

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Y

This is a poorly conceived bad idea rushed by one individual. It's offered at the wrong time using a wrong process. The amendment has many flaws.

Since 1927, Albany's City Council has annually selected one of its members as Albany's mayor just as 84% of California cities do with populations under 25,000. Rotating the position annually brings in many views. It leads to broad based community consensus on issues. Council can re-select an incumbent mayor for continuing service yet preserve annual accountability.

A directly elected mayor, on a regional board would not have as much influence as one from a far larger city. However, a directly elected Albany mayor would benefit developers and lobbyists. Campaign costs would rise. Ordinary citizens could not compete. This measure allows the mayor to serve 16 years and become entrenched: 8 as council member and 8 as mayor, twice the current limit.

The measure was examined by the Charter Review Committee. They voted against the measure 3 times. The Mayor then took the issue from the Committee. The public overwhelmingly spoke against it at the public hearing. It has no specified run-off procedure. Some cities adopted this amendment and later had to scrap it and return to their previous system.

There is no need to rush. This will not take effect until 2012. We have ample time to let this amendment go through the normal charter change procedure and emerge with broad community understanding and support. A "strong mayor" is a very bad idea for Albany. Vote No!

s/Jewel Okawachi

City Council, former Mayor

s/Ruth Ganong

Former Mayor

s/Jon Ely

Former Mayor

s/Bart Grossman

Member, Charter Review Committee

s/Charles L. Blanchard

President, Board of Education

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Y

We should trust Albany voters to directly elect their mayor. Albany would become the 12th of the 14 cities in Alameda County to directly elect its mayor. Half of California charter cities directly elect their mayors. A directly elected mayor gives Albany citizens a voice in important regional decisions that is denied to our current annually-rotating mayor. Alameda County Mayors' Conference rules prohibit appointing rotating mayors to key regional bodies like those that oversee air quality, transit, and Bay protection.

Measure Y limits the mayor to two four-year terms (8 years total), consistent with term limits in other California and Alameda County cities. Measure Y does not increase the mayor's powers. It does not create a "strong" mayor.

Instant runoff voting (IRV) should be available in Alameda County by 2012. If IRV is unavailable, Albany must have options to conduct a runoff election if needed.

Regardless of how a runoff is conducted, more than 50% of the vote is required to be elected mayor.

Mayors are directly elected in the smallest and largest California cities (examples: Sand City, population 282; St. Helena, 6,041; Rio Vista, 5,717; Colfax, 1,712). All major cities (e.g., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland) directly elect their mayors. The majority of cities with rotating mayors are rural.

Albany is part of the East Bay. Our elected officials must represent us in that environment. Give our future mayors the best opportunity to represent Albany's interests. We disagree with those who want to stop your vote. Vote yes on Measure Y.

Thank you.

s/Sarita S. Mathiasen

Member, Albany Charter Review Commission

s/Miriam Walden

Albany Board of Education Former President

s/Leo Panian

Planning and Zoning Commissioner

s/Robert Lieber

Mayor