



September 2, 2020

The Honorable Kathryn Barger
 Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
 500 West Temple St., Suite 869
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: Opposition to County Measure J, the Community Investment and Alternatives to Incarceration Minimum County Budget Allocation

Dear Supervisor Barger,

The Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities® (Division), representing 86 cities in the county, opposes Measure J, the Community Reinvestment and Housing Stabilization Charter Amendment, which will appear on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

We find the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) intent to address social justice and equity in Los Angeles County laudable and worth the attention of every local government in the county. However, we oppose Measure J due to significant procedural and fiscal concerns, as follows:

- 1. The development of Measure J was rushed and lacked transparency and stakeholder engagement.** Only one stakeholder drafted Measure J, without time for other stakeholders to fully review its impacts or engage in a comprehensive dialogue before the measure was approved for the ballot. Similarly, there was insufficient opportunity for the general public to participate in the debate regarding this important issue.
- 2. The Board of Supervisors has existing authority to prioritize its unrestricted funds.** Like city councils, the Board of Supervisors has existing authority to spend its discretionary funds according to its policy priorities through an annual budget process. Seeking to budget by voter initiative, as we have learned in the state budget process, surrenders the flexibility to modify future budgets to accommodate changing priorities or exigent circumstances.
- 3. Measure J's fiscal implications have not been analyzed.** Municipalities and county residents have no way to assess the charter amendment's positive or negative impacts on existing county services, because an analysis was not developed to fully understand Measure J's fiscal or policy impacts.

We know our contributions bring value to these important policy discussions, and we would like to engage with the BOS on issues of equity and social justice in our county. Our past support of county initiatives like the Safe, Clean Water Measure (Measure W), the Homeless Services Initiative (Measure H), and the Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure (A), prove that when the county and cities work together, not only are we successful in gaining the trust of voters to advance major policy efforts, we can create meaningful changes in Los Angeles County.

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For these reasons, the Los Angeles County Division opposes Measure J.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blanca Pacheco', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Blanca Pacheco
President, Los Angeles County Division, League of California Cities
Mayor, City of Downey

Cc: Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, markridley-thomas@bos.lacounty.gov
Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov