

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
OF THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE OPINIONS
OF THE AUTHORS.**

**COMPLETE TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW**

**ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST MEASURES
1A, 1B, 1C AND 1D**

**CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
SPECIAL CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION
CONSOLIDATED WITH THE COUNTY SCHOOL
BIENNIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER ELECTION,
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1975**

MEASURE 1A

By amending SECTION 500 of ARTICLE V thereof, to read as follows:

Section 500. Term of office.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the members of the council shall hold office for a term of four (4) years from and after the first Tuesday following their election and continuing until their respective successors qualify.

Ties among candidates for any office shall be settled by the drawing of lots.

There shall be no limit on the number of terms a councilmember may serve.

BALLOT ARGUMENT
CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 1A — NO COUNCIL TERM LIMIT

For several years the question of whether to impose a consecutive term limit on the office of City Council has been before the voters of Mountain View. Except for a brief period when a two-term limit was adopted and later repealed, Mountain View has functioned extremely well under a City Charter that contains no such term

limit for Council Members. This means that upon expiration of a Council Member's term of office, he or she must seek re-election in order to return to office for another term.

Those who advocate imposition of a time limit on Council service claim that it is necessary in order to eliminate the "advantage" that an incumbent has when seeking re-election. Recent elections clearly demonstrate that incumbents hold no such advantage as qualified challengers were elected to succeed defeated incumbents at all levels of government. This result was accomplished without the need for artificial and arbitrary time limits similar to those presented elsewhere on this ballot.

We believe that without arbitrary time limits, voters can be assured that they will have a choice of the best available candidates for office. It may be that the incumbent is the most qualified candidate available. Why should the voters be automatically limited to second choice or worse? Perhaps those who ask you to support arbitrary time limits do not really trust the voters to properly exercise their discretion in such matters.

Furthermore, imposition of an artificial time limit for Council service could place our City at a disadvantage in terms of representation on regional and county-wide boards and commissions where selection and retention is often based on background and experience.

Mountain View voters should support Measure 1A because it guarantees our greatest freedom—the right to vote for the candidate of our choice. This is the American way.

The undersigned authors of the Special Charter Amendment argument in favor of ballot proposition Measure 1A at the Special Charter Amendment Election, Consolidated with the County School Biennial Governing Board Member Election, for the City of Mountain View to be held on March 4, 1975, do hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Signed Joseph Cusimano	Date 1/9/75
Signed Carl E. Anderson	Date 1/9/75
Signed Charles Gordon	Date 1/9/75
Signed LaMora V. Lynch	Date 1/9/75

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE 1A — NO COUNCIL TERM LIMIT

We recommend a NO VOTE on Measure 1A. There should be a limit on the number of terms councilmembers are permitted to serve. Long term councilmembers whose associations tend to be mainly with other government officials lose touch with the citizens whom they were elected to represent. Once their policies are formulated they often become defensive about changing them. They do not remain receptive to new ideas brought up by the citizens. The responsiveness of the council to the true needs of the community can then easily be lost.

The incumbent has the advantage of greater name recognition and an easier time obtaining campaign contributions. These and other inherent advantages enable the incumbent to become entrenched in his position. With no council limitation, government can become a private club consisting of the council and its appointed commissions and committees. This creates barriers which discourage citizens from active participation and from seeking public office.

The time has come that we should place a reasonable limitation on council service to help maintain a participatory city government responsive to the needs of the people. *If Measure 1A passes, there will be NO limit on the number of terms a councilmember may serve.* We urge a NO VOTE on Measure 1A.

The undersigned authors of the Special Charter Amendment argument against ballot proposition Measure 1A at the Special Charter Amendment Election, Consolidated with the County School Biennial Governing Board Member Election, for the City of Mountain View to be held on March 4, 1975, hereby state that argument is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Signed Richard J. Wilmuth, Chairman	Date 1/8/75
Citizens for the Two-Term Limit	
Signed Betsy A. Collard	Date 1/8/75
Signed Lawrence A. William	Date 1/8/75
Signed Nagel T. Miner	Date 1/8/75
Signed Carl F. Hammer Jr.	Date 1/8/75
