



# San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 7, 2024**

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## **City Attorney Mara W. Elliott Thanks Voters for Approving Measure D** *Measure Part of an Ethics Package Attorney Elliott Says Will Leave a Legacy of Integrity*

San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott thanked voters for approving Measure D on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, which received 72% of the vote as of 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning, November 6, 2024. A majority vote was needed to amend the Charter. Attorney Elliott first proposed the measure last fall to give the City of San Diego's Ethics Commission more autonomy and authority in its oversight of public officials.

**“This is a good governance measure that protects taxpayers,”** said Elliott. **“To hold those in power to account, the Ethics Commission must be truly independent from the officials it polices. Measure D gives the Ethics Commission the authority and resources it needs to effectively do its job.”**

The Ethics Commission serves as the City's ethics watchdog. It regulates elected and government officials, enforces ethics laws, conducts investigations, audits campaign committees, and imposes penalties and fines when violations occur. A separate Measure proposed by City Attorney Elliott to increase the amount of penalties the Commission can charge was passed by the Council last week.

**“November 5 was independence day for the City Ethics Commission,”** said City Attorney Elliott. **“No longer will those who are regulated by the Commission have control over its funding, its procedures, or its ability to do its work.”**

Measure D will ensure the Commission is independent from those it regulates, enabling it to protect the interests of the City and its residents. The Measure amends the City Charter in the following ways:

- Only voters can disband the Ethics Commission;
- The San Diego Municipal Code will be amended to address conflicts in the Commissioner appointment process;
- The City Council must allocate sufficient funds for the Commission to fulfill its responsibilities;
- The Commission appoints its own Executive Director without City Council approval;

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- The Ethics Commission determines its own rules and policies without City Council review and approval; and
- The Executive Director can initiate investigations and complaints without City Council approval.

In addition to voters, City Attorney Elliott also thanks supporters of Measure D, including Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava, Ethics Commissioner Caridad Sanchez, and the League of Women Voters.

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