

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE EE

Our City Charter is our Constitution: it should define the people's rights and limit the City's powers. Instead, the amendments proposed in Measure EE weaken existing restraints and limit public participation. We are asked, with a *single* YES or NO vote, to approve 38 diverse and vaguely explained proposals.

Contrary to what the proponents say:

- The last minute prohibition of red-light cameras, added without review by the Charter Committee, would be better handled by ordinance. It was a rushed proposal and a red herring: it is missing essential words and may preclude future technological advances beneficial to our City.
- The changes to the conflict of interest provisions protect the Council, not the public.
- The Charter revisions fail to make clear *or* transparent the \$19,045.34 per year health and retirement benefits each councilperson receives *in addition* to the \$14,728.20 per year reimbursement for expenses currently sanctioned (with cost of living increases) by the Charter.
- The provision barring class actions restricts citizens' rights to recover illegally charged fees and may have questionable legality.
- The Charter has *never* required newspaper publication of a "full audit," but only a close-of-year financial statement, currently 25 lines costing \$114 to print.

Measure EE has many other problems.

Check the in-depth information at NewportCharterUpdate.wikispaces.com and decide if you really want, under guise of increasing efficiency, to make so many questionable changes to our Charter. The claimed gains in "efficiency" *limit your rights* and *expand the City's powers*.

Vote NO on Measure EE.

s/ Robert C. Hawkins
Past Chair, Newport Beach Planning Commission

s/ Novell Hendrickson
Past Chair, Newport Beach City Arts Commission

s/ Lucille Kuehn
Former Newport Beach City Council Member

s/ Jim Mosher
Community Activist

s/ Ron Hendrickson
40 Year Newport Beach Resident