

# Argument Against Measure U

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AUG 16 2012

CITY OF BERKELEY  
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## MEASURE U IS BAD FOR BERKELEY

Measure U would shift funds away from essential services at a time when budget shortfalls have already forced the City to make huge cuts. It would cost \$1-2 million/year or more to comply with the new requirements and create a new commission with costly unlimited access to legal counsel (Section 1.30.440).

It would create a new Commission with unprecedented power and no accountability.

And the Measure is not necessary. Berkeley already has an Open Government Ordinance and commission with a similar purpose.

### The new Commission would have unreasonable power, accountable to no one. It could:

- Remove and replace commissioners, normally a function of *elected* councilmembers. (1.30.400)
- Take court actions affecting city staff, boards and commissions. (1.30.480)
- Hire costly outside counsel – at taxpayer expense – and sue the City, councilmembers, volunteer commissioners, or staff, based on commission decisions, complaints, meetings procedures, or other requirements of the measure. (1.30.440; 1.30.480)

### Gridlock would result from laborious new requirements to:

- Assign staff to comply with every citizen request, regardless of staff's other duties or the urgency of the request. Under state law, cities may balance one person's request with the broader community interest. (1.30.340)
- Provide written reports of all meetings – even one-on-one informal phone and email contacts – with any member of local, regional, or state bodies. (1.30.210)
- Allow anyone to place items on agendas of Berkeley's boards/commissions with a small number of unverified signatures. (1.30.080 C)

Creating mountains of paperwork, a maze of requirements, and a commission with unprecedented powers is no way to improve government responsiveness. These provisions – creating so much unproductive work – would waste resources and compromise essential service delivery.

**No other city has such extreme and expensive provisions. SAY "NO" TO MEASURE U.**

1. Loni Hancock, State Senator
2. Linda Maio, Vice Mayor
3. Weldon Rucker, former City Manager
4. Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
5. Sherry Smith, President, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville