REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J-18

Measure J-18 is far from a common-sense reform. The original argument in 2010 for electing a mayor instead of rotating that responsibility annually among city council members was “we need to be like other cities in SLO County!” Since then we are exactly like 6 out of 7 cities in our county- Elected Mayor, 2-year term.

Why fix something that’s not broken? The problems Measure J-18 is supposed to solve do not actually exist. In the past 8 years there has been no instability of leadership or continuity of representation in countywide governing bodies. In fact, we have had only one Mayor in the past 8 years, repeatedly re-elected. A 2-year term for Mayor has not been an identified problem in any other city. Atascadero voters already chose a 2-year term even when the 4-year term was an option in past elections.

Voting "No" retains the current 2-year term for Mayor, so that 3 of 5 positions on the Council are up for re-election every election cycle. This system means your vote every 2 years has the power to change the direction of the city’s agenda. It gives voters more reason to participate in every election.

A "Yes" vote on Measure J-18 transfers power from voters to politicians. We believe Atascadero is better served by a government that listens to voters. Why would voters want to make this change just when the incumbent Mayor is retiring? Vote "No."

Ellen Beraud, Former Mayor – 2009
city council member 2006-2010

Christina Asdel Cisneros