

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE EE

In 2010, a blue ribbon commission thoroughly reviewed the Newport Beach City Charter, and as a result of that effort, voters approved a comprehensive Update said to bring the Charter, our City's Constitution, into the 21st Century.

Now, just two years later, without reason or explanation and in an expedited manner, the City seeks to update our Charter again, this time asking you for a single yes-no vote on an even larger package of problematic proposals.

Would you sign a contract without knowing what it says? If not, you need to look more closely at the 38 Charter sections the City proposes to change.

First, without any suggestion the City has even been threatened by class action suits, the 2012 Update seeks to strip residents of their right to bring such lawsuits. Second, the 2012 Update seeks to legitimize a generous Council fringe benefit package at a time when other cities are cutting back on Council compensation.

In addition, the very first item, "prohibit red light cameras" appears to be just a hook to get your yes vote. It was added at the last minute and was never considered by the Charter Committee. There has been no hint that anyone is proposing redlight cameras for Newport Beach.

And it seeks to do many other things which are equally unacceptable: It eliminates clear duties for individual city staff members; It eliminates carefully considered checks and balances over the awarding of city contracts; It reduces (rather than "expands") conflict of interest protections; It deletes one of the strongest open meeting requirements in the state; and It relaxes rules for recording votes at those meetings.

Reject this deceptive and flawed package by voting "NO" on Measure EE.

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

s/ Jim Mosher
Community Activist

s/ Lucille Kuehn
Former Newport Beach City Council Member

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

s/ Ron Hendrickson
40 year Newport Beach resident