



BALLOT MEASURE L

Ballot Argument Written AGAINST Measure L – Inspector General

Vote "No" on Measure L.

After years of discussing and researching the subject, and at the demands of longtime City watchdogs for greater accountability and transparency, in 2022 Riverside's appointed Charter Review Committee recommended the creation of an elected (by the public) Inspector General position, with almost exactly the same powers to 'investigate fraud, waste and abuse as the appointed (by our City Council) position before you today.

Sadly the 2022 City Council, **who had made** the appointments to the Committee, instead chose to bring before the electorate an appointed position; not unlike Measure E in 2012, which was to create an appointed City Auditor position with once again, almost identical powers. Measure E was soundly defeated by voters then, like Measure L should be now.

Why? An appointed Inspector General is not as independent nor directly accountable to the people, rendering their function not just useless, but dangerous in our opinion. It would provide the illusion of legitimacy, scarcely more effective than the current, and often criticized, practice of having internal auditors that work for our City Manager. The temptation to whitewash embarrassing, and potentially politically damaging audit findings, would be overwhelming. Current personalities aside, the fox would be in essence guarding the henhouse. We deserve better.

Voting "No" on Measure L will allow time for the advocates of an elected Inspector General position to work with the new Councilmembers, **installed this year** (Falcone, Robillard, Mill), who we think better understand the importance of independent investigation, to bring you a much better ballot measure in early 2026. We believe they are not afraid of oversight, see the benefits of the public's ongoing faith in efficient and honest City government, and know that an elected position will ultimately provide a better return on investment for taxpayers.

Please vote "No".

/s/

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