

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE W

This measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council. If approved, Measure W 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 Sections 404 through 409, 501, 502, 607, 700 through 704, 800 through 807, 810, 900 through 905, 908, 910, 1001, 1003, 1004, 1006, 1007, 1104, 1106, 1110, 1113, 1117, 1118, 1122, 1200, 1202, 1503, 1504, and 1506.

The proposed amendments are summarized as follows:

- Delete Sections 1102, 1106, 1113, 1118, 1122(a), 1122(b)(1), as they are outdated and/ or not consistent with current State law.
- Correct typographical or grammatical errors, add gender-neutral language, clarify vague language, strike or change “citizen” to “person”, and update references to State law throughout the Charter.
- Remove the requirement that the City Council hold one regular meeting each month and instead require either one special or one regular meeting each month.
- Allow ordinances to be published in any newspaper and bids to be published in a newspaper of general circulation or in accordance with State law.
- Revise qualifications for City Manager applicants and responsibilities for the City Manager position.
- Allow the City to hire attorneys to assist the City Attorney.
- Make the Library Board a Commission.
- Clarify General Service positions.
- Allow Councilmembers to receive employment benefits in addition to salary, the Mayor to receive 25% more in salary than other Councilmembers, and the Council to consider providing compensation to Planning Commissioners.
- Remove requirement to establish general terms and conditions for franchises through ordinance and instead consider franchises individually.
- Replace “shall” with “may” in Section 1504 to allow flexibility in imposing penalties for Charter violations.
- Refer to State law regarding requests for public records.
- Add the City’s Personnel Rules and Regulations as a basis for employee discipline.

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

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

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

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure W. The full text of Measure W 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.

DATED: August 12, 2024

Samantha W. Zutler, City Attorney