

**FULL TEXT OF THE
THE CITY OF TEHAMA
MEASURE N**

The City Clerk and City Treasurer shall no longer be elective officials in the City of Tehama. From and after January 1, 2025, for both City Clerk and City Treasurer, or upon an earlier vacancy in the office of City Clerk or City Treasurer, the City Clerk and City Treasurer shall be appointed by the City Council. The City Clerk and City Treasurer so appointed shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Council and, notwithstanding California Government Code section 36502 to the contrary, are not required to be a resident or elector in the City. The City Council may by Ordinance vest in the City Administrator its authority to appoint the City Clerk and City Treasurer.

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**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY COUNSEL
THE CITY OF TEHAMA
MEASURE N**

State law requires general law cities like Tehama to have city clerks and city treasurers.

The City Treasurer is responsible for the deposit and handling of city funds, making city payments and preparation of reports regarding city expenditures and fund balances. The City Clerk publishes notices, takes oaths, maintains City Council minutes and other records of the City, and is the City's elections official.

Pursuant to state law, there are two qualifications for the positions of elected City Treasurer and City Clerk: (i) the individual is required to be a resident of the city, and (ii) the individual must be at least 18 years old. Persons elected to the posts of City Treasurer or City Clerk, however, do not need to possess any professional skills or experience otherwise necessary to competently and responsibly discharge the duties of these offices. State law does not permit cities to add qualifications to these elected positions.

California law allows the City Treasurer and the City Clerk posts to be elected or appointed. If the posts are elected, the City Treasurer and the City Clerk serve for a term of four years. Presently, the Tehama City Treasurer and City Clerk positions are elected posts. Most cities in California, however, have voted to transform the posts into appointive positions: (1) to ensure that the persons discharging the duties of the offices have the professional skills and experience necessary to competently and responsibly discharge the duties of the positions; (2) to ensure that those serving in the positions are providing the level of service as required of city employees, generally; and, (3) to save money by eliminating elections costs related to those positions.

MEASURE N. The Tehama City Council placed Measure N on the ballot to allow voters to decide whether to make the City Treasurer and the City Clerk appointed positions. If a majority of voters approve Measure N, the City Council will appoint a person to the office at the expiration of the City Treasurer's and City Clerk's terms.

A "yes" vote allows the Tehama City Council to appoint the City Treasurer and the City Clerk.

A "no" vote maintains the City Treasurer and City Clerk as elected positions.

Dated: July 25, 2024

s/ Gregory P. Einhorn
Gregory P. Einhorn
Tehama City Attorney



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE N

Measure N gives voters an opportunity to step up the professional requirements for certain city officials – city clerk and city treasurer.

The responsibilities of the positions of city clerk and city treasurer have become increasingly technical in recent years. State law does not require qualifications for elected positions other than being a registered voter in the city. By making these appointed positions, the city council – all of whom are local residents elected by the voters – can establish skill and training requirements. The council can then select the best qualified people from a pool of applicants.

It is difficult for voters to know if elected clerks and treasurers are doing a good job serving the city, and even more difficult to hold them accountable. The city council is in a good position to observe appointed officials' performance and hold them accountable.

Most cities have voted in favor of making these positions appointed instead of elected. The City of Tehama should allow its city council to set professional qualifications and appoint the best qualified people as city clerk and city treasurer.

s/ Robert Mitchell

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