

July 7, 2026

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council:

Re: Agenda Items 7-A through 7-D – Proposed Charter Amendments and Ballot Measures

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers,

Alameda Citizens Task Force respectfully urges the Council to postpone consideration of Agenda Items 7-A through 7-D, and defer placing these measures before the voters until the City has provided a more deliberate, transparent, and legally defensible public process.

The Alameda City Charter is not an ordinary policy document. It functions as the City's constitution. Amendments should therefore be considered only after the public has received clear notice of the specific changes under consideration and a meaningful opportunity to evaluate their legal and practical consequences.

Although the Council possesses the authority to propose Charter amendments, that authority carries a corresponding obligation to ensure that the legislative process satisfies the fundamental principles of transparency, informed public participation, and procedural fairness. When government proposes permanent structural changes to its governing framework, the public process should *exceed* the minimum legal requirements rather than merely satisfy them.

Several of the proposed Charter amendments appear to have developed through an accelerated internal staff process that has not afforded residents sufficient time to review the legal ramifications of each proposal. The agenda materials describe these measures as routine updates or administrative improvements, yet several provisions would substantially alter the allocation of governmental authority, public oversight, and voter protections. Characterizing significant structural revisions as "housekeeping" risks obscuring their true legal effect.

Moreover, presenting numerous Charter revisions simultaneously places an unreasonable burden on the electorate. Even if each proposal is individually lawful, the cumulative effect is to require voters to evaluate multiple fundamental governmental changes within a compressed timeframe. Sound public administration favors incremental reform supported by extensive public engagement rather than wholesale revision under ordinary legislative scheduling.

ACT is also concerned that the Council has not adequately demonstrated *why* these amendments require immediate placement on the November ballot. Charter amendments are intended to endure for decades. A delay of several months to permit additional study, public workshops, and independent legal review would not prejudice the City's interests but would materially improve public confidence in the outcome.

From a legal perspective, California courts have long recognized that open government depends not only upon technical compliance with statutory notice requirements but also upon ensuring that citizens receive meaningful notice sufficient to understand the matters upon which their elected representatives intend to act. When **significant governmental restructuring** is proposed, transparency requires more than publication of agenda packets shortly before a meeting. It requires a process that genuinely facilitates informed civic participation.

Accordingly, Alameda Citizens Task Force respectfully requests that the Council:

1. Withdraw Agenda Items 7-A through 7-D from consideration at this time;
2. Direct the City Attorney to prepare a comprehensive **legal analysis explaining the practical effect of each proposed Charter amendment**;
3. Conduct a series of **publicly noticed community workshops devoted exclusively to Charter reform**;
4. Allow sufficient time for written public comment before any future vote to place Charter amendments on the ballot; and

5. Consider each substantive Charter amendment independently rather than as part of broader omnibus measures whenever practicable.

The legitimacy of our City's governing Charter depends as much upon the fairness of the amendment process as upon the substance of the amendments themselves. Alameda residents deserve an open, deliberate, and transparent process before being asked to approve permanent changes to the City's foundational governing document.

Respectfully submitted,
Alameda Citizens Task Force

From: [Reyla Graber](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do not approve Charter Changes Tuesday- please
Date: Monday, July 6, 2026 6:07:17 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I disagree with your attempt to seek approval Tuesday of several ballot measures which would change our City Charter without adequate discussion or input from residents. Yes, it will be on the November ballot and still without adequate analysis or feedback from residents.

I don't believe this is good government practice, I'm shocked and I hope and trust it will not be approved tomorrow evening.

Reyla Graber
Alameda Resident

From: [Cathy Leong](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Cc: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda City Council Meeting July 7 2026
Date: Monday, July 6, 2026 12:31:48 PM

Dear Alameda City Council,

As a 39-year resident of Alameda, I feel it is important to stay involved in our community and to speak up when issues arise. This is one of those times. On July 7, you will hold a meeting that includes several proposed Charter amendments which could permanently change how our city is governed. These are not small housekeeping changes—they affect how public money is spent, who provides oversight, and how decisions about public property are made.

7A: \$300 Million Infrastructure Bond

You are considering a \$300 million infrastructure bond—twice the size of the \$150 million bond that voters rejected in 2024. That measure failed in part because its purpose wasn't specified clearly enough, and because residents wanted the money allocated to specific projects rather than a general fund. The current proposal references projects like seawalls, fire stations, and roads, but it still doesn't clearly specify what gets funded first or provide binding guarantees on how the money will be prioritized. Before asking voters to approve an amount this large, residents deserve more detail about exactly where the money will go. As the saying goes, doing the same thing again and expecting a different result rarely works out.

7B: Bundling 18 Charter Amendments Into One Measure

This proposal combines 18 separate Charter amendments into a single ballot measure. Among the changes are the removal of current professional qualification requirements for serving on boards such as the Public Utilities Board and the Historical Advisory Board—including eliminating requirements that those boards include engineers, architects, and contractors.

Each amendment should be considered on its own merits. Bundling so many unrelated changes together makes it difficult for residents to evaluate—and vote on—each proposal individually.

7C: Changing the Rules for Public Land Deals

This proposal would lower the number of Council votes needed to approve land sales and long-term leases from four to three. It would also eliminate the current requirement for two public meetings, allowing these decisions to move forward after just one meeting and take effect immediately.

Public land belongs to all of us. Decisions involving city property deserve broad consensus and real opportunities for public input before they become final.

Alameda has always been a community that cares about good government and thoughtful decision-making. That's why it's so important to speak up now, on decisions that will shape our city's future.

Sincerely, Cathy Leong 48 Kara Road Alameda CA 94502

7-D: Eliminating Elected Financial Oversight (this I have already emailed you and Lara confirmed it was to be part of the record)

Cathy Leong <gocathyl@gmail.com>

to:

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov>,

Michele Pryor <mpryor@alamedaca.gov>,

Tony Daysog <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>,

Tracy Jensen <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>,

Greg Boller <gboller@alamedaca.gov>

cc:

LARA WEISIGER <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov>

date: Jun 28, 2026, 8:43 AM

subject: Response in concern over Proposed Charter Amendment on 7/7 City Council Agenda

July 5, 2026

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers Pryor, Boller, Daysog and Jensen,

Re: July 7, 2026 City Council Meeting, Items 7-A, 7-B, 7-C and 7-D

I appreciate the many hours of work that the City Council, staff, and commissions dedicate to serving our community. The decisions before you regarding the proposed Charter amendments are among the **most significant that Alameda residents will consider in many years**. Because these measures could permanently change how our city is governed, I respectfully ask that you **vote No on Agenda Items 7-A, 7-B, 7-C, and 7-D**, and postpone these items that require additional public review.

Agenda Item 7-A — Proposed \$300M Infrastructure Bond

I support investing in Alameda's infrastructure, but I do not believe the proposed bond measure provides voters with sufficient clarity regarding how the proceeds would be allocated or prioritized.

A \$300 million bond represents a substantial long-term financial commitment for Alameda taxpayers. Before asking residents to approve borrowing of this magnitude, the City should present a clear, detailed, and transparent project list that identifies which projects will be funded first, the estimated costs of each project, and the criteria that will be used to allocate the funds.

If Alameda's most pressing infrastructure needs are to be addressed, I believe the highest priorities should include preparing for sea level rise and maintaining the city's existing infrastructure, particularly repairing deteriorating sidewalks and potholes throughout our neighborhoods. These are fundamental municipal responsibilities that residents experience every day. Routine maintenance should remain a priority within the City's General Fund and ongoing capital planning rather than relying primarily on broad borrowing authority without clearly defined spending commitments. Considering the Bay Area is facing a housing affordability crisis, the proposed bond measure would also put further financial constraints on families and individuals, including renters who would also likely see an increase in their rents as a result.

Voters deserve greater certainty before being asked to approve a bond of this size.

Agenda Item 7-B — Charter "Cleanup" Measure

I respectfully request that Item 7-B be removed from consideration at this time.

This proposal combines two repeals and nineteen separate Charter amendments into a single ballot measure despite the fact that many of the proposed changes address entirely different subjects. Bundling numerous unrelated amendments together makes it difficult for both the Council and the public to thoughtfully evaluate each proposal on its own merits.

Some of these changes, including modifications to qualification requirements for members of important advisory boards and commissions, deserve independent public discussion. Alameda benefits from having qualified professionals—including engineers, architects, contractors, and subject matter experts who help guide decisions affecting our infrastructure, utilities, and historic resources.

Each proposed Charter amendment should receive its own careful analysis and public debate rather than being grouped into one comprehensive measure. Separating these issues would promote transparency, encourage informed public participation, and strengthen confidence in the process.

Agenda Item 7-C — Changes to Public Land Approval Requirements

I respectfully urge the Council to vote No on this proposal.

Public lands belong to all Alameda residents. Decisions involving the sale or long-term lease of public property should continue to require broad consensus.

The existing requirement of a supermajority vote and multiple public meetings provides an important safeguard that encourages transparency, deliberation, and community participation before irreversible decisions are made. Lowering the voting threshold while reducing opportunities for public review diminishes those protections.

Maintaining the current requirements helps ensure that significant decisions involving public assets receive broad public support and careful consideration.

Agenda Item 7-D — Elimination of the Elected Auditor and Treasurer

I respectfully request that this item also be removed from consideration.

Independent financial oversight is a cornerstone of good government. The elected Auditor and Treasurer provide accountability directly to Alameda voters and serve as important checks within the City's financial management structure.

While administrative efficiencies may be worth discussing, eliminating independently elected financial oversight raises legitimate concerns about transparency and accountability. Independent review helps reduce the risk of financial errors, conflicts of interest, and potential fraud while strengthening public confidence in the stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Before considering such a significant governance change, I believe the community deserves a comprehensive public discussion evaluating the long-term implications and possible alternatives.

These proposed Charter amendments would permanently alter important aspects of Alameda's government. Changes of this magnitude should proceed only after robust public engagement, careful analysis, and broad community consensus.

I respectfully ask the Council to **vote No on all of these agenda items** until each proposal has received the level of public review and independent evaluation that changes to our City Charter deserve.

Thank you for your service to Alameda and for considering the views of residents who value transparency, accountability, and thoughtful governance.

Respectfully,

Carmen Reid

Alameda Resident

From: [Steve Slauson](#)
To: [CITYCOUNCIL-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Objection to Regular Agenda Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D
Date: Sunday, July 5, 2026 4:20:35 PM

Honorable Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Council Members Michele Pryor, Greg Boller, Tony Daysog, Tracy Jensen

I object to the Regular Agenda Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D as follows:

Item 7A is a \$300 million bond with no information on the projects or needs for the projects explained.

Item 7B bundles numerous City Charter amendments into a single ballot measure preventing thoughtful individual consideration
of individual changes.

Item 7C appears in violation of Alameda's Measure D

Item 7D proposes eliminating the elected positions of City auditor and City Treasurer, thereby removing independent financial
oversite.

I respectfully request these items be removed from the July 7, 2026 Regular Agenda and be placed on a future Regular Agenda with at least 90 Days allowed for full public review and participation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Slauson
2426 Otis Drive
Alameda

From: [margie](#)
To: [CITYCOUNCIL-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Objections to items on the July 7 agenda
Date: Sunday, July 5, 2026 2:55:00 PM

First of all, I object to consideration of major changes when many Alamedans are on vacation.

Specific objections:
I OBJECT to:

Item 7A (\$300 million bond) The bond is for "infrastructure," however, no specific projects are budgeted. The funds could be used for anything. Further, many homeowners in Alameda are seniors on fixed incomes. Additional property tax may be unaffordable.

Item 7B bundles numerous City Charter amendments into a single ballot measure. This approach forces voters into an all-or-nothing decision, preventing thoughtful consideration of individual changes.

Item 7C would make it easier for the City Council to approve the sale or lease of city property by allowing approval via simple majority resolution rather than a super majority ordinance. This change may weaken existing protections, including those established under Measure D.

Item 7D proposes eliminating the elected positions of City Auditor and Treasurer. This proposal, combined with the very vague proposal for a \$300 million bond, is very problematic. I am in favor of independent oversight, not dependent on the approval of the Council.

From: [Marian Breitbart](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tracy Jensen](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Charter Amendments and Elected Treasurer and Auditor Positions- Council Item 7B and 7D
Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026 5:39:52 PM

If the Council approves items 7C and 7D as presented, it will be extremely disappointing.

There does not seem to be a staff report explaining the rationale for these items. Clean up changes to the charter should be voted on separately for each major change.

So far as eliminating the Auditor and Treasurer as elected positions seems to follow the new federal model of minimizing or eliminating any independent oversight of the Council, Finance Director and budget. Is the reason to eliminate the relatively low costs of these positions or because they ask uncomfortable questions. These people were the only ones to identify and push for pension reform...a pressure point for most public entities that have been saved from catastrophe by atypically high investment returns over the past few years..

Please reconsider!
Thank you