

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure L

The Argument Against is misleading and intellectually dishonest. The status quo wants to protect itself and will attack any change, but there is no down side to Measure L.

How can one brag of the 2%@60 as imposed on the SEIU by the Council and then claim Measure L, which does the same thing, will hurt our ability to hire?

How can one overlook the many cities that have adopted similar pension limits? Or overlook the highly qualified public and private-sector job seekers who would appreciate the salaries and notoriously generous benefits offered here – even after Measure L passes?

How can one suggest that having citizens vote on pension increases is bad? Council recently increased pensions – retroactively – by 35%, instantly creating decades and decades of debt. This was not “Wall Street’s fault”. Huge debt creation should be voted on – not announced from behind closed doors by the people who stand to benefit from the increase.

Why would anyone suggest that Menlo Park voters would be intimidated by the threat of a union lawsuit - which we’re told has little merit - when the future annual cost savings are enormous: 56% of current costs after 14 years?

It’s past time for some pension regulation! Measure L will protect our credit rating by restraining future liabilities; it will protect City employees by ensuring promised pensions can in fact be paid; and it will reduce the burden on our children. Vote YES!

(For full rebuttal see <http://www.menloparkpensionreform2010.org/>)

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August 9,2010

/s/ **Katherine A. Strehl**

August 6, 2010

Willows Resident

/s/ **Leonor Ayyangar** August 7, 2010
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