

Luke Coletti  
718 Walnut Street  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

February 3, 2026

Via Hand Delivery

Sandra Kandell, City Clerk  
c/o City Manager's Office  
City Hall  
300 Forest Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Re: ***Initiative Charter Amendment for Accountability, Oversight, and Transparency***

Ms Kandell:

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Charter of the City of Pacific Grove, I intend to exercise the right of initiative as a citizen of the City in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Constitution and General Laws of this State.

Enclosed for filing pursuant to the California Elections Code are an original and one copy of the following documents:

- (1) A Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition ("Notice");
- (2) A proposed initiative charter amendment for the City of Pacific Grove; and
- (3) An acknowledgment of Elections Code § 18650.

Please file-stamp each page of the enclosed copies of these documents and return the file-stamped copies to me at the above address. As the proponent of the proposed initiative, I have signed the Notice pursuant to Elections Code § 9202, as applied through § 9256.

Please ask the City Attorney to prepare a ballot title and summary that truthfully and impartially provides the chief purpose and points of the proposed initiative measure, pursuant to Elections Code § 9203, as applied through § 9256. I have enclosed a proposed impartial title and summary that might be helpful.

Sincerely,

Luke Coletti

Enclosures

## **Proposed Impartial Title and Summary**

### **City of Pacific Grove Ballot Initiative Charter Amendment Requiring Voter Approval of Mayor and Councilmember Compensation and Benefits**

This measure amends the Charter of the City of Pacific Grove to require voter approval, at the City's general municipal election, before the City may fix compensation or provide City-paid benefits for the Mayor or Councilmembers.

The measure provides that compensation for Councilmembers may not exceed the amount permitted under state law for general law cities of comparable population, and authorizes voters to approve additional compensation for the Mayor. Any lawful compensation in effect when the measure becomes effective would remain in place unless changed in accordance with the measure.

The measure requires voter approval before providing City-paid benefits to the Mayor or Councilmembers, subject to limits imposed by applicable state law. Elected officials may participate, at their own expense, in City-sponsored benefit plans if permitted by law and applicable plan rules. Benefits required by state or federal law are not affected.

Before placing any compensation or benefits measure on the ballot, the Council must obtain and make publicly available a fiscal impact report describing the City's financial condition and the projected impacts of the proposed compensation or benefits.

The measure authorizes reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Mayor and Councilmembers in the performance of official duties, as provided by ordinance.

The measure may be amended or repealed only by a vote of the people.

## **Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition**

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Pacific Grove for the purpose of amending the Charter of the City of Pacific Grove to require voter approval of compensation and benefits for the Mayor and the Councilmembers.

A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

- To respond to widespread public opposition regarding the Mayor and Council's existing authority to increase their own compensation and provide new benefits without voter approval.
- To reflect the electorate's demonstrated demand for binding safeguards to prevent recurrence of such actions.
- To affirm that elected officials serve as trustees of the public interest, not beneficiaries of their own authority.
- To prevent conflicts of interest and the risk of self-dealing that arise when elected officials are permitted to authorize their own compensation and benefits.
- To ensure that state safeguards are applied locally by incorporating them directly into the City Charter.
- To ensure that decisions concerning compensation and benefits are made at general municipal elections, when voter participation is highest.
- To strengthen accountability, oversight, and transparency in local government.

Submitted February 3, 2026

Signed By:

/s/

Luke Coletti

## **Acknowledgment of Elections Code § 18650**

### **Submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 9608**

I, Luke Coletti, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

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Signature of Proponent

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2026