

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE W

The City Council firmly believes that Whittier's voters, not the courts, should determine Whittier's election system. That is why, in August of 2013, the City Council voted unanimously to place this Charter Amendment on the ballot for your approval.

This Charter Amendment will modify our election system so that four Council members will be chosen in district elections and the Mayor will be chosen by all city voters.

This is the best solution for Whittier.

Here's why:

It's practical. In a Mayor plus Council District election system, the Mayor represents all voters and each Council Member represents a specified district. More and more cities, including Pasadena, use this system because it works — and it works well.

It's balanced. The Mayor plus Council District system blends the best of two election systems, ensuring genuine neighborhood representation for citizens in the four districts, while preserving a Mayoral position that answers to all city residents.

It's fair. The current City Council is dedicated to equal treatment for everyone. That will not change under this new system. In fact, it promises to increase the responsiveness of local government as a wide variety of good people from throughout Whittier are elected to continue our proud history.

It resolves what is likely to become a divisive and expensive debate. A looming court battle over representation threatens to drain millions in city funds that should be used to meet the needs of Whittier citizens.

Rather than engage in a costly disagreement over which of two honorable election systems is better, we can move forward by approving Mayor plus Council District elections.

Let's get back to focusing on what is really important – electing good candidates that will guide Whittier into a bright future.

Vote "Yes" on Measure W.

OWEN NEWCOMER
Whittier City Councilman

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED