

What's Wrong with Measure B



Q: What is Measure B?

A: If enacted, Measure B - the Oxnard Government Accountability and Ethics Act will:

1. Prohibit councilmembers and commissioners from accepting gifts from lobbyists and contractors;
2. Eliminate the influence of outside special interests by strengthening campaign finance reforms and limiting political contributions to Mayoral and City Council candidates;
3. Expand transparency by posting the City's monthly financial reporting and City contracts on the City website; and
4. Establish term limits for the Mayor and members of the City Council.

OFFICIAL MEASURE B BALLOT QUESTION	
<small>OXNARD GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICS ACT. To increase fiscal accountability, prevent special interest influences/political conflicts of interest, improve City ethics, governance, transparency without new City powers, shall Oxnard City Code be amended to prohibit elected officials from accepting gifts from lobbyists/City contractors; impose campaign contribution limits on candidates for all elected office; limit Mayor/Councilmembers to three consecutive four-year terms, require posting monthly financial reports and all expensive City contracts on City's website for public review?</small>	YES
	NO

Many Oxnard voters received a taxpayer-funded campaign mailer from Oxnard City Manager Alex Nguyen with 4 key assertions about the *benefits* of Measure B. We want to give you **the rest of the story**.

Measure B is a defective incumbent protection scheme. It is designed to extend city council terms, handcuff the council's political challengers, and kneecap several citizen-sponsored initiatives qualified for the November 2020 ballot.

To lure you into voting for it, Measure B includes *false promises of reform* on topics the City's taxpayer-funded polling said voters would like to hear.

Looking at the claims in their mail piece:

City claim #1: *Measure B will "prohibit councilmembers and commissioners from accepting gifts from lobbyists and contractors."*

Reality: You don't have to be a PAID lobbyist for Measure B to ensnare you.

Measure B is written so broadly that if you have spoken at a council meeting or phoned the city to complain about tree trimming ... Congratulations, **you are now a lobbyist!** If you give a council member even a cough drop or a bottle of water, you'll be participating in a criminal act.

Interestingly, Measure B's limits do not apply to the city manager or staff, who make most of the city's spending decisions.

Vote NO on Measure B.

City claim #2: *Measure B will "eliminate special interest influence by strengthening campaign finance reforms and limiting political contributions."*

Reality: There are **NO NEW** campaign finance reporting requirements in Measure B. It merely requires compliance with **EXISTING** state law which **ALREADY** requires reporting to both the city clerk and to the state.

Adopting Measure B will result in **HUGE** legal defense costs, as it is already being challenged in court for its unconstitutional provisions. It attempts to:

- Impose contribution limits on ballot measure committees, which was ruled unconstitutional in *Citizens Against Rent Control v. City of Berkley*
- Limit a candidate from donating more than \$500 to his/her **OWN** campaign, which was ruled unconstitutional in *Buckley v. Valeo*.
- Set contribution limits from others so low that Justice Stephen Breyer described it in *Randall vs. Sorrell* as “**reducing democratic accountability.**”

Vote NO on Measure B.

City claim #3: *Measure B will “expand transparency by posting the City’s monthly financial reporting and City contracts on the city website.”*

Reality: Oxnard is **ALREADY required by state law** to produce monthly financial statements and post them with city council agendas...but they refuse to. The city is presently being sued for failure to comply with this requirement.

Measure B only requires that “agreements requiring City Council approval” be posted to the website, so they’re **already required to be posted** with the city council agendas. This is the illusion of reform with no real substance.

Vote NO on Measure B.

City claim #4: *Measure B will “Establish term limits for the Mayor and members of the City Council.”*

Reality: Oxnard already has **REAL term limits** (two 4-year terms, then mandatory two-year break). Measure B will actually **WEAKEN** term limits (three terms, then a two-year break) and insert a **LOOPHOLE** allowing some to evade term limits altogether.

OVER 12,000 Oxnard residents signed petitions to put REAL term limits on the ballot. Instead of placing our initiative on the ballot, the city council undermined voters by adopting the citizen measure on January 21, knowing that if voters adopt Measure B, they will **unwittingly override the citizen measure and kill REAL term limits.**

Vote NO on Measure B.

For more information, visit: www.NoOnOxnardMeasureB.com

Paid for by Starr Coalition for Moving Oxnard Forward, a committee supporting Oxnard measures to fix streets, create financial transparency, improve council meeting accessibility, establish term limits and streamline building permits