

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H

The opposition's argument overlooks crucial facts about modern municipal governance and the evolving role of Town Clerks. While we have been fortunate to have good elected Town Clerks, in reality the work of the Town Clerk's Office has been conducted by paid, professional staff.

Key points to consider:

- The Town Clerk position has become increasingly complex, requiring extensive technical expertise and a full-time commitment.
- The high cost of living and residency requirement severely limit the candidate pool.
- There are no formal accountability or responsibility requirements for the elected Fairfax Town Clerk.
- Errors and omissions by a Town Clerk without appropriate regulatory knowledge could have significant legal and financial implications for our Town.
- Inefficiencies/redundancies having an elected Town Clerk.

Measure H addresses these issues by:

1. Expands the applicant pool for Town Clerk beyond town residents, increasing chances of finding candidates with technical reporting and computer/database skills.
2. Allows the screening of qualified candidates, ensures the most capable person fills this critical role.
3. Provides clear reporting structure with immediate accountability.
4. Measure H enhances democracy by ensuring a highly qualified professional serves in this vital position.

While we respect Fairfax's long tradition of an elected Clerk, nearly 80% of California communities have successfully transitioned to appointed Clerks to meet modern governance needs, reporting better public service outcomes.

Demands on the Town Clerk's office have changed greatly since 1931. Fairfax deserves a modern, accountable, and professional Town Clerk.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE H for better governance and efficient use of your tax dollars.

/s/ Barbara Coler, Mayor, Town of Fairfax

/s/ Chance Cutrano, Council Member, Town of Fairfax

/s/ Michele Gardner, Elected Town Clerk, Town of Fairfax

/s/ Janet Garvin, Elected Town Treasurer, Town of Fairfax

/s/ Christopher Morin, Former Police Chief, Town of Fairfax (retired)