

Letter to the editor

Vote no on Measure B

State law requires district elections for city council instead of city-wide vote, and that is an excellent law. Sunnyvale has resisted this change for years; the city could have just put council district elections to a vote of the citizens, but they did not. Instead they offer Measure B, which sneaks in unrelated issues of directly elected a mayor and term limit changes. Those issues should be voted on separately. What if a voter wants district council elections but is not so sure about directly electing the mayor? What is that voter supposed to do?

Why the push for a directly elected mayor? Real reasons are hidden. Their campaign brochures claim a directly elected mayor would make Sunnyvale more effective. That is a made-up argument; there is no scientific evidence to support that claim. Hardly any small South Bay cities have directly elected mayors (Palo Alto, Mountain View, Cupertino and Los Altos do not). Those cities have council-appointed mayors just like Sunnyvale has had for years.

Mayoral elections are expensive, which means big-money donors will win and grassroots candidates will lose. So the developers and the city will continue on their path to increase congestion and decrease quality of life.

I feel that Measure B is dishonest. Those three issues should be separated. Vote no and help Sunnyvale get seven district-elected council members and no directly elected mayor.

— *Robert Hoop, Kingfisher
Way, Sunnyvale*