

Argument in Favor of Measure _____

The City of Hayward is one of the most diverse cities in our state and nation, and we are committed to being an inclusive community that serves all residents in a fair and equitable manner. In 2017, the City Council unanimously accepted a report from a community task force charged with updating the city's anti-discrimination policy. This report reaffirmed the city's commitment to strategies and practices that celebrate diversity and promote participation by all residents regardless of place of origin and immigration status, among other personal characteristics. Unfortunately our city charter, initially adopted in 1956, mandates that all members of Council appointed boards and commissions be "qualified electors," meaning that they must be registered to vote in Hayward and consequently must be U.S. citizens. This Charter requirement excludes many members of our community from being considered for appointments because they lack citizenship status and cannot register to vote. As a consequence, many otherwise engaged members of our community are prevented from serving on important advisory boards.

In January 2020 California law was updated to eliminate US citizenship as a requirement for appointment to non-elective advisory service. Measure ____ would bring Hayward into compliance with this new legislation and will remove the "qualified elector" requirement in support of our city's commitment to inclusion.

The proposed amendment will further eliminate gender-based titles and pronouns that seem to assume only males occupy leadership positions defined in the Charter, even though such assumptions have not been accurate for many years. Approval of Measure ____ will remove barriers that now block full participation by some City residents on advisory boards and commissions and will make Hayward's charter consistent with current principles and practices. Vote yes on Measure ____ to ensure fairness and inclusion for all Hayward residents.

s/ FREDDYE M. DAVIS

President, Hayward South Alameda County NAACP

s/BARBARA HALLIDAY

Mayor, City of Hayward

s/ELISA MÁRQUEZ

Council Member, City of Hayward

s/ARZO MEHDAVI

Chairperson/Commissioner Community Services Commission

s/ZACHARIAH J. OQUENDA

Community Advisory Panelist to Chief of Police