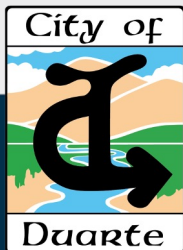


Cannabis Ballot Measure Argument

July 9, 2024



Elections Code § 9282, subd. (b)

“For measures placed on the ballot by the legislative body, the legislative body, or a member or members of the legislative body authorized by that body, or an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of voters and associations, **may file a written argument for or against any city measure.**”



Arguments For or Against Passage

- For the voters to vote “yes” on a ballot measure.
- For the voters to vote “no” on a ballot measure.
- There is not space in a voter guide to explain the City Council’s decision on why an item was placed on the ballot.



Past Practices with Ballot Measures

Voter Initiatives

- **Measure F: Fireworks Ban (2018)**
 - No Councilmembers were selected to author an argument against the ballot measure
 - (As an individual) Mayor Fasana authored the argument in favor of the ban.
 - (As an individual) Mayor Pro Tem Riley authored the argument against the ban.
- **Measure J: Healthcare Workers Minimum Wage (2022)**
 - No Councilmembers were selected to author an argument against the ballot measure.

Council Measure

- **Measure D: $\frac{3}{4}$ cents Sales Tax (2020)**
 - Mayor Paras-Caracci was authorized by the City Council (via a motion and vote) to write the argument for the passage of the measure.



Sample Argument For Passage

- Urging voters to vote “yes” on a ballot measure.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J

Even before the pandemic, California faced a shortage of 500,000 healthcare workers needed to care for our aging population. Now, with healthcare workers burned out and traumatized from the pandemic, they are leaving their profession in alarming numbers, leaving our cities with a looming patient care crisis.

The Healthcare Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance sets a \$25 per hour minimum wage to address this crisis by helping to retain current workers and attract new ones, while making sure we invest in frontline healthcare workers.

Moreover, with Los Angeles, Downey, Monterey Park, and Long Beach having passed a \$25 healthcare workers minimum wage, we need healthcare facilities in Duarte to pay competitive wages so we can keep experienced healthcare workers in our city.

A \$25 minimum wage for healthcare workers will ensure that the people who care for our families can afford to put food on the table and gas in their car, and will keep skilled frontline caregivers right here in Duarte. **Vote yes.**

ALBERT B. ARAMBULA
Initiative Proponent

ALEXANDER ADKINS
Central Service Technician

JASON SARGEANT
Operating Room Work Attendant Transport

IRENE RUIZ
Patient Care Assistant

FERNANDO DELGADO
Operating Room Clerk

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE J

VOTE YES FOR MEASURE J TO SET FAIR WAGES FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

All healthcare workers deserve a higher minimum wage, and Measure J represents a critical first step for our healthcare workers and patient care here in Duarte. This measure is only necessary because the millionaire healthcare CEOs leading the opposition's deceptive campaign continue to prioritize their profits over fairly compensating our healthcare heroes.

The opposition knows full well that a city-wide ballot initiative is legally prohibited from raising wages for workers at public hospitals and community clinics. They don't actually care about this group; they're just using them as an excuse to do nothing rather than begin to address the staffing crisis inside our hospitals by increasing wages.

The good news is that we don't have to wait for the state legislature or anyone else to step up to support OUR community's healthcare workers. After everything our healthcare workers have done for us, casting a vote to pass a \$25 healthcare worker minimum wage for Duarte IMMEDIATELY goes a long way in supporting our struggling healthcare workers and addressing the healthcare staffing shortage.

If you care about ALL healthcare workers, Measure J is the first step to higher wages that help keep experienced workers on the job in our city, no matter where they work.

Vote YES on Measure J, it's the right thing to do.

ALBERT B. ARAMBULA
Initiative Proponent

ALEXANDER ADKINS
Central Service Technician



Selected Councilmembers

- The City Council ***may, but is not required to***, select up to 3 Councilmembers to prepare an argument for or against the passage of a ballot measure.
- On June 25, 2024, the City Council selected 3 Councilmembers to work with City staff to prepare an argument for passage of the cannabis ballot measure on behalf of the City Council.
- However, after the selection of the three authors, it was discovered that some clarification was required as to the content of the ballot argument.



Staff Recommendation

OPTION A:

- Clarify and reconfirm that the City Council as a body is selecting Mayor Truong and Councilmembers Martin del Campo and Kang; **AND**
- To prepare an argument to be printed in the voter guide *supporting the passage* of the cannabis ballot measure.

OR

OPTION B:

- *Rescind the motion from June 25, 2024,* that designated the Mayor and Councilmembers Martin del Campo and Kang to prepare the argument supporting the passage of the ballot measure; **AND**
 - (Optional) Take no further action; **OR**
 - (Optional) Make a motion to designate new Councilmembers to draft an argument for the passage of the measure.



Questions?



Sample Arguments Against Passage

- Urging voters to vote “no” on a ballot measure.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE J

MEASURE J IS UNEQUAL AND UNFAIR – PLEASE VOTE NO

We all agree healthcare workers are heroes and deserve to be compensated fairly. But Measure J is deeply flawed and discriminates against the majority of Duarte healthcare workers. In fact, Measure J would EXCLUDE workers at 90% of Duarte healthcare facilities.

DUARTE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OPPOSE MEASURE J

It's been a tough couple of years for healthcare workers. Measure J adds insult to injury. It increases pay for workers at only 10% of healthcare facilities in Duarte, while excluding workers at the remaining 90%. That's not fair.

Under Measure J an aide working at a hospital-based clinic would get a wage increase, but an aide at a community clinic would get nothing. A food service worker at a private hospital would get an increase, but a food service worker at a county hospital would get nothing. A housekeeper at a private hospital would get a raise, but a housekeeper at a nursing home would get nothing. It is unfair and discriminatory to treat workers doing the exact same job unequally.

MEASURE J DEEPENS INEQUITIES IN OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

"Measure J excludes workers at public hospitals and community clinics that serve the uninsured, low-income, and undocumented communities. This will create staffing shortages and jeopardize access to care for those communities."

- Dr. Richard Williams, President, Minority Health Institute

Join Duarte Healthcare Workers: NO ON MEASURE J

Duarte.NoUnequalPay.com

GUSTAVO FRIEDERICHSEN
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Medical Association

DR. RICHARD WILLIAMS
President
Minority Health Institute, Inc.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J

REJECT MEASURE J – THE UNEQUAL PAY MEASURE

We all agree healthcare workers are heroes, but Measure J is unequal and unfair. It would set arbitrary pay requirements for some workers in some healthcare facilities in Duarte, while excluding the majority of healthcare workers doing the same jobs.

Healthcare workers deserve equal pay for equal work. But Measure J EXCLUDES workers at 90% of Duarte healthcare facilities including those who work at community health clinics, Planned Parenthoods, nursing homes, medical centers and more.

"Measure J gives raises to some workers but completely excludes workers at community clinics, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities in Duarte. Healthcare workers shouldn't be discriminated against based on where they work. Please vote NO on Measure J."

- Dr. Richard Allen Williams, Minority Health Institute

THERE ARE BETTER, FAIRER WAYS TO RECOGNIZE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Measure J dedicates city staff and taxpayer funding to enforce its provisions, diverting resources that are better spent addressing crime, homelessness, and other important issues in our city.

Healthcare workers deserve a fair, living wage, but this poorly-written and unequal measure is the wrong way to do it.

Join healthcare workers and community organizations: VOTE NO ON MEASURE J

Duarte.NoUnequalPay.com

GUSTAVO FRIEDERICHSEN
Chief Executive Officer

RICHARD ALLEN WILLIAMS, MD
President

