

LWV **PROS&CONS**

MEASURE L

County Charter Amendment

Measure L - San Mateo County Charter Amendment Measure Extreme Weather Events

The Question:

Should San Mateo County amend the Charter preamble to state that long-term resilience to extreme weather events is a County priority?

The Situation:

Members of the Board of Supervisors placed Measure L 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."

San Mateo County faces risks from wildfire, flooding, drought, extreme heat, severe storms, and sea level rise. Some county and regional reports identify San Mateo County as one of the California counties most vulnerable to sea-level rise. These events can damage homes, roads, schools, utilities, and other public facilities. County planning efforts identify these risks as long-term challenges.

The Proposal:

This amendment would add the following paragraph to the County Charter's preamble:

"It shall be the policy of San Mateo County that long-term resilience against extreme weather events – including fire, flood, wind, rain, heat, drought, and sea level rise – is a County priority, to be undertaken collaboratively with cities, districts, and other public entities."

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

- Establish resilience to extreme weather as a County priority.

- Highlight the importance of planning for risks such as fire, flooding, drought, extreme weather, and sea-level rise.
- Encourage coordination among the County, cities, districts, and other public agencies.
- Provide guidance for future County decisions and actions.

Measure L 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 L was submitted.

Those Opposed Say:

No official argument against Measure L was submitted.

Organizations or Individuals In Favor of Measure L:

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

Organizations or Individuals Against Measure L:

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

Sources:

- [Measure L - Full Resolution Text](#)
- Report of the Subcommittee on Resilience to Extreme Weather (April 2026)
- Resilience Against Extreme Weather Should be a Priority, draft proposal (March 2026)
- San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 081882
- San Mateo County Charter (March 2025)