



Local Ballot Measure: S

Measure S

City of Cotati

Measure Question

Simple Majority Needed to Pass

Shall an ordinance be adopted repealing the prohibition of the construction of roundabouts, traffic circles and other similar traffic features anywhere within the City of Cotati city limits?

What Your Vote Means

YES	NO
A "Yes" vote is a vote to approve an ordinance to repeal Chapter 11.11 of the City of Cotati Municipal Code to remove the existing ban on constructing roundabouts, traffic circles, and other similar traffic features in the City.	A "No" vote is a vote to reject an ordinance that would repeal Chapter 11.11 of the City of Cotati Municipal Code to remove the existing ban on constructing roundabouts, traffic circles, and other similar traffic features in the City, leaving the existing ban in place.

For and Against Measure S

FOR	AGAINST
CITY OF COTATI Laura Sparks, Mayor SONOMA COUNTY BICYCLE COALITION Eris Weaver, Executive Director Jeff Veliquette Fire District Chief	Laurie Alderman paralegal



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City Attorney's Impartial Analysis of Measure S

If approved, Measure S would remove the existing ban on constructing roundabouts, traffic circles, and other similar traffic features in the City.

The Cotati Municipal Code (Chapter 11.11) currently prohibits the City from constructing or utilizing traffic features known as "roundabouts," "traffic circles," or any similar traffic feature on any public street or roadway anywhere within City limits. It further prohibits the City from requiring any public or private person or entity to construct or utilize the described traffic features. These provisions were added by the voters in 2012, and therefore only the voters can change them.

If approved, Measure S would repeal those provisions. The City would, thereafter, be authorized to construct roundabouts and traffic circles in the City, as desired, or require a private party or entity to construct the same.

A "Yes" vote is a vote to approve an ordinance to repeal Chapter 11.11 of the City of Cotati Municipal Code to remove the existing ban on constructing roundabouts, traffic circles, and other similar traffic features in the City. A "No" vote is a vote to reject an ordinance that would repeal Chapter 11.11 of the City of Cotati Municipal Code to remove the existing ban on constructing roundabouts, traffic circles, and other similar traffic features in the City, leaving the existing ban in place. The ordinance would be approved if it received a simple majority of "Yes" votes.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure S. If you desire a copy of the proposed ordinance, please call the City Clerk's Office at (707) 665-3622, and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost.

DATED: August 15, 2024

s/ John Bakker
City Attorney

Continue to next page for arguments



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Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. They are printed exactly as submitted, including errors.

Argument in Favor of Measure S	Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure S
<p>Vote Yes on Measure S and Repeal Cotati's Ban on Roundabouts</p> <p>Cotati is the only city in Sonoma County to have a ban on roundabouts. We've learned a lot since this ban was enacted, and know now it's time to repeal this ban. Here's why—</p> <p>Roundabouts save lives. The Federal Highway Administration states that roundabouts are much safer than stop signs or traffic lights, reducing fatal and injury collisions by up to 90%. Their design cuts down on collision points, protecting both drivers and pedestrians. The most serious automobile accidents are the result of head-on, left turn, or T-bone crashes. Roundabouts make these virtually impossible.</p> <p>Roundabouts save money. Although they cost about the same to build as traditional intersections, they are much cheaper to maintain and operate in the long run, saving money for Cotati taxpayers.</p> <p>Environmentally, roundabouts are a win. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, roundabouts reduce vehicle idling, which lowers greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. This helps us breathe cleaner air and reduces our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Everyone benefits from roundabouts. Motorists benefit as roundabouts keep traffic flowing smoothly, reducing stops and delays. This means less time stuck in traffic for all of us and makes for a quicker, more enjoyable drive through town. Pedestrians benefit from increased safety as traffic moves more slowly at intersections and the crossings are shorter. First responders and the community benefit since safer intersections result in fewer severe crashes requiring emergency response.</p> <p>The City of Cotati and the Rancho Adobe Fire District together ensure that road projects meet safety and emergency response standards. Cotati citizens deserve access to all proven tools for traffic control and safety.</p> <p>Vote Yes on Measure S to repeal Cotati's ban on roundabouts.</p> <p>CITY OF COTATI s/ Laura Sparks, Mayor</p> <p>SONOMA COUNTY BICYCLE COALITION s/ Eris Weaver, Executive Director</p> <p>s/ Jeff Veliquette Fire District Chief</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No Rebuttal To Argument In Favor Was Submitted Against Measure S</p>



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Argument Against Measure S	Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure S
<p>In 2012, the majority of citizens in Cotati spoke and said "No". The roundabout ban in Cotati has nothing to do with physical roundabouts, liking them or not. The ban was passed as a creative way to slow down the 2009 Downtown Specific Plan with its 3 story mixed use buildings and small roundabouts. The 2009 DSP with its roundabouts had issues with eminent domain, reducing Old Redwood Hwy down to one lane each way, and fire response.</p> <p>This year, a bunch of current and old council members, planning commissioners and a few other citizens went around Cotati as "citizens" misrepresenting that the ban was just about liking roundabouts or not liking roundabouts. We citizens just needed to be "educated" on the benefits of roundabouts. Not that there is one penny saved for a future roundabout in Cotati anytime soon. This repeal of the ban on roundabouts is politically motivated to teach us citizens who is in charge once and for all and who makes the decisions in our city, no matter what the will of the citizens is.</p> <p>This is not just as simple as liking roundabouts or not. Tell the City of Cotati that No means No. We need to do the real work on creating a new general plan that is realistic and safe here in Cotati to move forward and preserve our small-town way of life.</p> <p>s/ Laurie Alderman paralegal</p>	<p>Cotati citizens can move forward and embrace the future by removing the roundabout ban. Contrary to the argument against Measure S, the majority of citizens who volunteered to gather signatures have not held office in Cotati. Our motivation was simple: to promote traffic safety by removing this unnecessary ban.</p> <p>Our efforts were unrelated to any plans such as the 2009 Downtown Specific Plan. We believe Cotati should have access to all planning tools including roundabouts. Why? Because roundabouts can provide safety and environmental benefits by continuously moving traffic at a slower speed. This reduces the frequency and severity of collisions. Pollution from idling is reduced. The design of roundabouts makes them safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Roundabouts can save money in the long run compared to the cost of a traffic light. These are some of the reasons Cotati citizens are ready to repeal the ban on roundabouts and move into the future with better planning tools.</p> <p>We are the only city in Sonoma County with a roundabout ban. Our neighboring cities employ roundabouts because they make sense. By talking to our Cotati neighbors as we walked to gather signatures, we learned that the vast majority of the public had come to the same conclusion and are ready to repeal Cotati's ban. The Press Democrat editorial board agrees. Cotati citizens, electeds, and business owners say: It's time - vote Yes on Measure S.</p> <p>s/ Laurie-Ann Barbour Cotati Resident</p> <p>s/ Mark Landman Former Cotati Mayor</p> <p>s/ Edwin W Gilardi Chair Cotati Planning Commission</p> <p>s/ Terry Dutra Cotati Resident</p> <p>s/ Charles A Fetrow (Chaz) The Hub Cyclery – Owner</p>



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Full Text of Measure S

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this initiative is to repeal the prohibition of the construction of roundabouts, traffic circles, and other similar traffic features anywhere in the City limits of the City of Cotati.

Section 2. Amendment to Title 11 of the Cotati Municipal Code

Title 11 of the Cotati Municipal Code is hereby amended by removing "Chapter 11.11 – Roundabouts and Traffic Circles", in its entirety. Chapter 11.11, Section 11.11.101, currently reads as follows:

11.11.101 – Roundabouts and Traffic Circles Prohibited.

The city is prohibited from constructing or utilizing, and is prohibited from requiring any public or private person or entity to construct or utilize, the traffic features commonly known as "roundabouts," "traffic circles," or any similar traffic feature on or with respect to any public street or roadway anywhere within city limits. In no event shall the City's standard or other street specifications or improvement requirements include any requirement requiring the construction and/or utilization of any roundabouts, traffic circles, and/or any similar feature. In no event shall the City carry out or approve a project to construct any roundabouts, traffic circles, and/or any similar features as a condition to the approval of any project or the issuance of any permit or permission.