

# ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE L

## Strengthen our Democracy

Democracy is on the ballot in Richmond. To ensure the “will of the majority,” our mayor and city council members should be elected with support from a majority of Richmond voters. Measure L will put in place Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) to ensure that majority winners are decided in a single election and that all our voices are heard.

**Instant Run-Off Voting** is used throughout the US and in California because it strengthens democracy. With IRV, you rank your favorite candidate first, and you can rank other candidates, too, as your backup choices for the “instant runoff.” You don’t have to worry about spoiler candidates. It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3.

**Higher voter turnout.** Having one election in November when more voters are at the polls maximizes voter turnout. Deciding elections in a separate low-turnout primary election would reduce turnout by 20% to 40%. Many fewer people would have a chance to decide their representatives.

**Save money with one election.** Every election not in November costs Richmond taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, money that could be spent on public safety, education, repairing our roads, or other essential city services. It also costs candidates more money to run in a second election, undermining campaign finance reform.

**Diversity and coalition-building.** IRV creates a strong, more diverse group of candidates from which voters can choose. Candidates can use the rankings to win voters’ second and third choices and build coalitions. That also makes the elections less negative.

It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3. IRV is simple for voters. Even elementary school children have used it to elect school officers without problems.

Each Argument may be up to 300 words.

*Election Code 9162, 9315*

The undersigned Proponent(s) or Author(s) hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

**Name** Eduardo Martinez

**Title** Mayor, City of Richmond

**Signature:** Eduardo Martinez

**Name** Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Action

**Title** Director of Contra Costa County

**Signature :** David Sharples

**Name** Service Employees International Union Local 1021

**Title** Richmond Chapter President

**Signature:** Gregory Everetts, Jr.

**Name**

**Title**

**Signature**

**Name** Fair Vote Action

**Title** Authorized Representative

**Signature:** Catherine Skinner

**Election Date:** November 5, 2024 **Measure:**