

STOP the Menlo Park Anti-Housing Initiative



If approved, this measure would:

- Block the City of Menlo Park's plan to create affordable homes downtown
- Block much-needed improvements to downtown parking
- Require a citywide election for any future improvements to downtown parking lots

Menlo Park is one of the most expensive communities in the country. Teachers, caregivers, firefighters, city staff, and emergency responders struggle to afford housing locally. Every day, it gets harder to afford a home. The next generation deserves the chance to stay in the communities they grew up in.

In nearby communities, adding housing downtown has increased foot traffic and strengthened local businesses. The City of Menlo Park plans to replace surface lots with modern garages, improve bike and pedestrian access, and add affordable homes above to make downtown more accessible for families, seniors, and people with disabilities. This initiative would block these plans.

The proposed measure would also:

- Interfere with the City's decision-making process related to City-owned downtown parking lot properties - including selling, leasing, authorizing housing, or constructing improvements.
- Require Menlo Park taxpayers to foot the bill to defend the initiative, no matter the merits of the case, including endless appeals.
- Risk losing local control of our own land use decisions by eliminating the only site in the city's plan for affordable homes that is located within walking distance to transit, in the high performing school district, and available for development in the next five years.



"The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County **opposes 'The Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance' Ballot Initiative**. The ballot initiative is being proposed by a citizens' group, and, if it passes, it would require an election to approve any proposed housing development on the lands of the downtown parking areas.

Our League believes Menlo Park needs new housing and that requiring special elections and referendums creates additional cost and timing barriers to new housing and does not support representative government."

- Lucia Tedesco
President, South San Mateo County
League of Women Voters



To Learn More or Get Involved:

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