

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE D

Vote YES on Measure D to modernize an outdated provision of the Needles City Charter and provide reasonable compensation for public service.

When Needles voters adopted the City Charter in 1958, compensation for City Council Members was set at just \$1 per month. Sixty-eight years later, that amount has never been changed.

Measure D would update the Charter by establishing compensation of \$150 per month for each Council Member. This modest amount recognizes the time, preparation, and responsibility required to serve the residents of Needles while maintaining the principle that service on the City Council is public service, not a full-time salaried position.

Council Members are responsible for studying issues, preparing for and attending public meetings, listening and responding to residents, representing the City, and making important decisions affecting City finances, infrastructure, public services, and the future of our community.

Providing reasonable compensation also helps remove a financial barrier to public service. Residents should have the opportunity to serve their community regardless of whether they can afford to devote substantial time to City business for essentially no compensation.

Measure D is limited and fiscally responsible. It establishes Council compensation at \$150 per month while continuing existing provisions for reimbursement of authorized travel and other official expenses. It provides no additional compensation beyond that expressly provided in the Charter.

Based on seven Council Members, the estimated additional cost is **\$12,600 per year**.

After 68 years at \$1 per month, it is time to update this outdated Charter provision.

Vote YES on Measure D—reasonable compensation for those willing to serve the people of Needles.

Janet Jernigan, Mayor