced costs would be approximately 20% of the costs of an election. As an example, the most recent special election, which would have qualified for an all-mail ballot election, cost approximately \$78,500. A 20% reduction in costs would have saved \$15,700, resulting in a cost of \$62,800.

s/ David P. Culver
Director of Finance
City of Santa Cruz

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE L

All City elections are currently held with ballots issued in precincts fully staffed by elections personnel, marked at the precincts and transported to County Elections for processing and counting. This Charter Amendment will provide a more efficient and less costly method of voting in special elections. This Charter Amendment will allow for the City to conduct special elections by an all mail ballot. Regular municipal elections, held each November in even numbered years, and statewide primary and general elections will still be conducted in staffed precincts. Unless a fiscal emergency is declared by a unanimous City Council vote, tax elections can only be held at regular municipal elections that include City Council races. This means that tax ballot measures would seldom, if ever, be decided at a mail ballot election. All mail ballot elections in special elections will:

- reduce personnel costs associated with staffing precincts by approximately 20%;
- provide a more efficient system for conducting special elections; and
- be more convenient for voters, who mail their ballot rather than go to a precinct to vote.

s/ Scott Kennedy, Mayor, City of Santa Cruz
s/ Emily Reilly, former mayor
s/ Mike Rotkin, Vice Mayor

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE L WAS FILED.