



MEASURE J

County Charter Amendment

Measure J - San Mateo County Charter Amendment Measure Extension to Call a Special Election or Appoint

The Question:

Shall the San Mateo County Charter be amended to extend the period in which the County Board of Supervisors is required to either call a special election or make an appointment in the event of a vacancy in an elected office other than the Board of Supervisors from 30 days to 60 days, and to require the Board to conduct at least one public meeting to receive public comment prior to any appointment?

The Situation:

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

The San Mateo County Charter, Section 415, currently requires the Board of Supervisors to either appoint a person or call a special election within 30 days whenever a vacancy occurs in an elected county office other than the Board of Supervisors. The Charter does not specify how the Board should conduct an appointment process. If the Board does not act within 30 days, the County Elections Officer must call a special election.

The 30-day timeframe may not provide enough time to recruit applicants, review qualifications, and provide opportunities for public input before an appointment is made. Many other California charter counties allow 60 to 90 days to fill vacancies by appointment.

The Proposal:

If passed, Measure J will extend the period in which the County Board of Supervisors is required to either call a special election or make an appointment in the event of a vacancy in an elected office other than the Board of Supervisors from 30 days to 60 days. The measure will also require the Board to conduct at least one public meeting to receive public comment prior to any appointment.

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

Fiscal Effects:

Estimated costs to implement Measure J are not known. The measure could require additional staff time to conduct a longer appointment process and at least one publicly

noticed meeting for community input.

Those in Favor Say:

No official argument for Measure J was submitted.

Those Opposed Say:

No official argument against Measure J was submitted.

Organizations or Individuals In Favor of Measure J:

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

Organizations or Individuals Against Measure J:

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

Sources:

- [Measure J - Full Resolution Text](#)
- San Mateo County Measure J Voter Information Guide for November 3 Election
- [San Mateo County Clerk, Impartial Analysis of Measure J: SMC Election Website](#)