



Local Ballot Measure: X

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

Argument Against Measure X

Monterey does not need term limits. They might work somewhere else, but not in our small city. Proposed charter amendments are very important and should not be put on the ballot by a 3-2 council vote.

Don't let term limits take your vote away. If you like your council members, you can vote for them, or if you want a change, you can vote for someone else.

There is ample turnover of council members without term limits. Two of the current members have served less than two years, and the mayor as well. Long-term council members have lost their elections in the past when voters decided a change was needed

We don't need term limits to tell us how to vote. The mayor serves for two years and council members for four, so each election cycle has a term limit already. Monterey has campaign donation limits and district elections, making it easier for new people to run. The council is very diverse and inclusive without term limits.

Long-term council members brought you the many amenities we enjoy today including the Monterey Sports Center, recreational trail, recreation centers, Historic Preservation and Museums and Cultural Arts Commissions, a renovated Monterey Conference Center, the Old Capitol Site Park, affordable housing initiatives, and careful, balanced budgets. They worked together to keep the Defense Language Institute and Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey when closing them was being considered.

In addition, the long-term members established Window on the Bay, stopped hotel building on our coastline, and created the ongoing Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program, protecting and improving our quality of life. Experience counts!

Protect your vote and city.

Please join us in voting No on Measure X

/s/ Alan Haffa, Councilmember

/s/ Jean Rasch, Councilmember Candidate

/s/ Ed Smith, City Councilmember

/s/ Carol Chorbajian, Measure S Committee Member

/s/ Clyde Roberson, Former Mayor

Rebuttal To Argument Against Measure X

The argument against term limits overlooks several key points that show their value for our city.

Since 2016, 100% of the 29 California cities considering term limits have adopted them, reflecting a strong, state-wide support. These measures received an average of 76.63% of the vote, demonstrating substantial public support across diverse communities. This trend underscores a widespread belief in term limits, even in cities like Monterey.

Furthermore, 62% of the cities that implemented term limits have district-based elections, proving that they work effectively in different electoral systems, including ours. Nearly a quarter of the cities with term limits are smaller than Monterey, demonstrating that size is not a barrier to their effectiveness.

Additionally, while some cities only permit two consecutive terms, Monterey's proposed three terms strikes a balance between experience and the opportunity for new leadership. This compromise ensures continuity while promoting fresh ideas.

It's important to recognize and appreciate the contributions of long-term council members who have enriched our city. However, term limits do not negate this respect; instead, they ensure a rotation of new voices and ideas, which is crucial for a dynamic and evolving city.

Term limits foster increased participation and accountability, ensuring that all citizens have the chance to contribute to and benefit from our local governance. Voting for term limits is not about dismissing past achievements but about embracing a future where every voice has a chance to be heard.

Vote yes on term limits for a system that enhances democracy and strengthens our community.

/s/ Tyller Williamson, Mayor

/s/ Dr. Kim Barber, Vice Mayor

/s/ Gino Garcia, Councilmember

/s/ Bob Bluth, Planning Commissioner

/s/ Libby Downey, Former Councilmember