

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
MEASURE BB**

**CITY OF ALBANY MEASURE BB—CHARTER
CHANGE TO INCREASE COUNCIL PAY**

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Every City Council election has had more qualified candidates than positions. None of the six candidates in this election is retired, and none appears to be wealthy. The time commitment required to serve on Council is a much greater barrier than the financial obstacle. Members of the Council work many hours other than in the Monday night meetings. This has been estimated as being more than ten hours per week. Do we really want a member of the City Council who is motivated by working for less than minimum wage instead of community service?

When the City Council recently established caps on the City's contribution to employee health benefits, it didn't apply the same cap to itself. So, our part-time City Council may select a benefit that is better than what it provides to the City's full-time employees. A member of the City Council who selects the most expensive package will cost the taxpayers more than \$17,000 in 2009. And they may receive these benefits even when they have access to health benefits through their primary employment.

Yes, the Charter compensation provision needs to be updated. However, in 2006, the Council rejected a comprehensive approach from the Charter Review Committee, and this year it directed that Committee to limit its considerations to salary. The proposed level of compensation is not excessive, but the current Council has failed to address a difficult issue thoroughly. Vote "No" on this proposal and give the Council another chance to do it right.

s/Allan Maris

Former Albany Mayor

s/Jewel Okawachi

City Council Member

s/Dana Milner

Citizen of the Year 2002

s/Rex Higginbotham

Former Albany Little League President

s/Farid Javandel

City Council Member

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE BB

Albany residents please vote NO on Measure BB, City Council Compensation. It is inappropriate for City Council members to expect \$300 per month for community service in a city that values small town ambience. In 2006, the City Council rejected such an approach from the Charter Review Committee, and this year it directed the Committee to limit its considerations to monthly pay.

For nearly one hundred years Albany has valued community service. Citizens serving on Planning and Zoning, Park and Recreation, Traffic and Safety and other commissions serve without compensation. Some of these commissions actually provide as much beneficial service to the community as the City Council. Council members, Farid Javandel and Jewel Okawachi, have given many years of community service on these commissions and other community organizations and understand this. Mayor Lieber who is pushing this ballot measure is short on community service but long on self service. For many decades City Council members have received \$5 per meeting or \$110 per year plus an option for city health insurance benefits, which will be over \$17000 per year in 2009. The City Council should compensate their commissioners as well as themselves. The \$3600 that each City Council member would receive each year – a total of \$18,000 annually – could be spent better by providing additional community services, more street trees, park amenities, public art, etc. Vote NO on Measure BB. Please maintain Albany's small town ambience and genuine commitment to community service.

s/Allan Maris

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