

Election 2016: Measure E — Opportunity to Work

Nov 8, 2016, 6:04am PST

Hiring workers might get a little more complicated for San Jose businesses come 2017.

Measure E is a South Bay Labor Council-backed San Jose initiative aimed at giving part-time workers access to more hours.

If passed, businesses with more than 35 employees would have to offer additional hours to existing part-time workers before hiring new employees, including temps. Part-time workers would have the option to decline the hours, and employers would not be required to offer hours that result in overtime.

The City of San Jose would enforce and set guidelines for the regulation, and grant hardship exemptions for some businesses.

If approved, the law would take effect 90 days after the vote is certified.

Join the conversation: Follow [@SVbizjournal](#) on Twitter, "Like" us on [Facebook](#) and [sign up for our free email newsletters](#).

Measure E is opposed by the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, **San Jose Downtown Association** and California Restaurant Association.

Opponents argue the measure will lead to a decrease in part-time jobs, burden employers with another layer of bureaucracy and hurt businesses and nonprofits (who are not exempt) that rely on seasonal and part-time labor.



VICKI THOMPSON

Ben Field, executive officer of the South Bay Labor Council

Derecka Mehrens of Working Partnerships USA, a labor-aligned think tank, said the measure is necessary to address a “crisis of underemployment” in Silicon Valley. The initiative, she said, will also help people working multiple jobs, with the accompanying lack of benefits, to be able to work only one job.

Passage requires a majority vote. An October phone poll of 300 likely voters commissioned by supporters of Measure E found 62 percent supported the measure, 30 percent opposed and 8 percent undecided. The chamber declined to share its polling.

Supporters of the measure have a huge advantage in terms of money raised. As of Sept. 24, the Yes on E campaign had raised \$481,700, more than eight times the \$59,200 raised by the opposition San Joseans for Jobs campaign.

Chamber President and CEO Matt Mahood took a shot at the large amount of money the Yes on E campaign has raised from outside groups, which includes \$250,000 from the Brooklyn-based Center for Popular Democracy.

Mehrens responded by saying that Working Partnerships is a member of CPD, and that the measure is part of a national campaign. In September, Seattle passed a “secure scheduling” law that included a provision requiring food and retail businesses with more than 500 employees to offer additional hours to part-time workers before hiring new employees.

CAMPAIGN SPENDING ON MEASURE V



SUPPORTER

SPENT

Mountain View Tenants Coalition

\$15,401



OPPONENTS

SPENT

California Apartment Association
Issues Committee

\$132,250

National Association of Realtors

\$289,447

California Association of Realtors
Issues Mobilization PAC

\$56,365

Total

\$478,062

SUPPORT DATA IS AS OF SEPT. 24; OPPOSITION DATA IS AS OF OCT. 3

SOURCE: CAMPAIGN FILINGS

Bryce Druzin
Economic
development reporter



*Silicon Valley Business
Journal*