

**PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO SECTION 2.01
AND ADDITION OF SECTION 2.08 TO THE
ALBANY CITY CHARTER MEASURE BB**

BB

MEASURE BB: Do you approve the modification of amending the Albany City Charter to provide that council members shall receive \$300.00 per month as salary, as is now authorized for general law cities of a similar size by Government Code Section 36516(a)?

YES

NO

**CITY ATTORNEY IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
MEASURE BB**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF COUNCIL
SALARY PROVISION**

A “Yes” vote approves a modification of the City Charter to pay council members, commencing on December 15, 2010, \$300.00 per month instead of \$5.00 a meeting, to a maximum of \$25.00 in any month.

A “No” vote would disapprove of increasing Council member salaries from the \$5.00 per meeting, \$25.00 a month maximum.

Background

When Albany first became a Charter City in 1927, the Charter provided for a Council salary of \$5.00 per meeting to a maximum of \$25.00 per month. This salary provision has remained unchanged since Albany became a Charter City.

In general law cities council member salaries are set in accordance with general laws passed by the State legislature. Over time, the State legislature updates these laws and modifies salary schedules for general law cities according to population.

A general law city the size of Albany is authorized to pay a council member \$300.00 per month. [Government Code Section 36516(a)]

The Proposed Modification

The amendment, if approved by voters, would provide for a council member salary of \$300.00 per month starting December 15, 2010. If the State modifies the amount for general law cities, Albany’s council member’s salary could also be modified.

If this measure is approved, a new stand alone section 2.08 would be enacted to set forth this change in salary. The salary provision language now contained in Section 2.01 would be deleted, effective 2010.

Fiscal Impact

Increase council salary for the five council members from \$25.00 maximum per month to \$300.00 per month.

s/ROBERT ZWEBEN
Albany City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE BB

In order to increase the opportunity for qualified candidates in Albany to consider running for and serving in public office, it is desirable to increase city council compensation. When our charter was adopted in 1929, working for \$5 per meeting and no more the \$25 per month was good compensation. Today, that does not even cover the cost of child care while a council member attends meetings.

The current pay structure biases council membership toward those who are wealthy or retired, which does not represent the diversity of our community.

Measure BB would set council pay per State of California general law for cities. At this time, compensation would be about \$300 per month; it is the same amount that council members in El Cerrito and Emeryville receive under State law. This Charter change would go into effect in 2010 and any changes in the future would be made by the State Legislature.

Serving in city government involves an extraordinary time commitment and personal sacrifice. We can support our elected representatives by compensating them for some of their commitment. We have in the past lost council members for economic reasons. Some have chosen not to run for office for the same reasons. We have an opportunity to show we value our representatives by passing this minimal raise for our elected officials.

Measure BB supports increased opportunity and participation and promotes diversity in city government.

Please vote yes for measure BB.

Thank you.

s/Michael Wallace
Chair, Charter Review Committee

s/Warren R. McCommons
Albany citizen

s/Raymond H. Anderson
Albany citizen

s/Jena Nawy
Albany Resident

s/Dow Tunis
Albany resident