

Argument in Favor of Council Member Term Measure “B”

Measure “B” provides a common-sense clarification to the City of Ridgecrest’s existing term limit law approved by voters in 2012. Voters clearly intended to limit City Council service to eight consecutive years or two four-year terms. However, the current ordinance does not explain how partial terms created by appointments should be counted.

When a council member leaves office early and the council appoints someone to fill the vacancy, the existing City ordinance can force the appointed council member to resign before completing their elected term, as the “eight consecutive years” limit would take effect sometime during the second term. When that occurs, another unnecessary vacancy is created continuing a cycle of appointments rather than elections.

Measure “B” fixes this problem by clearly defining how an appointed term is counted. If more than two years remain in the term when a person is appointed, it counts as a full term. If less than two years remain, it does not count as a full term, allowing them to run for two elections and serve two full terms. This approach is consistent with how many other California cities manage partial terms.

Measure “B” also clarifies the term limit structure by defining service as two four-year terms, which preserves the same eight-year limit approved by voters when vacancies do not need to be filled. Most importantly, it reduces repeated appointments and keeps the decision of who serves on the City Council in the hands of Ridgecrest voters and not the council.

Vote YES on Measure “B.”

s/Ronald Strand, Retired Ridgecrest City Manager;

s/Bill Farris Jr., Individual;

s/Juan B. Mondragon, Business Owner