



Ballot Measures-B

B City of Huntington Beach, Public Operation of Library

Shall the Ordinance to Amend the Huntington Beach Municipal Code by Adding New Section 2.30.100, Entitled "Public Operation of Library Services" be adopted?

What your vote means

YES	NO
A "Yes" vote is a vote in favor of imposing restrictions on the management of the City's library services.	A "No" vote is a vote against these restrictions and would allow the City more flexibility in managing library services in the event of potential future fiscal challenges.

For and against

FOR	AGAINST
<p>Patricia Singer President, Board of Trustees, Ocean View School District</p> <p>Rev. Bob Ewing Local Pastor, Huntington Beach</p> <p>Paula A. Schaefer, Esq. Huntington Beach Attorney</p> <p>Jacqueline Zanderbergen-Brodt Huntington Beach Business Woman</p> <p>Martha Elliott President, Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library</p>	<p>Patrick J. Burns Mayor</p> <p>Gricelda Aide Larrea Van Der Mark Council Woman</p> <p>Casey McKeon Mayor Pro Tem</p>



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**Full Text of Measure B
City of Huntington Beach**

The People of the City of Huntington Beach do hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1:

New Section 2.30.100 of the Huntington Beach Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

2.30.100 Public Operation of Library Services

No public library owned or operated by the City as of March 19, 2024, or hereafter owned or operated by the City, shall be sold, leased, exchanged or otherwise transferred or disposed of, nor shall any service provided by the Huntington Beach Public Library as of March 19, 2024, be operated or managed by a private contractor that employs library staff to achieve cost savings and/or any proposal that would change the wholesale management of any Huntington Beach library unless: (1) such service was outsourced to a private organization or operated pursuant to a managed services agreement with a private entity during any period from January 1, 2018 through March 19, 2024; (2) the City declares a fiscal emergency pursuant to Article XIII C, Section 2(b) of the California Constitution; or (3) it is authorized by the affirmative votes of at least a majority of the total membership of the City Council and by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the electors voting on such proposition at a general or special election at which such proposition is submitted.

Any contract to change the wholesale management or outsource library management and operations services to a private contractor entered into between March 19, 2024, and the adoption of this Section 2.30.100, shall be considered void or shall be immediately canceled to the extent permitted by law.

**Impartial Analysis
City of Huntington Beach
Measure B**

The proposed Huntington Beach Municipal Code amendment adds a new Section 2.30.100 to the Huntington Beach Municipal Code entitled "Public Operation of Library Services." This ballot measure if adopted, would impose restrictions on the operation and management of public libraries in Huntington Beach, including the Huntington Beach Public Library. If enacted, this measure would restrict the City's ability to enter into agreements related to the library services and may restrict the City's options for addressing fiscal challenges related to the library system.

This measure allows the City to sell, lease, transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of any libraries owned and operated by the City and allows operation or management by a private contractor in a fiscal emergency under Article XIII C, Section 2(b) of the California Constitution or a majority vote of the City Council and by a majority of voters at a general or special election.

A "Yes" vote is a vote in favor of imposing restrictions on the management of the City's library services. A "No" vote is a vote against these restrictions and would allow the City more flexibility in managing library services in the event of potential future fiscal challenges.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by petition signed by the requisite number of voters.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure B. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the elections official's office at (714) 536-5227 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.



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Argument in Favor of Measure B

Vote YES on Measure B to keep our libraries public!

Since 1909, the Huntington Beach library system has provided more than just reading materials. Our libraries serve as cherished community, cultural, and social hubs for many families and residents every year.

Now, local politicians want to mislead us into thinking that library privatization will solve the City's financial deficit, which they created, and then use our tax dollars to provide economic subsidies to their corporate donors.

It's wrong and unethical, and we will not be fooled.

Your YES vote ensures that residents, not politicians, have the final say on keeping our libraries public by requiring any proposed privatization to be approved by the voters.

Your YES vote ensures students' continued access to education, job training, and career opportunities at our public libraries.

Your YES vote enhances our local economy, the well-being of our children, and the safety of our community.

Local politicians' efforts to privatize our public libraries begs the question: what next City institution will they sell to for-profit corporations? City Hall? Our beaches and parks? Our police and fire departments?

Voting YES sends a strong message to politicians and for-profit corporations: our public libraries are **NOT** for sale.

Simply put, our libraries benefit every resident, are a resource to our entire community, and must remain public and available to all.

That is why thousands of parents, educators, librarians, and community members humbly ask that you vote **YES on Measure B**.

s/ Patricia Singer
President, Board of Trustees, Ocean View School District

s/ Rev. Bob Ewing
Local Pastor, Huntington Beach

s/ Paula A. Schaefer, Esq.
Huntington Beach Attorney

s/ Jacqueline Zanderbergen-Brodt
Huntington Beach Business Woman

s/ Martha Elliott
President, Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure B

Vote NO to protect taxpayers and maintain the fiscal integrity of the City.

Huntington Beach libraries will always be open and free for the public to use and enjoy. Proponents falsely claim this measure is about privatizing libraries. They are just trying to fool you.

Measure B exempts libraries from the fiscal management of the elected City Council, giving the Library Department and Budget a special status exempt from fiscal oversight.

If this measure passes, your elected representatives will be prevented from making decisions that are in the best interests of our libraries and our community.

Vote NO to prevent a budget crisis.

Vote NO to protect vital public safety and city services.

Vote NO on Measure B to protect taxpayers and secure a strong future for our local libraries.

s/ Patrick J. Burns
Mayor

s/ Gricelda Aide Larrea Van Der Mark
Council Woman

s/ Casey McKeon
Mayor Pro Tem



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Argument Against Measure B

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure B

The City Charter provides the process for the fiscal administration of the City. Each year the City Manager and the City Council develop a budget that protects the City's financial health. If this measure passes, the Charter authority of the City Council to make financial budget decisions will be severely limited as to libraries. The City will not have financial oversight to manage or operate our public libraries in the best interest of the City. Limiting City Council ability to budget could be catastrophic to the City's financial solvency. We must protect our City from the special interest of a few that seek to control how the City manages its budget and library operations.

VOTE YES on Measure B to Keep Our Libraries Public

We strongly urge a **YES vote on Measure B** to preserve our right as Huntington Beach voters to have a say in what happens to our cherished public libraries.

The proposed Code amendment would require that a fiscal emergency be declared or a vote of electorate before the City Council could establish policy direction to save money with regard to libraries. The City Council must retain the ability to pursue all options to manage our libraries in order to slow or prevent budget crisis.

As fiduciaries of the taxpayers ourselves, we remind the opponents that the American government was founded on a system of checks and balances.

The Council is elected by the residents of Huntington Beach to make these financial decisions that are in the best interest of the community. By taking this budgetary discretion away from the City Council, the ability to prevent a budget crisis by saving money on library functions will be eliminated.

Measure B gives voters another tool to limit government overreach and prevent corruption.

By voting NO on this measure, the people of the City of Huntington Beach will preserve the City Council's ability to protect our City budget and preserve the City Council's decision making authority to manage our libraries as necessary.

Opponents want you to believe Measure B will severely limit the City Council's abilities to protect the City's financial health. **It does not.**

Protect the Fiscal Health of the City: Vote "NO" to stop the power grab of the City's finances by special interest groups.

We remind the opponents to reread Measure B's language. The proposed Code change is narrowly and specifically written in response to their efforts to privatize the City's public libraries. The opponents' sudden concern about the City's fiscal health is questionable; they are responsible for the City's current multi-million-dollar deficit. They should be looking for ways to cut expenses while avoiding the privatization of necessary services for our community, such as libraries, police, and fire departments.

s/ Patrick J. Burns
Mayor

Where was this financial hand-wringing when they decided to launch multiple expensive lawsuits on issues designed to drag the City into unnecessary legal disputes? True financial stewardship requires restraint and accountability. Measure B creates a backstop to prevent misuse of City resources by private for-profit interests.

s/ Gricelda Aide Larrea Van Der Mark
Council Woman

We encourage you to read beyond the blatant disinformation in the opponents' argument. Ask yourself: why would City officials oppose greater government accountability to their taxpayers?

s/ Casey McKeon
Mayor Pro Tem

Vote YES on Measure B

s/ Lorraine Prinsky
Trustee, Coast Community College District

s/ Gina Clayton-Tarvin
Trustee, Ocean View School District