November 3, 2020 Election

✓ Last day to submit Arguments in Favor or Against – August 7, 2020

✓ Last day to submit Rebuttals – August 17, 2020

Definitions
ARGUMENT is a 300 word statement in favor or against a measure.

REBUTTAL is a 250 word statement which refutes an Argument in favor or against a measure.

An AUTHOR of an argument is a proponent of a measure, a bona fide association of citizens, an individual voter, or any combination of bona fide associations and individual voters.

A PROponent of a measure is the City Council, for Council initiated measures, or Project Applicant, for measures relating to the “Citizens’ Right to Vote on Future Use of Open Space and Agricultural Lands Ordinance” aka Measure J/R. The proponent may also be person(s) who initiate the petition process and have control of the circulation and signature collection.

A BONA FIDE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS is a recognized group of citizens bound together by a common interest or cause. In order to determine whether it qualifies, an organization or association submitting an Argument or Rebuttal shall also submit one of the following:
(1) Its articles of incorporation, articles of association, partnership documents, bylaws, or similar documents.
(2) Letterhead containing the name of the organization and its principal officers.
(3) If the organization or association is a primarily formed committee established to support or oppose the measure, its statement of organization filed pursuant to Section 84101 of the Government Code.

The SIGNER OF AN ARGUMENT is the author of the argument or any person whom the author authorizes in writing to sign the argument.

The SIGNER OF A REBUTTAL is the signer of the Argument unless the signer of the Argument authorizes in writing another person to sign the Rebuttal.

- All signers must complete the Signature Statement
- A signer does not have to be the author
- A written authorization is needed whenever there are signers who are not authors.
  The Signature Statement includes a section for this purpose.
Do Signers Need to be Registered Voters?

- If an individual is signing (the argument or rebuttal is not submitted on behalf of an association), he/she must be eligible to vote on the measure (a registered voter in the jurisdiction).
- If the argument/rebuttal is submitted on behalf of a bona fide association and the signer(s) are affiliated with the association and are authorized by the association to sign the argument, the signer(s) do not need to be registered voters in the jurisdiction (they are representing the association’s position).

Formatting and Writing Guidelines

Arguments and Rebuttals, including the names and titles of the signers, must be typed to ensure quality and accuracy.

Be accurate. Documents will be printed as submitted. Spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors will not be corrected. No profanity or other objectionable language may be used.

Arguments and Rebuttals must be written to address a single measure on the ballot. A document combining arguments or rebuttals pertaining to more than one measure will not be accepted.

**IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO USE:**

- Bold, italics, underline, words with all capital letters
- Bullets, stars, asterisks, or numbers that function as bullet points to off-set paragraphs

**WORD COUNT:**

- **Punctuation** is not counted.
- All *proper nouns*, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word.
- Each *abbreviation* for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.
- Regularly *hyphenated words* that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the United States within the 10 years immediately preceding the election shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
- *Dates* shall be counted as one word.
- Any *number* consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number which is spelled shall be considered as a separate word or words.
  
  Example: 100 = one word. One hundred = two words.
- *Telephone numbers, email and website addresses* shall be counted as one word.
SIGNATURES:

No more than five signatures may appear with any Argument or Rebuttal. If more than five are submitted, the first five will be printed.

The authors or signers (if different) must inform the City Clerk of the priority order for the signatures/names to appear in the signature block.

Accompanying Signature Statement
Signers must submit a Signature Statement with the Argument or Rebuttal. The statement information in not printed in the Sample Ballot.

The Signature Statement must include the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the person or persons who authored and signed it or those who were authorized to sign it. If an Argument is submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers must be included on the Signature Statement.

Arguments and Rebuttals may be changed or withdrawn at any time until the expiration of the filing deadline.

ARGUMENTS

No more than 300 words in length.

The following statement, as applicable, must be printed as the heading:

“Argument in Favor of Measure”

“Argument Against Measure”

Argument Selection
One Argument in favor and one Argument against any measure will be printed in the Sample Ballot.

If more than one Argument in favor or more than one Argument against any measure is filed by the filing deadline, the City Clerk shall select one for printing and distribution to the voters. In selecting the Argument, preference and priority will be given in the following order:

1. The City Council or member(s) of the Council authorized by the Council
2. The individual voter, or bona fide association of citizens, or combination of voters and associations, who are the sponsors or proponents of the measure
3. Bona fide associations of citizens
4. Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure
If a selection cannot be made based on the above criteria (if two or more Arguments have equal preference), the City Clerk will ask the Arguments’ authors to mutually agree which of the Arguments shall be printed in the Sample Ballot Pamphlet. If the parties are not able to mutually agree, the City Clerk will conduct a random drawing.

**REBUTTALS**

No more than 250 words in length.

The following statement, as applicable, must be printed as the heading of the Rebuttal:

“Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure”

“Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure”

When both an Argument in favor and an Argument against a measure have been selected, the City Clerk will send a copy of the Argument in favor of the measure to the contact person for the Argument against the measure and a copy of the Argument against the measure to the contact person for the Argument in favor of the measure.

The authors of the Argument may also prepare, submit and sign the Rebuttal. As an alternative, the author, or a majority of the authors, may authorize in writing any other person or persons to do so.

- Written authorization must specifically designate the name of the substitute. The “Rebuttal Alternate Author Authorization” form must be submitted for this purpose. (This is in addition to the Signature Statement that must be completed by each signer and accompany the Rebuttal.)

**Argument and Rebuttal Submittal Requirements:**
1. Hardcopy submitted, must include original signatures
2. Electronic copy submitted with printed names. May submit on a thumb drive or email to clerkweb@cityofdavis.org. (If there are discrepancies between the hardcopy and electronic versions, the hardcopy with original signatures will be chosen as the default.)
3. Hardcopy Signature Statement completed by each signer, must include original signatures. May submit all signatures on a single form or multiple forms in counterpart.

**Additional Rebuttal Requirement:**
4. Hardcopy Authorization for Alternate Author of Rebuttal submitted (if anyone other than the original Argument authors are writing the Rebuttal). Must be signed by the person filing the Rebuttal.