

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE EE

Measure EE updates our City Charter to enable our city to work more efficiently and to prevent abuses of authority. Measure EE will prohibit the use of red light camera ticket-traps, which have been discredited in other cities and which are from time to time suggested here. It applies the state conflict of interest protections to the conduct of our city council members and staff it makes clear and transparent what our city council members are being paid and it does not increase in any way their current compensation.

Measure EE also incorporates important taxpayer protections against lawsuits. This protects our fiscal health and cash reserves from predatory lawyers who make a living suing public agencies.

It modernizes our procedures to reflect the internet age and eliminates unnecessary and costly meetings. Most of our Charter language was written in the 1950's and 1970's. Back then, the city's full audit was required to be published in costly, small print in the newspaper. Now you can find it with a few clicks on the web. The authors at that time could not imagine the internet. At the time, the city had responsibilities for the Board of Education. That has long since changed and Measure EE removes outdated language.

Similar to 2010, this Measure reflects the careful consideration and thoughtful deliberations of a diverse Citizens' Charter Committee. The Committee considered testimony over several meetings before recommending these amendments to the Charter. More than three hours of testimony shaped the Committee's recommendations.

The City of Newport Beach is working hard to be more efficient and cost effective. Updating the City Charter provides additional tools to lower taxpayer costs and improve efficiency.

Join the entire Newport Beach City Council, the Citizens Charter Update Committee and taxpayer advocates throughout the city and vote Yes on Measure EE.

s/ Nancy Gardner
Mayor, City of Newport Beach

s/ Paul Watkins
Chairman, Citizens Charter Update Committee

s/ Marian Bergeson
Chair, 2010 Citizens Charter Update Commission

s/ Keith D. Curry
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Newport Beach

s/ Evelyn Hart
Friends of OASIS, former Mayor