



November 3, 2026 Election

PROS AND CONS

BALLOT MEASURE M

Ballot Measure M: Should Alameda voters amend and repeal parts of the city charter that the city says are outdated or not in conformity to existing practices?

Measure M is a proposed city charter amendment that was placed on the ballot by the city council. Passage of this measure would amend provisions the city says no longer conform to existing practices and repeal provisions the city says are outdated. It also specifies administrative authority and codifies new policies.

The measure makes changes in 20 sections of the city charter. Among other provisions, it would authorize the city council to approve by resolution rather than by ordinance offices for the administration of departments of the city, and establish job classifications that are direct support staff members of elected officials.

Measure M would stipulate that one appointment to the Public Utilities Board and two appointments to the Historical Advisory Board must have relevant expertise in the field. The measure would reduce the city auditor's fiscal oversight of the Public Utilities Board, and amend procedures for filling vacancies of city auditor, treasurer, attorney, and clerk.

Requires approval by over 50 percent of the voters in the city voting on the measure.

Supporters say ...

- It removes obsolete dates and transition language and makes other wording changes to make the charter easier to understand and administer.
- It clarifies several important government procedures, including allowing the city council by majority vote to authorize support staff for elected officials and establishing workable procedures to maintain continuity

when key city offices become vacant.

- It modernizes qualifications and procedures for city boards, removes outdated restrictions that no longer serve a useful purpose, and clarifies financial reporting and auditing responsibilities.

Opponents say ...

- It combines both cleanup language and policy changes into one single ballot measure, making it difficult for voters to analyze, and presents voters with an all-or-nothing choice.
- It does not identify which provisions in the charter are being amended to conform to existing practices or explain why existing practices are preferable to the existing charter requirements.
- It amends and repeals parts of the charter without a report from the two-member city council charter review subcommittee explaining the rationale for the changes, and before any outreach to the community via workshops or meetings was conducted.