

Manpreet Kaur Doesn't Show Up for Us

In just one term on the City Council, MANPREET KAUR has missed 21 Council meetings and been late to 17 more. Manpreet has missed more Council votes than all but one other councilmember and that person was seriously ill.

Missed Second-Most Council Meetings Since Being Sworn in (2022-2026)

Since being sworn into the City Council Kaur has missed 21 out of 141 Council meetings, or nearly 15%. This is more than every Council Member who was [seriously ill](#).

Kaur's 21 missed meetings are the second-most by any Council Member since she was sworn in. Her 14.89% absence rate is also higher than any member who served with her besides her seriously ill colleague. (*LaserFiche*, "[Bakersfield City Council Minutes](#)," Accessed February 25, 2026)

Late to 18% of Meetings, Missed second-most Minutes from Tardiness

Since joining the Council at the end of 2022, Kaur has missed 157 minutes of meeting time by being late.

Since being sworn in, Kaur was late to 17 of 81 City Council meetings, or 20.98% (This figure only includes the first meeting of a given day). Kaur was noted as "late" at every meeting in which she was marked as seated after the regular meeting start. (*LaserFiche*, "[Bakersfield City Council Minutes](#)," Accessed February 25, 2026)

MANPREET KAUR missed important votes that affected residents, including:

HIGHER WATER BILLS for residents.

300% RATE INCREASE on sewer fees.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE and public health.

Kaur Was Absent From Meeting Approving Notification of Increased Water and Sewer Rate to Residents

In March 2025, after approving an increased water rate for residents in her role on the City Council's Water Board, Kaur missed the full Council meeting in which she was intended to approve a notice to property owners of the rate increase. An increase in the sewer rate was also approved at this meeting.

At the March 26 meeting, Kaur was absent and the Council approved the notification to property owners of the increased rate 4-1. At the same meeting, the Council voted 3-2 to approve a notice to property owners of an increase in the annual sewer rate of 300%.

(The Bakersfield Californian, "Our View: The many reasons to delay city's sewer, water rate increases," April 5, 2025)

Absent Again for Rescinding of Sewer Rate Increase

In May 2025, when the Council rescinded the increased sewer rate amidst public pressure, Kaur again missed the meeting.

At the meeting, the Council admitted that there were mistakes made that led to the 300% rate increase proposal. Kaur had previously made similar comments but was not at the meeting where the other six city Council Members officially rescinded the notice of rate increase. (The Bakersfield Californian, "City Council officially rescinds sewer rate increase proposal," May 14, 2025; The Bakersfield Californian, "Council Members say sewer rate proposal moved too fast," April 25, 2025)

Missed Vote Outlawing COVID Restrictions (2023)

In October 2023, Kaur missed a meeting in which the Council approved a Resolution pledging not to enforce any future health orders related to masks, vaccines, and social distancing.

The measure passed 3-1, with Kaur missing the meeting. The resolution stated that following "injustices in the form of overreaching government-imposed mandates during the pandemic," the city would not enforce any COVID-19-related mandate or impose penalties where it has jurisdiction, including future requirements for masks, dining restrictions and vaccines. (The Bakersfield Californian, "City approves resolution to not enforce future COVID-19 mandates," October 11, 2023)