

Local Ballot Measure: U

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted.

Argument In Favor of Measure U	Rebuttal To Argument In Favor of Measure U
Vote Yes on Measure U to keep Marina safe.	Measure U is a multimillion-dollar mistake. It is an attempt to convince Marina's voters to write a blank check for projects that lack critical study and important details, proposed at a time when households are under immense financial pressure. The city council piggybacked a civic center onto a recommendation for a new fire station without careful planning or community involvement. No formalized plan for the civic center was ever presented for public review and comment. Comprehensive data was never provided. The city ignored citizens' requests for crucial details about location and specific facilities that would be included in a new civic center, instead resorting to evasive answers and marketing tactics. Measure U and its proponents claim that aging city facilities threaten public safety yet they provide no supporting documentation. Their statement that fire department response times are "much slower than the 5-minute standard" is misleading and disingenuous because there is no such California or Federal government standard. It simply doesn't exist!
Marina has grown since becoming a city five decades ago. Aging city facilities now threaten public safety.	
Marina's aging fire station and police station don't meet earthquake standards and need to be more than double the size to meet public safety operational and critical essential services functions.	
Over 80% of 911 calls to Marina Fire Department are medical emergencies, like heart attacks, strokes, and accidents. Response times in some areas are 10 minutes, much slower than the 5-minute standard. Minutes mean the difference between life and death. A	
new fire station must be built at a location that improves response times for all residents.	
Many city services are delivered from temporary portable buildings installed in 1975. Fifty years later those portables are still in use, increasingly deteriorated, have leaky roofs, are not ADA accessible and are too small to meet current workforce needs, much less future	
needs.	The city has promised strict fiscal accountability and local control while using scare tactics, evading citizens' questions and withholding important financial data about the bond. It has been ambiguous and evasive on citizen requests regarding total costs which, by the city's own calculation, amounts to \$98,912,943. The city has asked voters for trust while doing nothing to earn trust. Marina deserves better. Our community deserves a transparent and accountable government that respects its citizens. Vote NO on Measure U. /s/ Nancy Fortman, 36 Year Marina Resident /s/ Mia Nguyen, Marina Resident /s/ John Sanders, 40-year Marina Resident /s/ Grace Silva-Santella, 35 Year Resident Marina, Retired Planning Commissioner /s/ Frank O'Connell, 45 Year Resident/Retired City Council Member
Marina's one inadequate and deteriorating community space is used daily by both children in afterschool programs and seniors.	
Voting Yes on Measure U will provide a safe and up-to-date fire station, police station, and community facilities to:	
 Provide rapid 911 response to fires, medical emergencies, and disasters 	
Provide facilities to meet operational and community needs	
 Provide safe places for children and seniors 	
Ensure emergency services remain operational in an earthquake	
If not now, when will we build them? Do we pass the problem on to the next generation?	
Measure U requires strict fiscal accountability and local control:	
Every penny must be used locally	
 Public spending disclosure, audits, and an oversight committee ensure funds are spent properly 	
No funds can be used for salaries	
Please join Marina's firefighters, police officers, business, elected, and community leaders in voting Yes on Measure U to keep Marina safe.	
/s/ Christopher Johnson, MPOA President	
/s/ Kayden Gibson, MPFFA President	
/s/ Katherine Y. Biala, Councilmember	
/s/ Elisabeth Visscher, Mayor Pro Tem/Councilmember	
/s/ Randolph (Randy) Hopkins, Chief of Marina Police Dept	