

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE J

Vote No on Measure J. Stop the Polluters Power Grab.

This ballot measure is a power grab. It is intended to disenfranchise poor voters of color and benefit the biggest polluters in Northern California. Adding a costly second election will not solve Richmond's problems. It will create a system that benefits the rich and powerful.

The origins of this type of election system come from Jim Crow laws that disenfranchised African Americans in the South for generations. Many of them fled to Northern California and Richmond to escape this oppression. Now, the backers of this measure want to bring this discriminatory method back to our community.

This system is expensive. Adding a second election will cost taxpayers and candidates more money. Fewer firefighters, police officers, and workers will be needed to clean our parks, repair our streets, and keep Richmond running. That is one reason why labor unions like SEIU 1021 and IFPTE Local 21 are opposing this measure.

This measure is deceptive. It will decrease voter participation. By holding an extra-costly primary election, many less frequent voters will not participate, and their voices will not be heard. Winning candidates will "represent" fewer voters.

For decades, big polluters dictated policy to Richmond politicians. This is a cynical attempt by these same corporations and their allies to return to a time when big polluters could elect their hand-picked politicians to do their bidding.

This measure will:

- **Disenfranchise voters and reduce voter turnout**
- **Cost taxpayers** and candidates hundreds of thousands of dollars
- **Give big polluters more power** over local decision-making.

It will not solve a single problem our community faces. It will not make our streets safer, our communities cleaner, or our air and water healthier.

Join Us and Vote No on Measure J