



MEASURE AA

County Charter Amendment

Measure AA - San Mateo County Charter Amendment Measure Affirmation of Rights

The Question:

Should San Mateo County amend the Charter preamble to add a statement supporting dignity, civil rights, equal participation, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and opportunity for all residents?

The Situation:

Members of the Board of Supervisors placed Measure AA on the ballot.

The San Mateo County Charter, adopted in 1932 and amended several times since, functions much like a local constitution. It establishes the structure of County government and begins with a preamble that states the County's goals and values. The preamble does not create specific programs, departments, commissions, or legal requirements. It serves as a statement of the County's guiding principles. Changes to the Charter, including changes to the preamble, must be approved by County voters.

The current Charter preamble states:

"We, the people of San Mateo County, adopt this Charter to provide a local government responsive to our social, economic, physical and environmental needs and goals in a democratic, just and efficient manner."

The Proposal:

Measure AA would add the following statement at the end of the County Charter's preamble:

"San Mateo County affirms its commitment to the dignity, civil rights, and equal participation of all residents. The County recognizes the contributions and needs of groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized in government decision-making, such as, but not limited to: older adults; veterans; immigrants and refugees; Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities; and LGBTQI+ individuals. County governance and public services shall be administered in a manner that promotes equity, fairness, inclusion, belonging, accessibility, and opportunity for all residents."

The purpose of adding this language to the preamble is to:

- Establish equity and human rights as foundational Charter values.
- Recognize the needs and contributions of all communities, including those that have historically been marginalized.

- Reflect the County’s commitment to fair treatment and equal participation of its residents.
- Provide guidance for future County decisions and actions.

The measure would be decided by a simple majority vote (50% + 1 vote).

Fiscal Effects:

No direct fiscal impact has been identified. The measure would add language to the Charter preamble but would not create a new County department, commission, program, or service.

Those in Favor Say:

No official argument for Measure AA was submitted.

Those Opposed Say:

No official argument against Measure AA was submitted.

Organizations or Individuals In Favor of Measure AA:

At press time, there is no organized campaign committee in favor.

Organizations or Individuals Against Measure AA:

At press time, there is no organized campaign committee in opposition.

Sources:

- [Measure AA - Full Resolution Text](#)
- Proposed Amendments to the San Mateo County Charter: Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusive Governance (April 2026)
- Human Rights Commission Codified in San Mateo County Charter Presentation (April 2026)
- San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 081882
- San Mateo County Charter (March 2025)