

# **How to Submit Arguments and Rebuttals For and Against Measures**



## **Looking for additional information that wasn't in this guide?**

For additional information, please contact:  
Mono County Elections Department  
74 School Street, Annex I  
P.O. Box 237  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
Telephone (760) 932-5537

Office hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays

This guidebook has been prepared by the Mono County Elections Department and is intended to provide guidance and assistance to those wishing to submit a ballot argument or rebuttal to a ballot argument. This guidebook is not intended to provide legal advice. Persons wishing to submit ballot arguments or rebuttals to ballot arguments must bear full responsibility for conforming to the laws regarding such arguments and rebuttals.  
(References: Elections Code Sections 312, 317, 329, 350, 9100-9190, 9300-9606)

## Who can Submit a Direct Ballot Argument?

- The board of supervisors or a member or members of the board.
- The individual voter, or bona fide association of citizens, or combination of voters and associations, who are the bona fide sponsors or proponents of the measure.
- Bona fide associations of citizens.
- Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure.

## What is required?

Ballot arguments must be:

- Typed or printed
- 300 words or less
- accompanied by a signed statement that the argument is true and correct
- signed by at least one, but no more than 5 proponents

The following statement shall be printed on the front cover or on the heading of the first page of the printed arguments: "Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the author(s)".

All arguments and rebuttals must be checked for correct spelling and punctuation, as the elections office will not edit any of the material submitted. The content of the ballot argument or rebuttal will be printed exactly as submitted.

Each argument shall be titled "*Argument in Favor of Measure \_\_\_\_\_*" or "*Argument Against Measure \_\_\_\_\_*".

## Contents and Word Count Guidelines

Primary arguments may be up to 300 words in length and rebuttals no more than 250 words. Words used in the title are not counted when determining the length of any argument.

Punctuation is not counted.

All geographical names are considered as one word. (County of Mono = one word; Town of Mammoth Lakes = one word)

Each abbreviation for a word, phrase or expression shall be counted as one word (CPA = one word)

Dates consisting of a combination of words and numerical digits shall be counted as two words (July 4, 2017 = two words). Dates consisting of only a combination of numerical digits shall be counted as one word (7/4/2017 = one word).

Digital numbers are counted as one word (1,20 = one word). However, written numbers count as one word each (One hundred twenty = three words).

Commonly hyphenated words found in any generally available dictionary are counted as one word.

## Public Examination Period

Not less than 10 calendar days before the county elections official submits the official election materials for printing, the county elections official shall make a copy of the materials available for public examination in the elections office. Contact the Mono County Elections Department for that date on your particular measure.

Any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted. A peremptory writ of mandate or injunction shall be issued only upon clear and convincing proof that the material in question is false, misleading, and that the issuance of the writ or injunction will not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official election materials as provided by law.

## Ballot Argument Selection

One argument in favor and one argument in opposition to any measure will be printed in the sample ballot pamphlet. If more than one argument for or more than one argument against any county measure is submitted to the county elections official within the time prescribed, the county elections official shall select one of the arguments in favor and one of the arguments against the measure for printing and distribution to the voters. In selecting the argument, the county elections official shall give preference and priority in the order named to the arguments of the following:

- (1) The board of supervisors or a member or members of the board.
- (2) The individual voter, or bona fide association of citizens, or combination of voters and associations, who are the bona fide sponsors or proponents of the measure.
- (3) Bona fide associations of citizens.
- (4) Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure.

In order to enable the county elections official to determine whether it qualifies as a bona fide association of citizens, an organization or association submitting an argument for or against a county measure shall submit with its argument a copy of one of the following:

- Its articles of incorporation, articles of association, partnership documents, bylaws, or similar documents.
- Letterhead containing the name of the organization and its principal officers.
- If the organization or association is a primarily formed committee established to support or oppose the measure, its statement of organization filed pursuant to Section 84101 of the Government Code.

In selecting an argument from among bona fide associations of citizens, the county elections official shall not consider the type of documentation submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) or the form of the association.

## Rebuttal Arguments

When the county elections official has selected the arguments for and against the measure which will be printed and distributed to the voters, he or she shall send copies of the argument in favor of the measure to the contact person for the authors of the argument against and copies of the argument against the measure to the contact person for the authors of the argument in favor of the measure.

The authors may then prepare and submit rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words in length. The rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the county elections official not more than 10 days after the filing date for filing the direct arguments. Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments. Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut and shall be titled "*Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure \_\_\_\_\_*" or "*Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure \_\_\_\_\_*".

## Time for Submitting Arguments

The California Elections Code provides that the county elections official shall establish deadlines for the submission of arguments and rebuttals based upon the time reasonably necessary to allow for the 10 day required public examination period, and to prepare, print and distribute sample ballot pamphlets. Each measure is treated as a separate election. The county elections official, based on the date of submission and qualification, will determine the deadlines and due dates. The final hour for submission of arguments and/or rebuttals is always 5:00 p.m. on the final date set.

## Withdrawal of Arguments or Rebuttals

Whenever any ballot argument for or against any measure submitted to the voters for approval is authorized, proponents of the measure may withdraw such argument at any time prior to and including the final date fixed for filing arguments.

# Statement that Argument is True and Correct

## Elections Code §9600

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The undersigned proponent(s) or author(s) of the:

\_\_\_ Argument in Favor of  
(300 words or less)

\_\_\_ Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of  
(250 words or less)

\_\_\_ Argument Against  
(300 words or less)

\_\_\_ Rebuttal to Argument Against  
(250 words or less)

Measure \_\_\_\_\_ to be voted on at the \_\_\_\_\_ Election,  
Title of the Election  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ to be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ hereby state  
Election Jurisdiction Date  
that such argument is true and correct to the best of \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge and belief:  
his/hers/their

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1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/type  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Title to appear below name (optional)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/type  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Title to appear below name (optional)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/type  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Title to appear below name (optional)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/type  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Title to appear below name (optional)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/type  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Title to appear below name (optional)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Name _____ Address _____ _____ Telephone # _____
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# Authorization for Another Person or Persons to Sign Rebuttal Arguments

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize the follow person(s) to sign the Rebuttal  
(print name of FILER of argument)

Argument to the Argument \_\_\_\_\_ in favor of or \_\_\_\_\_ against Measure \_\_\_\_\_ for the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Election to be held \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Date of election)

One or more people who signed the argument may be replaced with different people to sign the rebuttal:

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ to sign instead of \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

5. \_\_\_\_\_ to sign instead of \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

6. \_\_\_\_\_ to sign instead of \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

7. \_\_\_\_\_ to sign instead of \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

8. \_\_\_\_\_ to sign instead of \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name of rebuttal signer) (print name of argument signer)

Signature of Filer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_