

Sign the Referendum Petition

A Commentary On Pacific Grove's Referendum

O Pacific Grove, jewel of the Monterey Peninsula—your winds carry not only the scent of cypress and sea, but now, too, the breath of something stirring: the people awakening. A slumbering electorate now rouses to find five among their chosen, five stewards of the civic trust, have cloaked themselves in entitlement and declared themselves deserving of more—*much* more—at the people’s expense.

A 130% raise? In a time of fiscal hardship? Not with consent. Not with conscience. Not without cost.

What these council members forget—or perhaps never knew—is that power is not inherited from a dais or bestowed by parliamentary trickery. It is loaned by the people. Every dollar spent from the public treasury is a note co-signed by those who rise early, earn honestly, and entrust their labor to the service of the whole. These citizens did not labor to furnish self-dealing. They toiled for parks and schools, for safe streets and quiet dignity—not to gild the chairs of those who meet fewer times each year and ask more for the privilege.

And yet, amid this quiet betrayal, a voice has risen. A group has formed. A spark now leaps from citizen to citizen. It is called Transparent PG. It is called hope. It is called memory—the memory that we are still a republic, that Pacific Grove is no fiefdom, and that the first words of our compact still ring true: *We the people*.

They have invoked the referendum—not as a weapon, but as a mirror. They ask only that the question be carried *back* to those from whom all legitimacy flows. In this act, there is no vengeance, no bitterness—only a return. A return to civic first principles. A return to shared decision. A return to the majesty of the people's voice.

A referendum is not obstruction. It is not chaos. It is clarity. It is the most American act of all—*peaceful correction*. And if our leaders have grown too insulated to hear our voice, then let them hear our signatures.

Let 1,200 become 12,000 in spirit. Let sidewalks become petition stations. Let coffee shops become council chambers. Let us not shrink before the machinery of power but remind it who built the engine.

We do not rise in anger. We rise in resolve. We do not burn. We build. We sign not with rage, but with righteousness. And in doing so, we lead.

Let this be the moment when Pacific Grove did not falter in the face of arrogance. Let it be remembered that when trust was breached, the people stood up—not to be governed, but to govern.

History will not remember the pay raise. It will remember the consent of the people.

– *Bill Lipe*



SIGN THE REFERENDUM TODAY!

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