

# LOCAL BALLOT MEASURE REVIEW FORM (revised August 2023)

## Instructions

A Sierra Club endorsement regarding a city, county or special district ballot measure requires decisions both at the chapter and State level. The Local Ballot Measure Review Committee (LBMRC) is authorized by the Sierra Club California Standing Rules to approve requests for endorsements. To obtain such approval, fill out this form and submit it by e-mail, together with a copy or link for the ballot measure, to all of the individuals listed on the last page of this form.

Members of the Review Committee will check to see that your proposed action is consistent with Sierra Club policies and procedures (it's important you fill out this part of the form!).

You should receive responses from the committee regarding the review process within several working days. However, it is wise to allow several weeks for the approval process in case there is controversy over a proposed position, or if the form is incomplete. The request must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the date when ballots are first mailed to voters.

Please note that any fund-raising or expenditures by the Sierra Club in connection with a proposition, initiative, or referendum must be separately approved in advance, as described at the end of this form.

For more information regarding the local ballot measure review process, see Sierra Club California Standing Rules, pp. 37-38. <https://www.sierraclub.org/california/bylaws>

Thank you for your work to give the Sierra Club an effective voice.

Eric Parfrey, Chair, LBMRC [parfrey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:parfrey@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 641-3380

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## Description of Ballot Measure

Today's Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Chapter submitting: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive Title of ballot measure: \_\_\_\_\_

City, County, or Special District involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Election date for vote on measure: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Proposed Position (Check All that Apply):

Support \_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_ Signature Gathering \_\_\_

Attach, or provide a link for, the full text of the ballot measure.

What vote of the electorate is required to pass?

Majority\_\_\_ Two-Thirds\_\_\_ Other (specify)\_\_\_

If this measure is for renewal of a tax or fee, what position, if any, did the Sierra Club take previously?

Support\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_ Neutral/None\_\_\_ Unknown \_\_\_

Provide other informational materials such as news articles, the official summary or ballot arguments. If they are not yet available, provide the “pros & cons” that were considered in your Chapter’s consideration.

### **Approvals by Local Chapters and Groups**

Date of Chapter vote: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Chapter Vote on recommendation: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_ Recuse: \_\_\_

Group or section involved, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of vote: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Group or Section Vote: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_ Recuse: \_\_\_

If two or more people voted “No” describe the basis for dissent - use an attachment if necessary, and include names and contact information for dissenting members.

Does this measure affect any other Chapter (e.g., issues related to air quality, regional transportation plan, etc.)? If so, what consultation has taken place, even if the other Chapter does not have a vote?

### **Which Sierra Club Policies were reviewed in considering whether to recommend a position?**

(Quote relevant parts of the relevant policies below, and use a separate sheet if necessary.)

Support or opposition of local ballot measures must be consistent with the following State and National Club policies.

If your measure is related to growth, read the California Growth Management Policy Guidelines, especially the guidance included in the appendix on which types of growth measures the Club supports and which types it usually opposes. The Growth Management Policy Guidelines is posted online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/environmentalissues/PlanningandTransportation>.

Other adopted California Conservation Committee policies should be consulted (you can search these policies by subject at <https://www.sierraclub.org/california/cnrcc/cnrcc-passed-resolutions>).

National Sierra Club Policies are posted at <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy>. If your measure is related to growth, especially read the recently adopted Urban Infill Policy, posted at <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/urban-land-use-policies>.

Also helpful is the lengthy Urban Infill Guidance document adopted in 2021. It is posted at <https://www.sierraclub.org/smart-growth-urban-infill>. This guidance is advisory only.

Note: If a proposed measure predominantly conforms with State and National Policies but conflicts in some details, it becomes a matter of discretion whether the Sierra Club can support it. For example, we may decide to endorse a transportation ballot measure that predominantly funds transit that we seek but also includes some highway funding that we oppose that is necessary for political support.

### **Chapter Campaign Plans and Main Contact**

Describe chapter campaign plans and attach samples of proposed publicity regarding the measure (press releases, op-ed articles, ballot arguments, etc.)

Name and contact information for your chapter spokesperson on this measure:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Important Notes About Campaign Contributions and Fundraising**

The following requirements must be observed if your chapter, group, or section plans to raise or spend money on any local ballot measures!

Election campaign contributions and fundraising (including staff activity) are governed by State and federal regulations. Sierra Club California and all chapters are collectively restricted by tight spending limits and reporting requirements. No Club funding for any local ballot measure may be undertaken without advance authorization by Sierra Club California. Contact Executive Director Brandon Dawson (916) 557-1102 or Compliance Officer Ruth Muzzin (505) 440-2656 for advice and e-mail all plans for Sierra Club election fundraising or contributions (including staff activity) to them, and to the National Compliance Team.

The chapters and Sierra Club California are limited to \$50,000 in total Club funding of state/local ballot measures in California each year, and \$100,000 in any 4-year period.

This includes in-kind contributions such as staff time that exceeds 10% of monthly work hours. This rule does not apply to the cost of communications sent to Club members only regarding CA state/local ballot measures.

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Please e-mail this form with the attached ballot measure and all other supporting materials in Word and/or PDF format to the following individuals of the LBMRC, associated volunteers, and staff Any questions or concerns may be addressed to the Chair.

Eric Parfrey, Chair	<a href="mailto:parfrey@sbcglobal.net">parfrey@sbcglobal.net</a> or (209) 641-3380
Steve Birdlebough	<a href="mailto:scbaffirm@gmail.com">scbaffirm@gmail.com</a>
Nick Pilch	<a href="mailto:nicky@mindspring.com">nicky@mindspring.com</a>
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