**REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE J-18**

Measure J-18 changes the term of the elected Mayor from 2 years to 4 years.

Prior to 2010, the Atascadero City Council annually rotated the position of Mayor between Council Members. In 2010, the voters chose to have an elected Mayor, and established the term of office at two years. Council Members continue to be elected to four-year terms of office.

With a shorter term, if the elected Mayor desires to retain their office to continue to serve the community, provide continuity and complete important projects begun during the term, they are forced to campaign every two years at considerable personal expense.

Election campaigns for any office are expensive. Reaching out to voters and keeping the public informed requires considerable energy and resources. Engaging in an election campaign every two years forces a Mayor to devote an inordinate amount of time and money to a political campaign, instead of focusing on the issues and priorities of the City.

The expense of running campaigns every two years also discourages members of the public and other council members from seeking the office of elected Mayor. This is especially true for people of modest means.

If passed this November, Measure J-18 will not go into effect until the 2020 election. It does not affect the current term or the term of the next elected Mayor, whose term will still be two years ending in 2020.

Vote “Yes” vote on Measure J-18.

Brian Sturtevant, Councilmember

Mary Kay Mills

Ray Johnson

Dawn Scherer Daner

Lon Allen