

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

Argument Against Measure M

Vote NO on Measure M. The McKinley statue does not belong as the centerpiece of the Arcata Plaza, the same place that served as the auction site for enslaved Indigenous children, women, and men; and for the collection of state bounties for Indigenous body parts during the mid to late 1800s. In October 2016, the City of Arcata recognized that it was founded and is built upon lands first inhabited by the Wiyot People and thus adopted the Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation which states:

“Whereas the City of Arcata is dedicated to opposing systemic racism towards all people including Indigenous People in the United States; and
Whereas the City of Arcata understands that all government entities, organizations and other public institutions should change their policies and practices to better reflect the experiences of American Indian People and uplift our country's indigenous roots, history and contributions.”

McKinley represents the belief in Manifest Destiny that was used to justify the dispossession, enslavement, and genocide of the Indigenous Peoples of this continent and abroad. McKinley presided over the imperialistic colonization of Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guam, the Philippine Islands, and Hawai'i. William McKinley's policies led to the loss of land rights, court, and governments of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole Nations.

On February 12th, 2018 the Wiyot Tribal Council voted to have the McKinley statue removed. After months of public input and research, on February 21st, 2018, the Arcata City Council voted 4 to 1 to remove the McKinley statue.

The Arcata Plaza is the heart of our community where Indigenous Peoples and people of color are constantly reminded of the symbolism that the statue represents. Vote for compassion, empathy, respect, and dignity for the Indigenous community members and their relatives. Stand with Indigenous Peoples. Vote NO on Measure M.

/s/ Paul J. Pitino, Arcata City Councilmember

/s/ Nathaniel A. McGuigan, Co-Chair, M.E.Ch.A. de Humboldt State University Chapter

/s/ Emely Velez, Lead Organizer, Centro del Pueblo

/s/ Sharrone Blanck, President, NAACP Eureka Branch

/s/ Robert J. Hepburn, Coordinating Committee Member, Veterans for Peace, Inc., Chapter 56