

Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument in Favor of Measure M

Please vote “Yes” on the proposition to fly the Earth flag at the top of Arcata city-owned flagpoles. This applies to the flags displayed at the Arcata Plaza, City Hall and Community Center.

Why should we display the Earth flag at the top, above the American and the California flags?

It is logical. The Earth includes our nation, which includes our state. The order on the flagpole should reflect that reality.

Flags are symbols. Accelerating climate change threatens all life on Earth, so we need to make the health of the Earth our first priority and take meaningful action to slow and reverse global warming. We can only have a healthy nation if we have a healthy Earth. Let’s remind ourselves of this focus by flying the Earth flag on top.

Today, there is an extreme excess of nationalism, which advances policies that promote armed confrontation rather than diplomacy and peace, prolonging and expanding conventional conflicts and increasing the likelihood of nuclear war.

Flying the Earth flag at the top in no way disrespects the United States. We can still proudly fly the Stars and Stripes, but putting the Earth flag on top expresses our intention to prioritize a healthy Earth above nationalism.

Our local Chapter 56 of Veterans for Peace has endorsed this measure.

People often ask, “Isn’t it illegal?” The Flag Code states that the US flag should fly above other flags, but according to the Congressional Research Service, the code is merely advisory and has no enforcement measures or penalties.

As citizens of Arcata, let’s speak out to prioritize a healthy and peaceful Earth.

Please vote to Put the Earth on Top!

/s/ David Meserve

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