

**CITY OF DEL MAR
CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
MEASURE A**

CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION MEASURE

Existing Law:

Del Mar Municipal Code Section 2.20.030 governs compensation for City Councilmembers. Since 1988, Del Mar City Councilmembers have received \$300 per month in compensation. The voter-approved compensation rate has not been updated for 36 years. To change the City Councilmember compensation rate, majority approval from the City's voters in the election is required.

Effect of Measure on Existing Law:

State law establishes the procedures for setting the compensation rate of councilmembers. Effective January 1, 2024, Senate Bill 329 amended California Government Code Section 36516 to allow increases to the population-based maximum councilmember compensation rate set by ordinance from \$300 to \$950 per month for small cities of up to 35,000 in population.

The City Council placed Measure A on the ballot, seeking voter approval to update the City Councilmember compensation rate under Del Mar Municipal Code Section 2.20.030, as follows:


1. Increase City Councilmember Compensation Rate. The current City Councilmember compensation rate is \$300 per month, and has remained the same since 1988. If approved, effective January 1, 2025, Measure A would increase the City Councilmember compensation to \$950 per month for each Councilmember, in accordance with State law.
2. Allow Future Adjustments to Councilmember Compensation by Ordinance. Currently, the City Councilmember compensation rate may only be amended or repealed by a vote of the people. If approved, Measure A would allow the Councilmember compensation rate to be adjusted by Ordinance of the City Council within the limits established by State law. Future adjustments would be limited to either an amount equal to 5% or an amount equal to inflation based upon the California Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 10%. Automatic future adjustments would not be permitted.

If approved, the City has determined Measure A would result in an additional annual cost of \$39,000. Pursuant to State law, approval of Measure A requires a majority vote of the City's voters who vote in the election.

A "YES" vote on Measure A would increase the salary of each City Councilmember from \$300 to \$950 per month, and would allow the City Councilmember compensation rate to be adjusted by Ordinance of the City Council within the limits of State law.

A "NO" vote on Measure A would reject an increase to City Councilmember compensation from \$300 to \$950 per month, and would continue requiring the City Councilmember compensation rate to be adjusted or repealed by a vote of the people.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure A. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the City Clerk's office at (858) 375-9517, and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.



Leslie E. Devaney, City Attorney
City of Del Mar

Dated: 08/12/2024