ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J-18

Measure J-18 is a common-sense reform to Atascadero’s city government. Measure J-18 does one simple thing: change the term of Mayor from 2 years to 4 years.

A four-year term gives the Mayor time to set goals and plan for the City’s needs, and it provides continuity of leadership to keep city government both stable and responsive to the voters.

The current term structure creates an electoral imbalance by requiring one member of the governing body to run for a seat twice during the same four-year period, while the other members of the City Council are required to run only once. Additionally, the Mayor serves on a number of countywide commissions and committees where longevity in service on these boards, as well as stability in representation by the same individual, ensures that the needs and expectations of the City of Atascadero are consistently voiced.

Requiring a mayor to run every two years, means a significant amount of that person’s time and attention is on running for election as opposed to the job of running the City. This does not serve the public’s best interest. A four-year term allows a mayor time to execute vision and agenda, allowing voters to assess accomplishments in the next election.

This suggested change does not impact the Mayor’s responsiveness to the people. Instead, it promotes stability and equality among all voting members of the City Council, and ensures continuity of representation on countywide boards.

Vote “Yes” on Measure J-18 for common-sense reform in Atascadero.

Tom O’Malley, Mayor
Roberta Fonzi, Mayor Pro Tem
Bob Wilkins
Zoe Zappas
Kim Croft