

Argument For Measure W

California Government Code Section 36501 requires that all California cities have a City Clerk. City Clerk is currently elected in San Juan Bautista. In 2018, there was one candidate that was elected, that had never clerked for a city before. Appointed staff supported her while she learned the job. In 2021 there were no candidates on the ballot, and a write-in candidate was elected. In January 2022, the elected City Clerk resigned, no new candidates have stepped up, leaving appointed staff to fill the vacancy.

The City Clerk's job requires specialized professional training and keeping up with law changes is critical. The City Clerk is responsible for understanding and implementing State Laws relating to the Public Records Act, Brown Act, Maddy Act, Conflict of Interest and Campaign Law under the Political Reform Act and the Fair Political Practices Commission, Election Law, amongst others.

The City Clerk must be an experienced Elections Official who conducts the Municipal Elections for City Council and for Initiative, Referendum and Recall petitions.

It is unreasonable to expect an elected City Clerk to have or be able to quickly obtain the specialized professional skills and training necessary to do this. Furthermore, an elected City Clerk may be unable to or be unwilling to spend the number of hours necessary to perform these duties. Unlike an appointed City Clerk, an elected City Clerk can only be removed from office by vote or be recalled from office.

Voting in favor of Measure W will assure that the San Juan Bautista's City government processes and transparency are managed by a trained, professional City Clerk, that meets the letter of the law, and improves the stability of its administration.

Vote Yes on Measure W

Mayor Leslie Q Jordon

On behalf of the City Council, Resolution 2022-63