



Local Ballot Measure: Z

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Argument In Favor of Measure Z

The City of Pacific Grove has a 7-person Council; 6 Councilmembers and a Mayor. **This ballot measure would reduce Council to 4 Councilmembers and a Mayor.**

The reduction in Councilmembers would be phased in over 4 years. All currently serving and recently elected Councilmembers would serve their full terms. Council voting requirements would be amended accordingly. For example, where a majority is needed the number of votes required would be reduced from 4 to 3.

Of the 12 Monterey County cities only Pacific Grove and Salinas have 7-person Councils. Salinas population is 10 times larger than Pacific Grove. 90% of California cities have 5-person Councils.

A 5-person Council will promote efficient decision making and reduce administrative costs including council member salaries. With fewer Councilmembers, responsiveness to the community and accountability will increase. The National Civic League states smaller city councils are more effective instruments for the development of programs and conduct of municipal business than large local legislative bodies.

Voters would focus on electing 2 Councilmembers per election, not 3. A smaller Council will promote compromise and discourage splitting into factions. Diversity can be addressed by electing Councilmembers that recognize differences in cultures, ideas, backgrounds, and philosophies and consider differences when making decisions.

A 5-person Council would also more easily enable a transition to district-based elections, should that become necessary. Councilmembers are currently elected at-large. An increasing number of California cities have adopted district-based elections due to the California Voting Rights Act of 2001. A 7-person Council means dividing Pacific Grove into six districts. A 5-person Council would mean four districts, which would likely provide more choices in representation.

Please support this needed measure and help ensure that Pacific Grove will have effective city government; providing financial stability, quality of life and preserving our small town character.

Thank you.

/s/ Sharon K. Miller, Resident

/s/ Tama H. Olver, Resident

/s/ Francois Melese, Resident

/s/ Thom Akeman, Resident

Rebuttal To Argument In Favor of Measure Z

Small town character and other city comparisons:

The argument in favor wants to preserve our small-town character. Keeping a charter policy that has existed for 97 years unchanged is exactly how we preserve past traditions. Arguing that we need to behave like other cities misses the point completely. Why shouldn't Pacific Grove be special?

Efficiencies:

Fewer people in Council will neither shorten meetings dramatically nor make things efficient: meeting length is driven by the presentation of agenda reports, and public comments on the matter, rather than Council deliberations.

Efficiency is achieved by good meeting management and advance agenda planning.

Costs:

Reducing council people automatically increases the number of tasks undertaken by fewer council members. These include but are not limited to council meetings, city boards and commissions, regional board meetings and representation at regional and state events.

With fewer council members to take on the additional burden, expect an increase in Council stipends.

Influence and Responsiveness:

More people will want the attention of fewer councilmembers and with more work, constituents will have even less influence than today. City visibility at a regional level will decrease.

District based elections:

Greater representation is a fundamental aspect of democracy. With Pacific Grove expected to grow its voter base through housing initiatives, we need a diverse set of individuals from every corner of town to represent Pacific Grove and its needs in the future. With six districts, there is a better citizen-to-councilmember ratio for voices to be heard.

Please vote NO on Measure Z.

Respectfully,

/s/ Chaps Poduri, Councilmember

/s/ Joseph Anthony Amelio, Councilmember

/s/ Tina Rau, Candidate for City Council