ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE J-18

Argument against ballot measure to elect Atascadero’s Mayor for a four-year term

In 2010, Atascadero voters chose to elect our Mayor, and specifically chose to have the Mayor serve a 2-year term rather than a 4-year term, 55.7% to 44.3%. Now the first mayor elected under those terms and his colleagues are asking voters to change their minds and extend the mayor’s term to 4 years.

There is no evidence that this change is needed.

- A two-year term keeps our Mayor accountable to voters
- Retaining a 2-year term for the mayor means that voters can choose the Mayor and 2 Council members (3 of 5 votes on the City Council) in every election
- The mayor has more power than other Council members in setting the agenda and shaping the experience of people who come to their City Council to express their concerns
- Six of seven cities in SLO County elect their mayors for 2-year terms
- There has been no instability in governance with a 2-year mayor -- the incumbent mayor has been re-elected repeatedly
- Atascadero is not losing any clout – our Mayor (elected for a 2-year term) currently serves as president of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Atascadero deserves a mayor who serves the whole community and leads a local government that is of, by and for the people. A 2-year term for Atascadero’s Mayor gives voters more control over their government. Who wants a mayor who feels less need to listen to the whole community because they won’t be up for re-election for 4 years?

s/ Susan Funk, Business Owner, Candidate for Atascadero City Council