

Measure C Special Election Cost

JUNE ELECTION COSTS \$63,000 — NOVEMBER COST IS “NEGLIGIBLE”

The [Pine Cone](#) asked [Monterey County Registrar of Voters](#) Gina Martinez for the total cost of placing the measure on the June ballot.

"The rough estimate for June's election for the city of Pacific Grove is \$63,000," Martinez said. But it's a different story in November.

"The cost of Pacific Grove adding a measure to the November election, in which they have candidate contests, is negligible," the registrar said.

March 20, 2026

The Carmel Pine Cone

13A

It's an election year, but really?

By KELLY NIX

GROUPS ADVOCATING for and against a ballot measure that will ask Pacific Grove voters in June to increase the pay for members of the city council are sharing wildly different figures on the cost of the special election. What's true? The Pine Cone asked the county's registrar of voters.

The P.G. City Council in February voted unanimously to hold an election June 2 to allow residents to decide whether to hike their monthly stipends from \$420 to \$897 for council members and from \$700 to \$1,645 for the mayor. If Measure C passes, the council will get its first pay raise since 1998.

The raise has divided residents. So has

the decision to put Measure C on the June ballot — where it will be the lone city measure in a statewide primary — versus placing it on the Nov. 3 ballot, which will include races for the city's mayor and several council members, not to mention the U.S. House of Representatives, the governor of California and numerous state offices.

'Same price'

A group calling itself P.G. Citizens for Sensible Government, started by former Mayor Bill Kampe to "promote facts, fairness and functional solutions," offers a "get the facts" page on its website. It contains

information on why it backs the council raise, along with numerous questions and answers intended to support its position, including this one:

"Will the June election cost more than the November election?" P.G. Citizens for Sensible Government asks.

"No," the group claims.

"The city received estimates from the county elections department showing that the cost of placing a measure on the June ballot is very similar to the cost of a November ballot measure. There is no meaningful financial reason for the delay."

But Transparent Pacific Grove, a group former councilman Luke Coletti started to promote transparency in government, claimed in an email to members last week that P.G. Citizens for

Sensible Government's cost claims are false.

"The truth is that the June special election will cost \$50,000 for a single measure to raise the pay for seven elected officials," Coletti said, adding that in 2008, when the city last had a single measure on a June primary ballot, it cost taxpayers \$46,252.

Coletti also maintained that since the November regular election will already include municipal offices, adding a ballot measure represents only the incremental cost of including it on a ballot already being printed and administered.

\$63K

There are several factors that go into the cost of an election, including the number of pages in the voting guide and the number of jurisdictions sharing the costs.

See **ELECTION** page 30A

Disparate cost projections for P.G. ballot measure

ELECTION

From page 13A

Notwithstanding other benefits and drawbacks of Measure C, The Pine Cone asked Monterey County Registrar of Voters Gina Martinez for the total cost of placing the measure on the June ballot.

"The rough estimate for June's election for the city of Pacific Grove is \$63,000," Martinez said. But it's a different story in November.

"The cost of Pacific Grove adding a measure to the November election, in which they have candidate contests, is negligible," the registrar said.