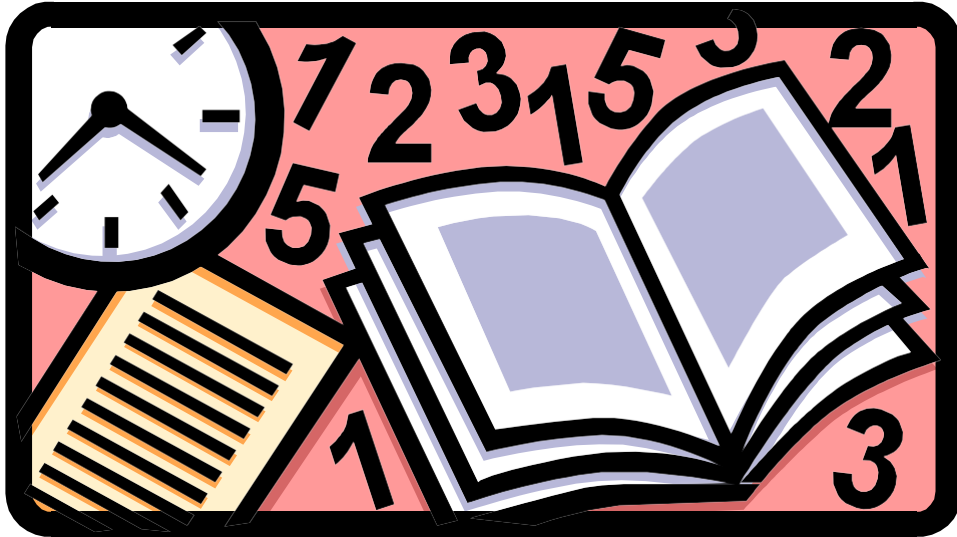


Guide to Writing Arguments, Rebuttals and Analyses for Local Measures



Prepared by:
Bonnie Bush, Santa Cruz City
Clerk/Elections Official
809 Center Street, Room 8
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Web Site: www.cityofsantacruz.com/elections

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2

General Information 3

Arguments For and Against 4

Rebuttals 7

Analyses 8

Deadlines..... 10

Attachment A – How to Count Words 11

Attachment B – Format Guidelines..... 12

Attachment C – Standardized Headings 13

Attachment D – Signature Statement..... 14

Attachment E – Authorization for Another Person/s to Sign Rebuttal Argument..... 16

General Information

(All Sections cited are from the California Elections Code)

What is a Local Measure?

For purposes of this guide, a local measure is any question put before voters at any election in the city. Measures can be placed on the ballot by the City Council or by initiative or referendum.

Whom do I contact regarding local measures?

Contact the City Clerk, Bonnie Bush, at:

809 Center Street, Room 8, Santa Cruz

831-420-5035

www.cityofsantacruz.com/elections

bbush@santacruzca.gov

Is there a fee to file an argument or rebuttal?

No. The filer does not have to pay a fee to file an argument or rebuttal.

Arguments For and Against

How do I know a Measure Will Appear on the Ballot?

Once the City Council adopts a resolution calling for an election, the County Elections Official will prepare and publish a legal notice indicating the specifics of the measure including deadlines to file arguments for or against the measure. The County Elections Official will also do news release announcing the measures on the ballot and deadlines for filing arguments.

Who can File Arguments?

- The City Council. An argument may also be filed by a member of the City Council. The member/s do NOT have to be authorized by the Council; or
- The individual voter, or bona fide association of citizens, or combination of voters and associations, who are the bona fide sponsors or proponents of the measure; or
- A bona fide association of citizens; or
- Any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure. (§9120, 9162, 9282, 9501)
- If more than one argument for or against any City measure is submitted, the City Clerk/Elections Official shall select one for printing in the Voter's Information Pamphlet pursuant to the order listed above. (§9167, 9503)

Exceptions for city measures put on the ballot by initiative?

- The persons filing a city initiative petition may file an argument in favor of the proposed ordinance and the city council may submit an argument against the ordinance. (§9282a)

Filer vs. Signers

- The **filer** does not have to be a **signer** of the argument.
- **Anyone can sign** arguments for or against a City measure.
- The **filer** of the argument must meet the criteria above.
- All arguments and rebuttals must be filed with the Signature Statement contained in this handbook.
- A person does not need to be eligible to vote on a ballot measure to be one of the signers of an argument or a rebuttal argument.

Format for Arguments

- Arguments must not exceed 300 words. (§9162) See Attachment A for guidelines on counting words.
- Arguments shall use the following headings:

Argument for Measure _____

Argument against Measure _____

- Arguments cannot contain more than 5 signatures.
- The heading and the signatures are not included in the word count. (§9162)
- Arguments should be typed and in a block format. See Attachment B for more information.
- Arguments should be emailed to bbush@santacruzca.gov in a Word or text file.

Signature Statement

- Each **argument** and **rebuttal** must be accompanied by the two-page Signature Statement included in this Guide. (Elections Code §9600)
- Signatures can appear on more than Signature Page.
- We must have original signatures. To meet the deadline, you may email the argument/rebuttal with the signature/s on the same page as the text of the argument/rebuttal. Original signatures must be presented to the elections official within 48 hours of electronic transmission or the item(s) will not be considered as filed (weekends and holidays excepted).
- There is a distinction between a "filer" and a "signer or author." The filer of the argument or rebuttal must be either the City Council, a bona fide association of citizens or an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure. The "signers or authors" of the argument or rebuttal can be any person or any organization accompanied by a signature of a principal officer. Filers do not have to be signers.

Rebuttals

Who can file rebuttals to arguments?

- When both an argument in favor and an argument against a measure has been filed and selected for printing in the Voter Information Pamphlet, the City Clerk/Elections Official will send copies of the arguments to the filers and advise them of the deadline for filing the rebuttal.

Format for Rebuttals

- Rebuttals must not exceed 250 words. (§9167, 9220, 9285, 9317, 9504) See Attachment A for guidelines on counting words.

- Rebuttals shall use the following headings:

Reply: Rebuttal to argument for Measure _____

Reply: Rebuttal to argument against Measure _____

- Rebuttal arguments may be signed by the same people who signed the argument, or the filer can authorize up to 5 new people to sign the rebuttal by completing the Authorization in Attachment E.
- Rebuttals can be signed by 5 or fewer people.
- The heading and the signatures are not included in the word count. (§9162)
- Rebuttals should be typed and in a block format. See Attachment B for more information.
- Rebuttals should be emailed to bbush@santacruzca.gov in Word or a text file.

Analyses

Impartial Analysis

- The City Attorney shall prepare an impartial analysis of a city measure. (§9280)
- The impartial analysis must not exceed 500 words. (§9280)

Fiscal Analysis

- The Finance Director may be requested by the City Council no later than 88 days prior to an election to prepare a fiscal analysis of a City measure.
- The fiscal impact statement shall not exceed 500 words.

Order and Lettering

Order of appearance in Voter's Information Pamphlet:

- Arguments, rebuttals and analyses are printed in the Voter's Information Pamphlet and mailed to all registered voters in the jurisdiction eligible to vote for the particular measure. The arguments will appear in the following order:
 1. Ballot question
 2. What a Yes vote means, What a No vote means
 3. Names of who signed the argument for and argument against
 4. Argument For
 5. Rebuttal to Argument For
 6. Argument Against
 7. Rebuttal to Argument Against
 8. Analysis
 9. Fiscal Analysis or Tax Rate Statement
 7. Measure Text

Lettering of Measures

- Letters designating measures will be assigned by the County Clerk pursuant to Elections Code §13116. Letters will be assigned after the close of consolidations, which occurs 88 days before the election. Measures will be assigned in alphabetical order beginning with the letter following the last letter assigned in the previous election and continuing through Z, or as close to the end of the alphabet as possible to accommodate all measures filed for the current election. For example, if the previous election ended with measure V, and five measures are on the next ballot, the measures will be assigned A, B, C, D, E rather than W, X, Y, Z, A.
- Measures will appear on the ballot in the following order pursuant to Elections Code §13109: County Board of Education, College, Unified Schools, High Schools, Elementary Schools, County, Cities, Districts. To allow for the most efficient use of space, the county elections official may vary the order of the measures.

Deadlines

Arguments: Arguments are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023. Once an argument for and against a measure is chosen, a copy will be provided to the opposing authors for writing a rebuttal. Arguments are available to the public after the 5 p.m. deadline.

Rebuttals: Rebuttals are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Rebuttals are available to the public after the 5 p.m. deadline.

Analysis: The City Attorney will prepare an impartial analysis of each measure to be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023. The Finance Director may submit a fiscal analysis to be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023. Analyses are public after the 5 p.m. deadline.

Place to File: City of Santa Cruz – City Clerk’s Office, 809 Center Street, Room 8, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. In addition to filing a hard copy, please email your argument, rebuttal or analysis to bbush@santacruzca.gov.

Filing by Email: Signatures on arguments, rebuttals and analyses must appear on the same page as the text of the argument, rebuttal or analysis. Original signatures must be presented to the City Clerk within 48 hours of the electronic transmission or the item(s) will not be considered as filed (weekends and holidays excepted). Electronic transmission must be started prior to 5 p.m. on deadline days to be accepted as filed. To email, you must scan the document with the signature and email to bbush@santacruzca.gov.

Confidentiality: Arguments, rebuttals and analyses shall remain confidential until 5 p.m. on the date they are due.

Withdrawal/Changes: Arguments, rebuttals and analyses may be changed or withdrawn until and including the date fixed for final submission to the City Clerk. (§9286)

Public Inspection: For 10 calendar days immediately following the deadline for filing election documents, including ordinances, analyses, arguments and rebuttals, the City Clerk shall make a copy of the materials available for public inspection. A writ of mandate or injunction may be sought to require amendments or deletions to any or all the materials. (§9295)

Attachment A – How to Count Words

(Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9)

Each word is counted as one word except

Punctuation: Punctuation is not counted.

Titles: Words used in the title of the document, such as "Argument in Favor of Measure A" are not counted.

Proper Nouns & Geographical names: All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be counted as one word. For example, "Pajaro Valley Unified School District" shall be counted as one word.

Abbreviations: Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.

Hyphenations: Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available dictionary shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.

Dates: Dates consisting of a combination of words and digits shall be counted as two words. Dates consisting of only a combination of digits shall be counted as one word. January 1, 2000 shall be counted as two words, whereas 1/1/00 shall be counted as one word.

Numbers: Any number consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number that is spelled, shall be considered as a separate word. "100" shall be counted as one word, whereas "one hundred" shall be counted as two words.

Phone & Internet: Web site addresses and telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.

Percent Signs (%), Number Signs (#), etc.: It is department policy to count numbers consisting of a digit or digits used with a dollar sign (\$), cent sign (¢), percentage sign (%), or number sign (#) as one word.

Attachment B – Format Guidelines

- Be accurate. **Documents will be printed as submitted.** Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors will not be corrected by the City Clerk.
- An argument, rebuttal, or analysis must be written to address a single measure on the ballot. A document combining arguments pertaining to more than one measure will not be accepted.
- Arguments, rebuttals and analyses must be typed and formatted in block paragraph style.
- All arguments and rebuttals must be accompanied by a Signature Statement. See attached. (\$9600)
- No more than five signatures will appear with any argument. If more than five are submitted, the first five will be printed. (\$9164, 9501)
- Be certain to inform the City Clerk of the order you want signatures to appear.
- Arguments, rebuttals, and analyses, including the names and titles of the signers, must be typed to ensure quality and accuracy.
- Do not use profanity or other objectionable language.
- Arguments, rebuttals, analyses and tax rate statements are printed in the Voter Information Guide in 9-point font.
- Limited use of **bolding**, CAPITALIZING, underlining, *italics*, centering text, and bullets (small solid circle only) are permitted.

Attachment C – Standardized Headings

Headings will be centered, and printed using all caps in 9-point, bold font.

Ballot Question (Voter’s Pamphlet)	Z TITLE OF BALLOT QUESTION (IF PROVIDED.) Can be printed in all caps or upper and lower case. <u>Sometimes jurisdictions underline the title.</u> Ballot questions are limited to 75 words. If there is a title, it shall be included in the 75-word limit for ballot questions. Bullets, italics, underlining, and bolding beyond the title, are not permitted in the ballot question. (§13247 & 9051)																	
Measure Text: (Voter’s Pamphlet)	Full text of Measure Z Text.....																	
Initiative: (Voter’s Pamphlet)	Full text of Initiative Measure Z Text.....																	
Analyses:	Impartial analysis of Measure Z																	
	Fiscal impact statement of Measure Z																	
	Tax rate statement of Measure Z																	
Arguments:	Argument for Measure Z Argument against Measure Z																	
Rebuttals:	Reply: Rebuttal to argument for Measure Z Reply: Rebuttal to argument against Measure Z																	
Ballot:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS</th> <th colspan="2"></th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">COUNTY</th> <th colspan="2"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Z 75-word ballot question... (§13247)</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">YES</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">←</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">→</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">NO</td> <td style="text-align: center;">←</td> <td style="text-align: center;">→</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If the measure is a school bond, the ballot would read: "Bonds Yes" and "Bonds No" (Education Code §15122)</p>		MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS				COUNTY				Z 75-word ballot question... (§13247)	YES	←	→		NO	←	→
MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS																		
COUNTY																		
Z 75-word ballot question... (§13247)	YES	←	→															
	NO	←	→															

Attachment D – Signature Statement

(Elections Code Section 9600)

All arguments and rebuttals concerning measures filed pursuant to Division 9 of the Elections Code shall be accompanied by the following statement to be signed by each author of the argument. Names and titles listed will be printed in the Voter’s Information Pamphlet in the order provided below and will appear as indicated below.

“The undersigned author(s) of the:

- Argument for
- Argument against
- Rebuttal to argument for
- Rebuttal to the argument against

ballot measure *(insert letter)* _____ at the Primary General Special

election for the _____
(jurisdiction – name of district)

to be held on _____ hereby state that such argument is true and
(Election date)

correct to the best of his/her/their knowledge and belief.”

Argument/Rebuttal Filed by: (check any of the following that apply)

This information will be provided on the City Clerk/Elections Website

City Council
Contact Person’s Printed Name: _____
Contact Person’s Signature: _____
Title: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Bona Fide Association of Citizens or Filers of Initiative
Name of Association: _____
Principal Officer’s Printed Name: _____
Principal Officer’s Signature: _____
Title: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure
Printed Name: _____
Signature of Voter: _____
Address Where You Live: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature Statement – Page 2

Check one of the following and write-in the letter assigned to the measure:

- Argument for Measure _____
- Argument against Measure _____
- Rebuttal to argument for Measure _____
- Rebuttal to argument against Measure _____

The signatures of the following persons will be printed **as submitted** below following the argument or rebuttal.

Signature	<u>Print</u> Name as it will appear in the Voter Information Guide	<u>Print</u> Title and Name of Organization (if applicable) as it will appear in the Voter Information Guide	Are you signing on behalf of an Organization? YES or NO*	Date

*If the argument or rebuttal is being submitted on behalf of an organization, at least one of its principal officers must sign.

Attachment E – Authorization for Another Person/s to Sign Rebuttal Argument

I, _____ authorize the following person(s) to sign
(print name of **FILER** of the argument)

the rebuttal to the argument

for

against

Measure _____ for the _____ election.
(Letter) (election date)

The filer may authorize any other person or persons to sign the rebuttal argument.

1. _____ to sign instead of _____.
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

2. _____ to sign instead of _____.
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

3. _____ to sign instead of _____.
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

4. _____ to sign instead of _____.
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

5. _____ to sign instead of _____.
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

Signature of **Filer**: _____ Date: _____

Attach this form to the 2-page "Signature Statement" submitted with the rebuttal argument.