



City Council Meeting 4/23/26, Public Comment - Item 8C – California Voting Rights Act Challenge and District-wide elections

Dear Council Members and Mayor,

I do not support the change from at-large elections in our little homogeneous city. I live in the most economically and likely ethnically diverse neighborhood – the North 40's. I do not think voters' ability is impaired to electing officials of their choice or influence the outcome of elections by not having district voting, there is no data showing it is, or it is not. I understand if for the City, it is legally and financially advisable to create districts under threat of litigation under the CVRA and the Schenkman & Hughes law firm's blanket letter. I support the CVRA intention and districts make sense for larger communities when at-large elections would dilute the representation of protected classes. I was not going to write a letter on this item until I read the Kevin McGuire letter included in the packet with the convoluted list of how to make it more difficult for voters to vote or run for elected office.

Restricting voters is an entirely different topic and not part of the CVRA intent – in fact, it is the opposite. Voter restrictions are contradictory to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the current right-wing administration has gutted. Voter restrictions are intended to restrict lawful residents from voting to keep power and decision making in the hands the whiter & more privileged, exactly what the Voters Rights Act was fought to end. The City should not rewrite the rules because Kevin and a few other entitled residents believe that Alex Pederson misrepresented himself to run for office, which was ridiculous and unfounded. So annoying.

DO NOT pursue or expend resources trying to impose voting or nominations restrictions on voters beyond what is already required.

Sincerely,

Paula Bradley