

Argument in Favor of Measure P

The City of Soledad is undergoing a major change in its election process. The current at-large system will be replaced by district-based elections, starting in 2024. This decision was in response to a demand letter from LULAC, which threatened potential financial and legal consequences.

Under the existing at-large system, voters were able to vote for all members of the city council, including the mayor. However, with the implementation of the proposed four-district system, voters will vote for one council member that corresponds to their specific district. This proposed system calls for the mayor's position to be the only position elected at large. This will create inequity and rob the opportunity for residents to have a mayor from within their own neighborhoods.

This is why Ordinance 765 makes better sense. This ordinance will create five districts and result in the mayor's position rotating annually. This will ensure that community members have a chance to have a mayor from within their own neighborhood, resulting in an equitable governance structure that prioritizes the needs of all neighborhoods in the city. Furthermore, Ordinance 765 will result in ensuring greater accountability from all city council representatives, increase voter participation, and enhance voter engagement. Candidates will also face lower costs when running for office, encouraging a more diverse set of voices and viewpoints. More importantly, the five-district system will promote unity and fairness leading to a more balanced and inclusive governance.

Please vote **YES** in favor of the five-district system, Ordinance 765. The City Council voted in favor of this system by majority because it makes sense. This will ensure accountability, fairness, and cost-effectiveness in the election process in our beloved city of Soledad. Thank You.

Vote YES on Ordinance 765

Ben Jimenez, Jr.

Maria Corralejo