

CHARTER AMENDMENT – REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST

Policies and decisions with the greatest impact on local residents are made at the local level, by city councils. In Alameda, this includes: housing, transportation, public safety, alleviating homelessness, and mitigating climate change and sea level rise.

Our city is best served when residents across Alameda, regardless of socioeconomic status, run for elected office and are involved in this decision making process.

However, these jobs can be demanding and time consuming, and paying City Councilmembers and the Mayor a small stipend, rather than a salary, presents a significant barrier to those without substantial financial means.

Alameda’s Councilmember “salaries” have been stagnant for decades: \$100 per month, or approximately \$0.40 an hour – well below minimum wage; Mayor receives \$150 per council meeting. According to Transparent California, California’s largest public pay and pension database, Alameda’s is the second lowest paid city council, and third lowest paid mayor, of 21 similarly sized Bay Area cities (50,000-100,000 population).

Recent public discussion about the need to increase City Council pay — a League of Women Voters forum, 55-person community forum, and Council subcommittee — concluded that increasing City Council pay would increase civic engagement.

Measure _ allows for this item to be heard by the City Council, with public discussion and input, before implementing any increase. It would also place a cap on Councilmember salaries, NOT lead to “excessive year-over-year pay increases”.

Please vote YES on Measure ___ to ensure Alameda is represented by a broad cross-section of our community.

s/ MARILYN EZZY ASHCRAFT
Mayor, City of Alameda

s/ MALIA VELLA
Vice Mayor, City of Alameda