

Argument in Favor of Measure S

The “Initiative to Amend the Timing of the City’s General Election” would shift our Half Moon Bay City Council elections from an odd-year election cycle to an even-year election cycle.

You should vote in favor of this initiative for two good reasons:

First, it would lower the cost of our City Council elections. In odd-numbered years, a higher percentage of election costs are borne by our City, because the fixed costs of holding an election are shared by fewer participating jurisdictions. Over time, the cost of holding off-year elections has gone up. By shifting our Council elections to even-numbered years election costs would be shared among many more jurisdictions and thereby lower our City’s election expenditures.

Second, it would bring more voters into our local election process. As it stands now, we see a much lower average voter turnout in odd years. More voters come out for the federal, state, county and school district elections that are held in even years. It is sad that average voter turnout is significantly lower in odd-years. More people vote during even-numbered years presumably because there are more issues of interest on the ballot. By moving our Council elections to even years, we will increase voter participation in our local races.

A necessary condition of shifting to even-year voting is extending the terms of our sitting city council by one year. Of course, if an incumbent chose not to serve the additional year, the council could appoint to fill the remainder of the term, or call a special election. It is clear that the long term benefits of lower election costs and greater voter turnout in future years would more than justify those adjustments.

We urge you to vote yes on the initiative.

/s/ **Bonnie Dunham**
Former Mayor

August 11, 2010

/s/ **Jerry Donovan**
Former Mayor

August 11, 2010

/s/ **Jim Grady**
Former Mayor

August 11, 2010

/s/ **Deborah Ruddock**
Former Mayor

August 11, 2010

/s/ **Roy Salume**
Former Turstee, CUSD

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