

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0203

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

July 21, 2026

Approving Regulations Pertaining to Ballot Arguments That Will Be Presented to the Voters in the November 3, 2026 Municipal Election Voter Information Guide

BACKGROUND

- A. The City Council has called for a Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2026, at which one or more measures will be submitted to the voters.
- B. California Elections Code sections 9282 through 9287 authorize the City Council to establish procedures governing ballot arguments and rebuttal arguments for city measures.
- C. Sacramento City Municipal Code Section 1.16.070 establishes procedures for ballot arguments and rebuttal arguments.
- D. It is in the public interest to establish uniform procedures for the preparation, filing, selection, and publication of ballot arguments and rebuttal arguments.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

GENERAL PROVISIONS. Pursuant to Sacramento City Code section 1.16.070, for measures placed on the ballot by the city council, the city council, or a councilmember(s) authorized by the council, charter officer, department director, or an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument for or against any city measure.

For initiative petition measures placed on the ballot, the person(s) filing the initiative petition, along with anyone eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument in favor of the measure. The city council, or any council member(s) authorized by the city council, or charter officer, or department director, or any individual eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may submit an argument against the measure.

SECTION 2.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE POLICY. Pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act, measures shall be translated into all languages required by the County of Sacramento. The Sacramento County Office of Voter Registration and Elections is required to translate measures into Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

The County of Sacramento Office of Voter Registration and Elections shall print and mail official sample ballots containing measures to all voters in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. The Registrar of Voters shall make the official sample ballots in the required languages available at all voting center locations and in the Sacramento County Election Official's office.

SECTION 3.

MISCELLANEOUS. All translations shall be provided by a professionally certified translator procured by the Sacramento County Office of Voter Registration and Elections. Authors may not translate their own arguments.

Primary arguments and rebuttals shall be typewritten in block paragraph style on the City's official Argument Form provided by the Office of the City Clerk. Text shall be of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing. Therefore, authors may not use underlining; ALL CAPS; italics; bold print; dashes (--); bullets (); stars () or other forms of emphasis; multiple punctuation (e.g. "....." Or "-----" or "!!!!!!!!!!"); emojis or emoticons. All paragraphs will be left justified.

There is no maximum number of paragraphs for the written arguments.

Arguments containing endorsements shall be accompanied by a written authorization letter(s) from the person(s) and/or organization(s) offering the endorsement at the time the argument is submitted. Letters must be signed and dated. Arguments containing the name of a person other than the author shall be accompanied by an original letter from the named person granting permission to use their name in this manner. Letters must be signed and dated. Arguments containing the name of any organization must be accompanied by an original letter from the named organization signed and dated by an officer authorized to do so by the organization.

Initial arguments shall not exceed 300 words in length. Rebuttal arguments, if applicable, shall not exceed 250 words in length.

The standard word count as provided in the Elections Code shall be used. All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, "City of Sacramento" shall be counted as one word. Regularly hyphenated words appearing in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the United States within 10 years preceding the election shall be counted as one word. Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word. Words in statements containing hyphens that are not found in the dictionary as described above shall be counted as individual words. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word. Dates, monetary amounts, and whole numbers containing digits shall only be counted as one word. (Ex 01/01/1900, \$100.00 or 100). Telephone numbers, email addresses, and internet addresses shall be counted as one word.

SECTION 4.

Primary and rebuttal arguments that are not in compliance with the formatting guidelines shall be reformatted by the City Clerk. Primary and rebuttal arguments that exceed the allotted word count shall be shortened by removing words from the end of the argument text until the word limit is reached.

SECTION 5.

Rebuttals to primary arguments are permissible only when primary arguments in support and in opposition of a measure are submitted.