In some cities, the Mayor is not elected by the voters, but is a Council Member who is appointed to serve as Mayor by the City Council.

The City of Atascadero has a different system where Mayor is elected by the voters. The existing law is set forth in the City of Atascadero’s Municipal Code, and provides that the Mayor of Atascadero is elected separately from the City Council, for a term of two years.

In contrast, the term for a City Council Member, who is elected, is four years.

As a result of the difference in the Mayor’s term of office, there must be an election for the Mayor position every two years, instead of every four years compared to a Council Member.

Measure J-18 seeks to amend the City’s Municipal Code concerning the elected Mayor’s term from two years to four years, similar to the four year term for a City Council Member. This change will be effective as of the November 2020 General Municipal Election.

A “yes” vote on Measure J-18 would be a vote to change the term for an elected Mayor from two years to four years, effective as of the November, 2020 general municipal election.

A “no” vote on Measure J-18 would be a vote against changing the existing law, and the current two year term for an elected Mayor would remain the same.

Pursuant to Elections Code section 9217, this measure requires a yes vote by a majority of the voters voting on this measure before it is approved.

/s/ Brian A. Pierik,
City Attorney for the City of Atascadero

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure J-18. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the elections official’s office at (805) 470-3400 and a copy will be mailed or e-mailed at no cost to you. The full text of Measure J-18 is available on the City of Atascadero’s website at: https://www.atascadero.org/