

After careful study and analysis, the League of Women Voters has taken a stand against Los Altos Measure C. Read our analysis and our fact sheet.

## LOS ALTOS MEASURE C

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to vote NO on Measure C, which would require a vote of the public before most city-owned land could be sold or leased. Based on our analysis, there is no need for this restrictive measure since we are not aware of any instances where the City has sold parks or open space lands. Leases to provide services and to meet city goals and objectives are routine occurrences in city operations.

The LWV believes in representative government and holding elected officials accountable. The LWV believes initiatives should be supported when they are clear and unambiguous and limited to a single subject. They should contain a sunset clause or allow for modification to meet future city needs and challenges. Measure C meets none of these tests of good governance.

The Los Altos City Attorney has stated that Measure C language is ambiguous and could lead to litigation to clarify intent. It could also lead to costly elections if lease terms are changed for our libraries, fire stations, the History Museum, Bus Barn Theater and other beloved community assets.

The ambiguity of the so-called "Protect Our Parks and Public Lands" measure has caused many to request their names be withdrawn from the petitions they signed and many more believe they were misled about its scope. Not only does the measure affect the kinds of leases described above, but also any proposed lease of downtown parking plazas for uses envisioned in the Downtown Vision. In a recent city survey over 80 percent of the respondents supported increased downtown vibrancy. Due to the delay and the uncertainty of a vote, developers will be reluctant to propose public/private partnerships or invest in our city if the initiative passes. Voters elect City Council members to demonstrate leadership and make decisions about the fundamental functions of local government. Hindering routine city decisions with costly elections uses scarce financial resources that are better used to expand services to senior and youth or better maintain city streets and buildings.

S/ Sue Graham, President  
Los Altos Mountain View Area League of Women Voters

Read our Fact Sheet below:



# Facts about Measure C

If passed, Measure C would require voter approval for any of the following:

- Any change in the list of uses the General Plan allows on land with a “Parks,” “Other Open Space,” or “Public and Institutional” (P&I) land-use designation
- The sale or transfer of City-owned land with the above land-use designations
- The lease or other disposition (including granting of a license or easement) of City-owned land with the above land-use designations for longer than 180 days in any calendar year
- Changing City-owned land with the above land-use designations to another land-use designation except that redesignation of P&I to Parks shall not require voter approval

There are exceptions for P&I parcels of less than 7,500 square feet and leases of subsurface real property, such as utility easements.

If Measure C passes, it can be amended or repealed only by another vote of the people.

<b>From filed Measure C documents:</b>	<b>Facts from City Staff statements:</b>
Measure C will not affect existing leases, such as with fire stations, library, LASD.	When leases expire, if terms are renegotiated, as opposed to automatic renewal, voter approval will be required. Per City Staff: “The initiative’s language is <b>unclear</b> as to exactly what conditions must be satisfied for existing leases to be exempt or included.”
The language of Measure C is “simple.”	Measure C covers multiple subjects. The language is so ambiguous that already City Staff and the attorney for the proponents have disagreed about the meaning of several provisions. The ambiguity is likely to lead to litigation over interpretation.
The language of Measure C is “straight forward and narrowly drafted.”	Language is unclear as to impact on current leases (mentioned above) and whether parking plazas 1 and 2 and portions of 3 and 6 are covered due to a zoning designation of Downtown Commercial (not included in Measure C).
Measure C “will not create obstacles for city improvements.”	Per City Staff, Measure C would require voter approval for any “easement or license to be given to public works contractors . . . for projects that require access longer than 180 days.”
Proponents do not mention the cost of elections or who will pay the cost.	Per City Staff, special elections, if desired, in order to avoid long delays, cost up to \$500,000, and each issue added to a general election (in November of an even year) costs approximately \$50,000.
“Additional protection is needed” to protect our City parks.	The City has never sold City-owned parkland. In fact, in 2016, the City bought Lincoln Park from the County.
Proponents imply that the sale of 400 Main Street would have been covered by Measure C.	400 Main Street was zoned Downtown Commercial and would not have been subject to Measure C and not brought to voters for approval.