

# YES on Charter measure

The Charter Amendment on the April 17 ballot asks that the city considerably increase the salaries of the directors of the board of the Berkeley Unified School District.

Normally, we would oppose such a suggestion.

But it happens that the increase envisioned is from the virtually prehistoric level of \$5 per meeting not to exceed \$15 per month up to the \$300 per month level enjoyed by councilmen.

Whether we believe the board merits an increase in salary due to their actions, or inactions, is less important than the fact they have been, by every feasible analysis, grossly undercompensated for what amounts to long hours of work with the primary taxing jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley.

It is true that the pyrotechnics of Berkeley City Council draw the rave notices—but the school board is administering something far more important, and something considerably more costly than city policy—namely, our children and their education.

The board is responsible for 15,000 children and adults, plus 2,000 employees. Its \$34 million per year budget far outstrips that of the city itself.

We have the dim hope that a higher rate of pay for board members may make them even more aware of the importance of their charge. Parenthetically, it would enhance the idea of seeking a school board seat for those candidates of lesser means.

We say YES on the Charter Amendment.