

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY
CITY OF TAFT
MEASURE W**

Measure W is a referendum on an Ordinance to amend and add to the Municipal Code of the City of Taft to make the position of City of Taft City Clerk one that is appointed by a majority vote of the City Council. It further defines the role and reporting structure of the position of City Clerk. This Ordinance was approved for submittal to the voters on June 7, 2016 by vote of the City of Taft City Council.

Some of the City Clerk's duties include administering state laws that govern open meetings, conflict of interest codes, public records, elections, and campaign disclosure and finance. Other duties include creating minutes for City Council meetings, maintaining official city documents and records, preparing and distributing City Council agenda packets, and providing legally required official notices of meetings. Of California's 482 cities, over seventy percent (70%) have an appointed City Clerk.

If approved by the voters, the Ordinance would:

Strike sections 1-19-3 through and including 1-19-5 of the current City of Taft Municipal Code, and add section 1-19-6 to the Municipal Code. Said amendment would allow the City Council to appoint the position of City Clerk by majority vote of the City Council, and specify that the City Clerk shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The City Clerk would also keep the City Council informed on a regular basis, but would report to and take direction from the City Manager. The duties of the City Clerk would be as defined by State of California law and applicable City Council resolutions. Any person serving as City Clerk at the time the measure passes would continue to serve as City Clerk until such appointment by the City Council. If a person is elected to the position of City Clerk at the election held November 8, 2016 and if this measure passes, the election of said person to the position of City Clerk shall be null and void.

A "yes" vote means the voter is in favor of adopting the Ordinance to make the City Clerk position appointed by majority vote of the City of Taft City Council.

A "no" vote means the voter is not in favor of adopting the Ordinance to make the City Clerk position appointed by a majority vote of the City of Taft City Council.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE W

A yes vote on Measure W ensures that the selection of the City Clerk for the City of Taft be based on qualifications and experience, not the results of a political campaign. The Clerk position is administrative in nature and mostly directed by statute. The needs of the community have grown and the complexity of the Clerk's position has increased since the first City Clerk took office over 100 years ago, yet the elected qualifications remain the same - eighteen years of age and registered voter in Taft.

Performing the duties of the city clerk requires increasing levels of training and experience. Today, Clerk responsibilities require skills and expertise in elections, political practices law, open meeting laws, records retention, conflict-of-interest regulations and contract practices. The Clerk must also have the ability to serve while always remaining neutral.

The public expects and deserves that the duties of the City Clerk be performed with professionalism and efficiency. This can best be accomplished by selecting a person to serve based on technical skills, education and relevant experience. This is why over seventy percent (70%) of California's cities have an appointed City Clerk and why the City of Taft is moving to do the same.

As local leaders we are committed to quality local government and ask that you join us in voting YES on Measure W.

s/Randy Miller, Mayor
s/Dave Noerr, Mayor ProTem
s/Dr. Kathy Orrin, Executive Director

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED