

RECEIVED

Argument in Favor of Measure ___

Vote YES on Measure ___ to bring our City Charter into compliance with the California Voting Rights Act, and to ensure that voters have the final say when there is a vacancy on the Council.

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The Santa Barbara Superior Court has already ordered the city to establish election by district. Measure ___ simply amends the City Charter to reflect the process that was established in 2015. Updating the Charter now will provide a clear process for electing Councilmembers, and avoid possible confusion or challenges in the future. The Mayor will continue to be elected by all city voters.

Under our new district election system, each council member represents approximately 13,000 people, bringing government closer to residents. Voters have become more engaged as turnout and diversity on the City Council have increased. Santa Barbara residents now have a direct representative, elected from their neighborhood.

Measure ___ also allows ALL vacancies on the Council or in the office of Mayor be filled by voters at the next regularly scheduled state or federal election, and will allow the seat to be filled by appointment on an interim basis. This keeps the decision on who represents you where it belongs – with you, the voters, and saves the city the cost of an expensive special election to fill each vacancy.

Measure ___ was placed on the ballot by the Santa Barbara City Council in an effort to have our City Charter reflect the switch to district-based elections and incorporate a fair and democratic method for filling vacancies.

Please join us in Voting YES on Measure ___ to provide accountability, transparency, and accuracy in government.