

Argument in Favor of the Ridgecrest 4-Year Mayoral Term Measure “C”

In 2012, Ridgecrest voters approved a change making the mayor an elected position with a two-year term. Prior to that, the City Council selected one of its members to serve as mayor for two years while continuing to serve a standard four-year council term.

Over time it has become clear that the current two-year mayoral term creates an unnecessary imbalance in how our city government operates.

Under California law and the Ridgecrest Municipal Code, the mayor has no greater authority than any other member of the City Council. The mayor’s role is primarily to preside over council meetings and serve as the public face of the city. All policy decisions are made collectively by the five-member council.

Yet today the mayor must run for election every two years while other council members serve four-year terms. This creates an uneven system where the mayor is frequently preparing for re-election while other council members can focus fully on governing.

Serving effectively in city government takes time. New council members and mayors must learn city finances, policies, regional issues, and the many responsibilities of municipal leadership. Often, just as a mayor gains experience, it is already time to campaign again.

Measure “C” simply restores balance by establishing a four-year mayoral term—the same length served by other council members.

This change will provide stability, continuity, and allow the mayor to focus on serving the community rather than campaigning.

For fairness and effective leadership, please vote **YES on Measure “C.”**

s/Ronald Strand, Retired Ridgecrest City Manager;

s/Bernie Mondragon, Business Owner;

s/Bill Farris Jr., Individual