MEASURE C: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
“PROTECTING GOOD GOVERNMENT THROUGH SOUND FISCAL PRACTICES”

POSITION: The Chamber’s Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT Measure C on September 11, 2018.

RATIONALE: The creation of a lock-box mechanism would be beneficial to the Board of Supervisors to ensure pension funds are protected from being siphoned for other purposes.

STATUS: The County Charter Amendment will be on the November 2018 ballot.

SUMMARY
The proposal would make two changes to the County Charter:
1- Create a lock-box mechanism for funds to be used only for pension-related liabilities.
2- Ban the use of long-term debt for ongoing expenses.

INDUSTRIES IMPACTED
The Charter Amendment is one of good financial management with no direct impact on industry.

SUPPORTERS
Supervisor Dianne Jacob

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR
• The County has achieved AAA credit ratings by practicing sound fiscal management including maintaining a pension reserve fund and avoiding the use of long-term debt for short term needs.

• This proposal would cement proven best-practices into the County’s Charter relieving future Boards of political pressure to spend down reserves.

OPponents
None known

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION
• Neither the existing Supervisors, nor the voters, should be binding the hands of future Boards of Supervisors.

• The County’s current practices of maintaining large reserves have resulted in limiting services even when needed and should not be enshrined into the Charter.