



Local ballot measure: V

V

City of Watsonville Charter Amendment – Boards and Commissions

Ballot question

Shall the measure amending the Charter of the City of Watsonville to modify the eligibility requirement for appointment to all Boards and Commissions created pursuant to the Watsonville Charter from registered voter to resident of the City of Watsonville be adopted?

Pregunta de Boleta

¿Se debería adoptar la medida que enmienda la Carta Constitutiva de la ciudad de Watsonville para modificar el requisito de elegibilidad para el nombramiento en todas las Juntas y Comisiones creadas conforme con la Carta de Watsonville, de votante registrado a residente de la ciudad de Watsonville?

What your vote means:

YES	NO
A “yes” vote is a vote to adopt the provisions of Measure V, and in favor of amending the Charter.	A “no” vote is a vote against adopting the provisions of Measure V, and against amending the Charter.

For and against Measure V

Titles used by argument signers are for identification purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the position of the organization in question.

If an asterisk (*) follows a name, it means the person is signing on behalf of that agency/organization.

FOR	AGAINST
Kristal Salcido* , Watsonville City Council	Casey Kraig Clark , Watsonville City Council Member
Maria Orozco* , Watsonville City Council	Ari Parker , Watsonville City Council Member



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Arguments and replies are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted, including errors.

Argument for Measure V	Rebuttal argument for Measure V
<p>Vote YES on Measure V to include all residents of the City of Watsonville to participate in Watsonville Council appointed committees and commissions, which include the Parks, Library, Personnel, and Planning Commissions. Amending this provision to reflect the diverse population of Watsonville will allow ALL residents, regardless of their electoral status, to participate in a meaningful advisory capacity on our council appointed committees. Our community's strength is its diversity, and that diversity should be represented on our council appointed advisory groups. Watsonville City Council supports Measure V, and we encourage constituents to vote YES.</p> <p>Residency in the City of Watsonville will absolutely still be required, and can be verified, prior to appointment to any committee or commission. The County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, and State of California have adopted this practice. This participatory framework allows every resident-whether a long-time community member or a young person eager to inform change – an opportunity to influence policy, contribute ideas, and lend their expertise. Watsonville can benefit from richer dialogue among its residents, leading to solutions that are more reflective of the community's true needs and that honor the contributions of every individual in our community.</p> <p>Vote YES on Measure V to have more diverse voices heard on our City of Watsonville Council appointed committees and commissions! Watsonville city council wants every one of our 51,000-member community to have the opportunity to contribute to our local government by serving on city committees and commissions.</p> <p>Watsonville is a vibrant community with diverse cultures, languages, and experiences. By restricting board and commission appointments to registered voters only, we inadvertently exclude valuable insight of dedicated residents who wish to contribute to their community, and who embrace the shared commitment we all have to our community's progress and well-being.</p> <p>In Community, Watsonville City Council Kristal Salcido*, Watsonville City Council Maria Orozco*, Watsonville City Council</p>	<p>Vote NO on Measure V.</p> <p>At a time when our Democracy is working hard to ensure the right to vote across our city, county, and nation- how can we give these voting rights away?</p> <p>Do not be fooled by proponents saying these are merely "ADVISORY" commissions! These commissions are NOT advisory. We encourage the VOTERS to vote NO.</p> <p>Commissions make budget decisions- some impacts can be more than \$100,000! . Commissions make decisions that affect personnel's livelihoods. Commissions make decisions about the artwork/murals around town. Commissions make decisions approving businesses and land development like housing.</p> <p>Registered Voters should be in control of these commissions. Vote NO on Measure V.</p> <p>Do not be fooled by proponents saying these commissions provide the only way a Watsonville resident can contribute ideas, influence policy, or lend their expertise.</p> <p>All Commission meetings are PUBLIC and every one of our 51,000 + residents can contribute their ideas, speak publicly, contribute in writing, or through their representatives.</p> <p>We are a DIVERSE Community and our VOTERS are DIVERSE. This is WATSONVILLE! Vote NO on Measure V.</p> <p>We are following the rules set forth by government. No one is "restricting" to exclude. How can anyone's residence be verified? Proponents have no answers.</p> <p>Please keep control of our Commissions and local government in the hands of Registered Voters. Beware the danger of permanently changing our Watsonville City Charter!</p> <p>Reject this proposal and join many VOTERS in the City of Watsonville and VOTE NO on Measure V to ensure City of Watsonville commissioners represent Watsonville's voters.</p> <p>Moad Ali Marcia Hashimoto Martha-Victoria Vega Ari A. Parker, Watsonville City Council Casey Kraig Clark, Watsonville City Council</p>

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Argument against Measure V	Rebuttal argument against Measure V
<p>Please Vote NO on Measure V.</p> <p>At a time when we're all working hard to preserve the fundamental rights of voters everywhere to vote, this misguided proposal would drive Watsonville in the opposite direction!</p> <p>Let's not go backward by diluting the voice of Watsonville's voters, many of whom have fought hard to earn their right to vote. Instead, let's put our energy and faith in the City Clerk's office to help register more people to vote. Do not be fooled by language that says this would "broaden participation on its Commissions by members of the public from varying and diverse backgrounds..." We ARE a DIVERSE community and our registered voters reflect that!</p> <p>Make no mistake. This proposal would allow individuals who have not even registered to vote to assume control of City Commissions that are central to the quality of life in Watsonville, make significant policy and financial decisions, including prioritizing the City's precious resources— impacting our homes, local economy, streets, parks, schools, and more. They are not just advisory.</p> <p>Voters should soundly reject this ill-advised proposal for multiple reasons:</p> <p>Undermines Civic Engagement: Voting is a fundamental expression of civic commitment. Most Non-voters do not demonstrate the same level of dedication to our community, compromising their commitment to local issues.</p> <p>Anyone can vote. How do we determine residency?: We will have City Commissioners who may not be active local voters and lack a genuine understanding of our community's needs and what VOTERS want.</p> <p>Erosion of Trust: Allowing individuals who do not participate in local elections to make decisions binding on voters would undermine trust in our local governance, making it harder for residents to hold decision-makers accountable.</p> <p>REJECT this proposal. Please join us in voting NO on Measure V to ensure City of Watsonville commissioners represent Watsonville's voters.</p> <p>Casey Kraig Clark, Watsonville City Council Member Ari Parker, Watsonville City Council Member</p>	<p>Vote YES on Measure V!</p> <p>Measure V strengthens Watsonville. Making all city residents eligible to serve on commissions ensures all who call Watsonville home can contribute to our shared future.</p> <p>Only City Council members have the authority to appoint commissioners and approve commission recommendations.</p> <p>Commissions are advisory bodies to the Council and City Manager, per the City Charter. It states Council appointment to commissions should reflect our diversity to inform issues impacting our homes, economy, streets, parks, and schools.</p> <p>Civic engagement is important. Measure V expands civic engagement to many longtime Watsonville residents who own businesses or are dedicated workers unable to register to vote.</p> <p>We ARE a DIVERSE community. Watsonville is made up of smart, talented people. Measure V allows the Council to tap into their knowledge to guide our city forward.</p> <p>Support Measure V because it:</p> <p>Strengthens Civic Engagement: Some of Watsonville's long-standing, contributing residents are unable to vote. Measure V ensures our City benefits from the insights of integral and knowledgeable community members.</p> <p>Aligns with State, Regional, and Other Charter Cities Best Practices: The State of California, City and County of Santa Cruz, and most charter cities allow all residents to serve on commissions, regardless of citizenship or voter registration.</p> <p>Builds Trust: Expanding civic engagement to all residents means their voice and experience matter and are considered in city decisions. This builds trust in local government and its decisions.</p> <p>Join Watsonville City Council, trusted community members, local elected officials, and former, current, and future Watsonville Mayors by voting YES on Measure V!</p> <p>Lowell Hurst, Councilmember Emeritus/Former Mayor Maria Cadenas, President & Executive Director of Ventures Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Watsonville City Councilmember & Mayor Felipe Hernandez, 4th District Supervisor, County of Santa Cruz Rebecca J. Garcia, Former Watsonville Mayor</p>

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Impartial Analysis of Measure V

Samantha W. Zutler, City Attorney

This measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council. If approved, Measure V would amend the Charter of the City of Watsonville as explained below.

The Charter was adopted in 1960 and last updated in 2014. All Charter amendments must be approved by the voters.

This Measure would amend Charter Section 900 – Boards and Commissions.

The City currently has the Board of Library Trustees and the Parks and Recreation Commission, Personnel Commission, and Planning Commission.

The roles of the Board and Commissions are set by the City Council and, in some cases, State law. As stated in the Charter, they are “intended to serve as advisory bodies to the Council and the City Manager in carrying out their respective duties.” All members of the Board and Commissions are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the City Council.

Section 900 of the Charter currently states that, in order to be eligible for appointment to a Board or Commission, “a person shall be a qualified registered elector of the City.” This means that only U.S. citizens may currently serve on the Library Board and all City Commissions.

This measure would change the citizenship requirement to a requirement that, to be considered for appointment to a Board or Commission, an individual be a resident of the City.

A “yes” vote is a vote to adopt the provisions of Measure V, and in favor of amending the Charter as summarized above.

A “no” vote is a vote against adopting the provisions of Measure V, and against amending the Charter as summarized above.

The Council has also placed Measure W on the ballot. This measure does not conflict with Measure W. Voter approval of either measure will not affect the other measure.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure V. The full text of Measure V is printed in the Voter's Information Pamphlet and available on the City of Watsonville's website at: <https://www.watsonville.gov/2511/Measures---November-5-2024>. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the elections official's office at (831) 768-3040 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Full text of Measure V

Text of Proposed Commission Service Charter Amendment Measure to be Submitted to the Voters: Proposal to Amend the Charter of the City of Watsonville to eliminate the voter registration/citizenship requirement for service on all Boards and Commissions created pursuant to the City of Watsonville City Charter.

PART 1. AMENDMENTS TO CITY OF WATSONVILLE CHARTER. The Council of the City of Watsonville hereby submits to the registered qualified electors of the City for their adoption or rejection, the following proposal to amend the Charter of the City of Watsonville, with amended text shown in underlined text, and deleted text shown in ~~strikeout~~ text.

Section 900 – Boards and Commissions: Intents and Purposes is amended to read as follows:

Section 900. Boards and Commissions: Intents and Purposes.

Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the appointive boards and commissions established by or pursuant to this Charter are intended to serve as advisory bodies to the Council and the City Manager in carrying out their respective duties. Membership on such bodies shall be representative of the entire community insofar as that is possible, and members on such boards shall be willing to serve as a civic responsibility. No member of any advisory board or commission shall hold any paid office or employment in the City Government. ~~In order to be eligible for appointment to any board or commission, a person shall be a qualified registered elector of the City.~~ In order to be eligible for appointment to any Board or Commission, a person shall be a resident of the City. In addition to those boards and commissions herein provided, the Council may create by ordinance such advisory boards or commissions as in its judgment are required and may grant them such powers and duties as are consistent with the provisions of this Charter. In addition, the Council by motion adopted by at least four (4) affirmative votes, or the City Manager with the consent of the Council, may appoint from time to time such temporary committees as are deemed advisable to render counsel and advice to the appointing authorities on any designated matters or subject within the jurisdiction of such authorities.



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Any vacancies in any board or commission, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the Council except as otherwise provided in this Article. Upon a vacancy occurring leaving an unexpired portion of a term, any appointment to fill such vacancy shall be for the unexpired portion of such term. The provisions of Section 1770 of the Government Code of the State of California as they now exist or may hereafter be amended shall govern the existence of a vacancy except that if a member of a board or commission absents himself from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of such board or commission, unless by permission of such board or commission expressed in its official minutes, his office shall become vacant and shall be so declared by the Council.

PART 2. BALLOT DESCRIPTION. As provided in Government Code section 34458.5, the following ballot description is included in this Proposed Commission Service Measure:

The proposed Commission Service Measure amends City of Watsonville Charter Section 900. The amendments would eliminate voter registration/citizenship requirements for service on all Boards and Commissions created pursuant to the City of Watsonville Charter. The amendments do not provide for new city powers, nor do they affect the City Council's power to raise its own compensation or that of other City officials without voter approval.

PART 3. SEVERABILITY. It is the intent of the people that the provisions of this Measure are severable and that if any provision of this Commission Service Measure or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid then such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or the application of this Commission Service Measure which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

PART 4. CERTIFICATION AND FILING. Upon ratification by the voters, the City Clerk is directed to certify the passage of this Commission Service Measure and file it in the Office of the Secretary of State, and to take such other actions required by law as are necessary to give effect to its passage.

PART 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Commission Service Measure shall become effective in the manner provided for by law.