

Argument In Favor Of Measure D

The City Charter sets the membership of the Harbor Commission to five members and requires all members to be residents of the City. This measure expands the Commission to seven members and allows a non-city resident to serve in one of those positions.

Expanding the Commission to seven members will greatly increase its ability to advise the Council on the operation of the Waterfront Department. Several other City boards and commissions have seven or more members. They operate effectively and efficiently.

The expansion of the Commission to seven members and allowing one non-city resident makes sense because:

To be effective, the Commission forms subcommittees to work on issues such as parking, dredging, slip assignment, chartering, business permits, budget, leases, to name a few. The work of these subcommittees would be greatly facilitated if there were more commissioners to serve on the subcommittees, spreading the workload;

The responsibility of the Commission has increased over time to include not just the harbor itself, but also Stearns Wharf, the waterfront and waterfront parking. More commissioners will help meet this increased responsibility;

With a membership of five, State law prohibits a commissioner from talking outside the meeting to more than one other commissioner. With seven on the Commission, two others can be consulted to increase the quality of their decision making; and

Allowing non-city residents to apply for one seat on the Commission would increase the breadth of perspective on the Commission. Since the harbor is the only port in the County, it is reasonable to allow individuals from neighboring communities the right to have a voice in its administration. The Charter allows nonresidents on other commissions such as the Airport Commission which is the only airport on the South Coast, and that works well.

Vote YES on Measure D.

Mayor Marty Blum