

**MEASURE U: PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE  
OF THE CITY OF ALAMEDA**

**U** **MEASURE U:** Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to provide that the Auditor have a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license or a related educational degree, and no bond? Such amendment will be accomplished by amending Article IV of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14247 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

**YES**

**NO**

**CITY ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF  
MEASURE U**

The City of Alameda City Charter now requires a candidate for the elected office of Auditor to have at the time of his or her election a degree in accounting or business administration and five years of accounting experience. This measure would amend the Charter to allow a candidate for that office to have a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license rather than a degree in accounting or business administration. The Charter would continue to require five years of accounting experience at the time of the election, whether the candidate has a CPA or a degree in accounting or business administration. This change would not affect the incumbent.

The City of Alameda City Charter now requires a fidelity bond to cover the acts of the elected Auditor. It is no longer common practice to obtain a fidelity bond specific to a single officer of the City. The common practice is to obtain insurance and join a risk-sharing pool. Therefore, the measure would also delete the requirement of a bond covering only the acts of the Auditor.

A “yes” vote would approve the proposed amendment to the City of Alameda City Charter and would allow a person with five years of accounting experience to run for Auditor if he or she has a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license or a degree in accounting or business administration, and would delete the requirement that the City obtain a fidelity bond specific to the office of Auditor.

A “no” vote would disapprove the proposed amendment to the City of Alameda City Charter and only persons with five years of accounting experience and a degree in accounting or business administration could run for Auditor. The requirement that the City obtain a fidelity bond specific to the office of Auditor would be retained.

s/TERESA L. HIGHSMITH  
City Attorney

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U**

The requirements to run for the elected office of Auditor need to be updated. A license as a Certified Public Accountant is appropriate these days as an alternative to what was traditionally required, which is a college degree in accounting or business administration. The Charter requires five years of accounting experience, which won’t change.

Long ago, public servants were required to post a bond to protect their employer. That practice has been superseded. Like other cities, the City of Alameda currently protects itself with insurance and a risk-sharing pool. The Charter needs to reflect current administrative requirements.

We urge you to vote YES on the Measure to update the requirements to run for Auditor and eliminate an obsolete provision requiring the public official to post a bond.

s/Beverly J. Johnson

Mayor

s/Lena L. Tam

Vice-Mayor

s/Frank Matarrese

Alameda City Council Member

s/Marie Gilmore

Alameda City Council Member

s/Doug deHaan

Council Member

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U WAS  
SUBMITTED.**