Rebuttal to Argument In Favor of Measure L

We agree that California’s pension system needs reform. Unfortunately, Measure L does not achieve its stated goals and could cause irreparable harm. The Almanac said it best: “Initiative Not Real Pension Reform” (tiny.cc/7nyeg).

Measure L threatens Menlo Park’s finances and services:

- Read the impartial analysis: Menlo Park could be dropped by the state retirement plan, and thus incur lower investment returns and higher administrative costs. It’s reckless to take such a gamble with our finances.

- The great services – libraries, parks, recreation facilities, and youth and senior programs – that help make Menlo Park unique could be in jeopardy if the talented employees that Menlo Park historically attracts go elsewhere.

- Legal costs will be borne by Menlo Park taxpayers.

Measure L is misleading and does not achieve promised savings:

- Measure L does nothing to reduce current expenditures since it would only apply to future hires. Savings would not begin to accrue for fourteen years; the full benefit would take thirty or more. (tiny.cc/190cs). In contrast, City Council’s solution created immediate savings: it requires all non-safety employees to share health care costs and, if contribution levels rise, pension cost increases.

- By changing the pension rate instead of raising pay in 2007, City Council saved Menlo Park approximately $200,000 (tiny.cc/190cs). Measure L proponents take that rate increase out of context, ignoring other components of compensation.

- Measure L does not address rapidly escalating police salaries and benefits.

Don’t be fooled. Measure L is not the solution. Get the facts:

www.NoOnMenloParkMeasureL.org

Vote NO on Measure L.
/s/ Gail L. Slocum, Esq. August 5, 2010
Former Mayor

/s/ Jim Tooley August 8, 2010
Chair, MP Parks & Recreation Commission

/s/ Carolyn Clarke August 8, 2010
MP Housing Commission

/s/ Michelle Wangberg August 8, 2010
MP Library Commissioner

/s/ Kelly Fergusson, PhD August 8, 2010
MP City Councilwoman, Former MP Mayor