

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

Rebuttal Argument against Measure M

General laws cities are required to follow state law. The State Constitution article XI section 7 defines the rules for general law cities. California Government code 436 states that the National flag has “first honor.” (On Top) This provision covers state municipalities. Arcata is a general law city; therefore, it must follow the law.

The earth flag is appropriately placed now. The US flag was established on June 14, 1777 by the Continental Congress. What is the Earth Flag’s establishment authority?

Ballot measures without implementing provisions require you to follow the letter of the specific measure. The city council is not able to make adjustments. In our view, you cannot change the order of flags for half-staff ceremonies. That provision is just not noted in the measure.

Flags in the city would be inconsistent. The post office and fire station have different rules.

California Military and Veterans code section 617 states:

“No other flag or pennant shall be placed above...the Flag of the United States.”

The measure takes away from the emotional energy needed to make very tough decisions about climate change and the Nation’s place in the world. Climate change is the problem of the millennium. How we handle the sacrifices needed to save future generations from calamity is paramount. Furthermore, we need to discuss challenges such as the excesses of corporate capitalism, health care inequity, social Justice and many other issues.

Vote no on Measure M it is a solution in search of a problem.

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/s/ Laura Garrett

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236 words