



Local ballot measures: Measure S

S

Appointive City Treasurer

Ballot question

“Shall the office of city treasurer be appointive?”

What your vote means

YES	NO
A “Yes” vote on Measure S will convert the office of the City Treasurer to an appointed office.	A “No” vote on Measure S will leave the City Treasurer as an elected office.

For and Against Measure S

FOR	AGAINST
s/ Ann Segerstrom and Colette Such City of Sonora Councilmembers	No argument was filed against Measure S



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Impartial Analysis

Douglas L. White, City Attorney, City of Sonora

Measure S asks Sonora voters whether the office of City Treasurer for the City of Sonora (“City”) should be an appointed position rather than elected every 4 years. Currently, the City Treasurer is an elected office. If City voters approve Measure S, the Sonora City Council (“Council”) will appoint the City Treasurer on an ongoing basis following the certification of the November 3, 2020 election results. The Council placed Measure S on the ballot primarily to establish minimal qualification requirements for the City Treasurer and save City funds by eliminating the need to hold an election for the City Treasurer every 4 years.

State law requires the City to have a City Treasurer, who may be appointed or elected. The Council can only appoint the City Treasurer if voters approve a measure allowing for Council appointment. A majority of California cities appoint their City Treasurer to ensure that the persons discharging the duties of the office have the professional skills and experience necessary to competently and responsibly execute the duties of the office.

State law vests the responsibilities of receiving, depositing, disbursing and accounting for City funds in the office of the City Treasurer. The City Treasurer must comply with all laws governing the securing and depositing of City funds and adhere to generally accepted accounting principles. As managing City funds have become more complex and specialized, management of City funds have increasingly been handled by professional staff with the required expertise.

As an elected office, the only requirements for the City Treasurer are to be at least 18 years of age, a registered voter of the City and a resident of the City. If the City Treasurer’s performance is unsatisfactory, the Council cannot immediately remove the City Treasurer. Instead, the City Treasurer can only be removed at a general municipal election or a recall.

If Measure S is approved, the Council can establish minimum training and experience requirements to ensure that the City Treasurer can perform the duties of the office. The Council can remove the requirement that the City Treasurer be a resident of the City so that the most qualified candidate can serve as City Treasurer. The Council can also require regular performance reviews of the City Treasurer and can terminate the City Treasurer at any time for unsatisfactory performance.

Measure S will save the City funds by eliminating the need to hold an election for the City Treasurer every 4 years. As an elected office, the City must conduct an election for the office every 4 years and incur the costs of the election, even if there is a lack of candidates. In the previous general municipal election, no one ran for City Treasurer.

A "YES" vote on Measure S will convert the office of the City Treasurer to an appointed office.

A "NO" vote on Measure S will leave the City Treasurer as an elected office.



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Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument for Measure S

VOTE YES ON MEASURE S TO MAKE THE SONORA CITY TREASURER AN APPOINTED POSITION.

Transitioning to an appointed City Treasurer will save taxpayer money and ensure experienced and qualified individuals are eligible to hold the position.

MEASURE S IS A COST-SAVING MEASURE. The City pays to hold an election for City Treasurer every four years. Due to lack of public interest, candidates for the office have been few to none. These unnecessary elections cost the city thousands of dollars.

CURRENTLY, ANY CITIZEN WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THE CITY CAN RUN FOR TREASURER WITHOUT HAVING TECHNICAL SKILLS, PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE OR QUALIFICATIONS TO ADEQUATELY PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE. The City Treasurer plays a limited but important role in overseeing the City's financial operations, and is an essential tool in protecting public investment funds. Municipal finance is a complex field and a City Treasurer should have knowledge, training, and experience with government accounting, financial markets and investment policies to best serve the public.

GIVEN THE HISTORICAL LACK OF INTEREST IN THE POSITION, SONORA RISKS AN UNQUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL BEING AWARDED THE POSITION SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY RUN UNOPPOSED. If the position becomes appointed, the Council and City administration can develop a job description with education, training and experience standards necessary to appoint a qualified City Treasurer.

The City of Sonora has internal controls and checks and balances that provide public oversight and transparency. Independent auditors annually audit the City books, which are then presented to the Council and residents at a public meeting and on the website. The City's financial accountability can be confirmed and maintained by an appointed City Treasurer.

THE SONORA CITY COUNCIL ENDORSES **VOTE YES ON MEASURE S.**

s/ Ann Segerstrom and Colette Such,
City of Sonora Councilmembers

Argument Against Measure S

No argument was filed against Measure S