

SANTA CLARA - ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE N

START
Santa Clara elections have always been clean and open to all types of candidates. We are proud of our history. Now we can make it even better ~~and more accessible~~ through input by a public process.

The City Council desires to submit to the voters one proposed advisory ballot measure to ask the voters whether the City should engage the voters in a public process to draft an amendment to the City Charter to change the method of elections from at-large to by district for City Council Members only. The Mayor would continue to be elected at-large.

Based on previous efforts to change the City's Charter election system to comply with a Court Order to diversify the City Council, community efforts to receive public input caused confusion as a result of insufficient time to educate the voters. As a result, Measure A failed. Per a Court Order in July 2018, the City was ordered to be divided into six districts and still maintain an at-large Mayor.

Measure N will give residents an opportunity to vote on how they want to see the City's election system work. By voting Yes on N, it will help maximize community input and sequentially provides voters with the right to determine whether Santa Clara should be divided into Council districts and if so, how many. ~~Additionally, it will also minimize voter confusion.~~

By voting Yes on N, it would allow for a robust, sequential public outreach and engagement process to avoid voter confusion. It will provide the opportunity for information and education efforts for each step of the process. Specifically, this time and effort will be spent seeking public input on: number of districts, boundary lines, sequencing and transition plan.

By voting Yes on N, a Charter Amendment ballot measure would be voted on in June 2020 in time for November 2020 election if passed.

~~We respectfully request your support for Measure N.~~ *Please support Yes on N.*

END
/s/Kathy Watanabe, Vice Mayor

/s/Teresa O'Neill, Councilmember

/s/Tino Silva, Parks & Recreation Commissioner and Santa Clara resident

/s/Ruth Lemmon, Santa Clara Sister Cities and Santa Clara resident

/s/Peter Kuo, Managing Director, Venture Capital Roundtable, Santa Clara resident

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AUG 14 2018

City Clerk's Office
City of Santa Clara