

### **MEASURE L: CITY OF SAN DIEGO CHARTER AMENDMENTS REGARDING ETHICS & COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICERS**

**POSITION:** The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT the proposal on September 11, 2018.

**STATUS:** The measure was placed on the November 6, 2018 ballot by the San Diego City Council.

#### **SUMMARY**

Among other provisions, the proposed charter amendments would:

- Increase the lobbying "cooling-off period" for former elected officials from 1 to 2 years after they leave office.
- Prohibit City-funded mailings by incumbents in the last 75 days of a reelection campaign.
- Eliminate the car allowance.
- Increase Council Member pay to 75% of Superior Court Judge pay by 2022.
- Increase Mayor and City Attorney pay to match Superior Court Judge pay by 2020.

#### **INDUSTRIES IMPACTED**

This "good governance" measure would not have a direct impact on industry. Indirectly, by attracting a higher caliber of candidate for office, it is the intent of the bill to improve the performance of government which has an impact on business broadly speaking.

#### **SUPPORTERS**

- Former Chair of the Salary Setting Commission Bob Otilie
- Councilmember Mark Kersey
- League of Women Voters of San Diego County
- San Diego County Taxpayers Association

#### **ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR**

- Voting on their own salaries is a clear conflict of interest.
- "There's a whole lot of people who want to serve their community that already have a house payment, or they got kids in school." - Bob Otilie
- The pay for the positions of council members and mayor has not increased in about 15 years.

#### **OPPONENTS**

- Council President Myrtle Cole

#### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION**

- Median household income is substantially lower than even the current compensation for elected officials.
- The typical San Diego worker isn't seeing real wage growth, and can't just give themselves a raise, why should the Council get to?

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

On January 9, 2018, the Chamber Public Policy Committee voted to support the pay increase component of a preceding version of this proposal.

A 2015 citizen's Grand Jury report "found that the process set forth in the San Diego City Charter for setting the salary for the Mayor and Councilmembers is fundamentally flawed" and recommended "tying the San Diego mayor and city councilmembers' salary to an outside benchmark."