

Argument Against Measure V

Please Vote NO on Measure V.

At a time when we're all working hard to preserve the fundamental rights of voters everywhere to vote, this misguided proposal would drive Watsonville in the opposite direction!

Let's not go backward by diluting the voice of Watsonville's voters, many of whom have fought hard to earn their right to vote. Instead, let's put our energy and faith in the City Clerk's office to help register more people to vote. Do not be fooled by language that says this would "broaden participation on its Commissions by members of the public from varying and diverse backgrounds..." We ARE a DIVERSE community and our registered voters reflect that!

Make no mistake. This proposal would allow individuals who have not even registered to vote to assume control of City Commissions that are central to the quality of life in Watsonville, make significant policy and financial decisions, including prioritizing the City's precious resources—impacting our homes, local economy, streets, parks, schools, and more. They are not just advisory.

Voters should soundly reject this ill-advised proposal for multiple reasons:

Undermines Civic Engagement: Voting is a fundamental expression of civic commitment.

Most Non-voters do not demonstrate the same level of dedication to our community, compromising their commitment to local issues.

Anyone can vote. How do we determine residency?: We will have City Commissioners who may not be active local voters and lack a genuine understanding of our community's needs and what VOTERS want.

Erosion of Trust: Allowing individuals who do not participate in local elections to make decisions binding on voters would undermine trust in our local governance, making it harder for residents to hold decision-makers accountable.

REJECT this proposal. Please join us in voting NO on Measure V to ensure City of Watsonville commissioners represent Watsonville's voters.

/s/ Casey Craig Clark, Watsonville City Council Member

/s/ Ari Parker, Watsonville City Council Member