

2020 Tustin Council Compensation – Argument in Favor

In November 2020, Tustin voters will decide whether to limit future City Council compensation according to a statewide formula based on the city's population. We encourage you to vote "YES" on this measure.

In 2012, Tustin's residents voted to remove all compensation and benefits from the Tustin City Council, largely because the benefits had grown in line with full-time employment. With that vote, Tustin became one of only two cities in Orange County that do not pay their Council Members. Every current Council Member ran for office understanding they would receive no pay whatsoever. This measure will only introduce compensation for future council terms after the 2022 election.

By adopting the State's population-based compensation, you the voters can make the decision to cap a modest monthly stipend for future Council Members. The City of Tustin deserves professional Council Members who treat their role like a career. But unfortunately, not everyone can afford to run for office. Serving on Tustin's City Council often requires more than 20 hours per week, and often requires Council Members to take time off from their paying "day jobs." A small stipend, capped consistent with the statewide formula, will allow more people to run for office by helping offset out-of-pocket expenses which are typically required to serve our constituents well. Everyone should have the ability to serve their community.

Your "YES" vote will cap future Council Member compensation to a State Government Code based limit. We encourage you to vote YES on this measure.

Tustin City Council

s/ Dr. Allan Bernstein, Mayor
s/ Letitia Clark, Mayor Pro Tem
s/ Charles E. "Chuck" Puckett, Council Member
s/ Barry W. Cooper, Council Member
s/ Austin Lumbard, Council Member