

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U

DON'T FALL FOR THEIR FEAR OF CHANGE

Don ~~VOTE~~ YES ON MEASURE U

Don Would you trust a banker to write banking regulations? Claiming that the existing ordinance makes Sunshine unnecessary does just that. Sunlight is the only antidote to government secrecy.

Myth: *It's unnecessary, "Berkeley already has an Open Government Ordinance."*

Fact: There is no enforcement under the existing ordinance to hold City officials accountable for violating citizens' rights.

Myth: *"U" takes money from essential services.*

Fact: Freedom of information is an essential service. Projected costs are inflated and do not account for the costs of the existing ordinance, or the savings from putting records online.

Myth: *Moving meetings to appropriately-sized venues disrupts the City.*

Fact: "U" requires advance planning so that citizens won't be locked out and silenced.

Myth: *"No other city has such extreme and expensive provisions".*

Fact: Making existing open government laws enforceable, "U" will be the strongest ordinance of its kind.

Myth: *"U" will lead to costly court battles.*

Fact: The Sunshine Ordinance has checks and balances to prevent lawsuits.

Myth: *Responding to "every citizen request" for public information is an unfair burden.*

Fact: California law already requires that every citizen's request be answered.

"U" requires an explanation for withholding records.

Myth: *Everyone will have to write reports even for informal contacts.*

Fact: Reports are only required for meetings at which someone is officially representing Berkeley.

Measure U removes the maze that citizens face obtaining information, guarantees rights at public meetings and eliminates paper.

"YES" ON U

www.berkeley sunshine.org

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AUG 23 2012
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