

## Deborah Lopez

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**From:** Stuart Kasdin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 10:33 AM  
**To:** Deborah Lopez  
**Subject:** FW: Item E.2 - Council Compensation

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### Stuart Kasdin, PhD

Mayor Pro Tempore  
City of Goleta | 130 Cremona Drive, Suite B | Goleta, CA 93117  
805-961-7539 | [skasdin@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:skasdin@cityofgoleta.org)

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**From:** Jennifer Smith [[jrsmith98@gmail.com](mailto:jrsmith98@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 10:31 AM  
**To:** Stuart Kasdin  
**Subject:** Item E.2 - Council Compensation

Dear Stuart,

I am writing to express my support for bringing a ballot measure to the voters of Goleta regarding council and mayoral compensation.

In reviewing the staff report, it seems that San Luis Obispo may be a good example of a smaller city that provides compensation above and beyond current levels in Goleta. I think it would be helpful to know the population, budget, meeting times, and cost of living in comparable cities to understand the compensation question best.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith  
7391 Chapman Place #B  
Goleta, CA 93117  
[jrsmith98@gmail.com](mailto:jrsmith98@gmail.com)

## Deborah Lopez

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**From:** George Relles <grelles@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 11:21 AM  
**To:** Roger Aceves; Michael Bennett; Paula Perotte; Kyle Richards; Stuart Kasdin  
**Cc:** Michelle Greene; Deborah Lopez  
**Subject:** Regarding Measure to Raise City Council Salaries

Dear Council Members,

**The November 2018 election offers an opportunity to put measures before the voters. This opportunity won't come around again for years.**

**You might say more research is needed** to decide what might go on the ballot. But maybe not. We already have a lot of data pointing to the need for higher city council member salaries.

- No current City Council member has a full-time job
- Since 2002 I count only 2 council members who had a full time job, and both of them owned their own businesses.
- Goleta has already had two elections that were uncontested for lack of candidates.
- If we had trouble finding candidates in citywide elections, it will be MUCH harder in 2022 when district elections go into effect, because each district will have only 25% of the population of the city from which to draw candidates.
- Clearly the lack of a reasonable council salary is a factor for people who must have a full-time job. So the current, low salary is a bar for the vast majority of people who may want to serve on city Council.
- City of SB which has a good salary hasn't had an uncontested election in recent memory.

**You might say, what's the hurry, why not wait until the 2020 election?** The ballot measure you propose may want to include an effective date 2 or even 4 years after it passes. Even if it is approved in the 2020 election to take immediate effect, it will not be in effect when people are deciding if they can afford to run in the 2020 district elections.

**You might think you need to do a survey first.**

- The Council members ARE the survey. By definition City Council is a representative, being elected by the people and responsible to them.
- By putting it on the ballot, the voters themselves serve as the ultimate survey.
- Your ballot can include options for the voters, as did the ballot for an elected mayor which offered 3 options: no change, a two year term, and a 4 year term.
- Your ballot measure could similarly offer choices on
  - o Several different options for the amount the salary could be raised
  - o Several different effective dates: immediately, in 2 years, or in 4 years.
- So putting it on the ballot without a survey saves significant time and expense.

**CONCLUSION:** It's time to give voters a chance to decide if City Council salaries should be raised so more Goleta residents can afford to run and serve on Goleta's City Council.