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San Diego Voters Approve Measure D
Strengthening the Independence of the City's Ethics Commission

San Diego, CA – The November 2024 Election results are certified, and Measure D passed overwhelmingly.

San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott initiated a proposal to amend the City Charter to strengthen the independence of the City's Ethics Commission. Working with Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava, Sharon Spivak, Executive Director of the Commission, and the Ethics Commissioners, the proposal was introduced as Measure D on the November ballot. The measure improves the Ethics Commission's ability to hold city officials, candidates, political committees, and lobbyists accountable. The measure's passage, with 72% of the vote, is a clear sign that voters supported our work to strengthen independent government oversight.

"This good governance measure empowers the Ethics Commission to control its investigations and resources without political interference," said **Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava**. "To regulate fairly and effectively, the Commission must be independent of those it regulates."

"November 5 was Independence Day for the City Ethics Commission," **City Attorney Mara Elliott affirmed**. "No longer will those who are regulated by the Commission have control over its funding, its procedures, or its ability to do its work. Today, we confirm that victory and celebrate the fact the Ethics Commission will have the authority and resources it needs to effectively serve as the City's ethics watchdog.

Joining Elliott and LaCava in drafting the argument in favor of Measure D was Caridad Sanchez, Commissioner of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, and Kim Knox, President of the League of Women Voters. No argument in opposition was submitted.

A separate Measure proposed by City Attorney Elliott to increase the amount of penalties the Commission can charge was passed by the Council in October 2024. In early 2025, the City Council will consider updates to the Municipal Code based on recommendations of Spivak and the Ethics Commission.

Read the Ballot Measure D text [here](#).

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Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava represents San Diego's First Council District, which includes the communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and a portion of University City west of the 1-5.