



## Local Ballot Measure: C

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

### Argument In Favor of Measure C

State law SB 329 reset the allowable cap on council compensation across California, prompting cities to re-evaluate pay scales that in many cases had not changed in decades. Pacific Grove followed the adjustment permitted under that law.

This is a one-time catch-up on more than 27 years of inflation, nothing more. Once approved, this measure prohibits any further adjustment for five years. State law also prevents automatic increases, so what you see is what you get: a single correction, then a freeze until 2031.

This measure covers compensation only. It does not add health insurance, retirement benefits, or any other perks. Pacific Grove will remain one of the most conservative cities in California on this issue.

The most important reason to support this measure is fairness. Councilmembers spend 40 to 60 hours each month on city business: preparing for agenda packages that can run hundreds of pages, serving on city boards and commissions, attending regional meetings, conducting research, and working directly with constituents and City staff. At current pay of \$420 per month, that works out to between \$7 and \$10 per hour, well below California's minimum wage.

When residents serve on the council, they give up time at work, time with their families, and time for themselves. For many, that means a real reduction in income and real out-of-pocket costs. Public service should be open to anyone who wants to contribute to this community, not just those fortunate enough to absorb the financial hit without a second thought. This overdue and reasonable increase in compensation is a step toward making sure that Pacific Grove's council reflects all of Pacific Grove.

/s/ Bill Kampe, Former Mayor

/s/ Bill Peake, Former Mayor

/s/ Robert Huitt, Former Mayor Pro Tem

/s/ Amy Tomlinson, Former Councilmember

/s/ Don Mothershead, Retired City Employee

### Rebuttal To Argument In Favor of Measure C

The supporters of Measure C portray this 135% pay increase as a technical update justified under state law. Yet they completely ignore the fact that the Mayor and Council voted to give themselves an **immediate pay raise**, something state law prohibits, and **rejected** requests to **let voters decide**. As a result, over 1,800 Pacific Grove voters signed a referendum petition challenging the original ordinance. Measure C is on the ballot because concerned voters demanded **accountability**, and we still do.

City Council candidates told voters they would devote their time and energy to "public service." Yet just months after being elected, they voted to give themselves a triple-digit pay raise, a CalPERS pension spike, and to consider adding Cadillac medical benefits for their part-time work.

The Council then put Measure C, their 135% pay and pension spike, on a costly, low-turnout, special election ballot rather than on the November general election ballot. That's wrong. They're spending thousands of taxpayer dollars **more** than necessary so **fewer** Pacific Grove voters will decide their pay increase. Is that fair?

Supporters claim Measure C is necessary to attract candidates for local office. That's also wrong. Several of us served on the Pacific Grove City Council while holding full time jobs. Yes, public service is a lot of work but it's worth it. Supporters want you to focus on monetizing public service while **ignoring performance**. That won't fly.

Send the City Council a message: improve city services first. Earn a pay raise based on performance.

#### Vote NO on Measure C

/s/ Debby A. Beck, Former Council Member

/s/ Carmelita Garcia, Former Mayor

/s/ Colleen Sarita Quandt, Former Chair Recreation Board

/s/ Kevin Hanley, Economics Instructor