

Charter Review Elections and Voting

Brenda Dohmen <[REDACTED]>

Thu 7/29/2021 5:48 PM

To: CharterReview <CharterReview@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Commissioners:

It would be more beneficial for the city of San Jose and San Jose voters to keep the mayoral election cycle as is because it would focus the candidates and election on the specific issues facing San Jose and less on distracting national party platforms and extreme political issues, views or candidates appearing on the same ballot. Moving the election cycle to the presidential election cycle would dilute the ballot with too many candidates and unrelated state or national issues.

Keeping the San Jose mayoral election cycle as is would focus candidate political discussions and positions on city residents needs and how to deliver basic city services such as balanced budgets, strong neighborhoods, paving, emergency response, crime reduction and safety in the most cost effective way possible for all residents.

It would be our preference to keep a highly qualified, non-political, non-partisan, business-minded city manager system in place over a strong mayor system for administration and delivery of excellent city services.

The city of San Jose needs to focus on high quality delivery of basic city services to residents instead of trying to please the labor, business or other special interest lobbyists that appear to influence the city now pushing their extraneous and distracting agenda.

The mayor and city manager are currently trying to please too many different factions and trying to provide too many extraneous services, many which appear duplicated and are supposed to be delivered to residents by Santa Clara County. Services such as homeless sheltering, affordable housing, low-income housing, medical and mental health services, food and meal distribution, child care and much more should be provided to San Jose residents by the county or federal administration. We are getting double even triple taxed by the city and then the county and the federal government to provide these types of services via the city.

Santa Clara County needs to step up and do their part delivering services and programs for San Jose residents and San Jose needs to do a much better job managing and delivering their own basic city services to all residents via capable qualified non-partisan city management personnel with key performance indicators in place to measure success and dismiss poor performers. A strong mayor system will only politicize city management. City management and personnel should stay out of city politics and conflicts of interests shouldn't be allowed such as working both in a city staff position and for government non-profit organization that receives funds from the city or taxpayers, even in a volunteer or board member capacity.

Sincerely,

Brenda Dohmen

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Charter Review Elections and Voting

Brenda Dohmen <[REDACTED]>

Thu 7/29/2021 6:05 PM

To: CharterReview <CharterReview@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Commissioners:

After downloading and reviewing your written recommendations, we are opposed to 1, 2, 3 and in favor of 4 regarding elections and voting.

Limiting campaign contributions is a great idea!

Thank you!

Best regards,

Brenda Dohmen

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PUBLIC COMMENTS: Could not attend 7/29

Lida Vala [REDACTED]

Thu 7/29/2021 6:30 PM

To: CharterReview <CharterReview@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

COMMENTS IN GREEN**1. ADDING MORE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS/MEMBERS WITHOUT AN EQUITY GUARANTEE**

The election timing subcommittee of the Charter Review Commission, Elizabeth Monley and Jose Posadas is proposing adding additional City Council Members, without a proposed equity commission, free of politics, independent, to look at where it would be fair and just to add additional City Council Members.

NO TO ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

WHAT IS THE CURRENT NEED TO PARTITION DISTRICTS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS? WHO DOES IT MOST SERVE TO DO SO? IF WE HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN THOSE ANSWERS, WHY WOULD WE SAY YES?

THIS PROPOSAL APPEARS TO FRAGMENT THE VOTES IN FAVOR OF THE INTEREST OF THOSE LEAST VULNERABLE. MAKING 10 VOTES INTO 12 CAN ONLY BE DONE PROPERLY IF EQUITY CAN BE ENSURED. SINCE ENSURING EQUITY HAS NOT BEEN DETAILED, THIS PROPOSAL RISKS HARMING THE MOST VULNERABLE.

ALSO, FRAGMENTING DISTRICTS SUCH AS 3 (DOWNTOWN) AND 10 (ALMADEN VALLEY) APPEARS TO TRANSFORM EACH DISTRICT INTO 2 DISTRICTS BOTH IN FAVOR OF THE LEAST VULNERABLE. WITH ALMADEN IT'S BECAUSE OF THE LIKELY MEDIAN AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (NOT MEAN AVERAGE) AND WITH DISTRICT 3 BECAUSE THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN WEALTH WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOOGLEPLEX.

1. Please let us know if you want an independent commission not tied to a political side to determine who should get an extra City Council member for their district, or if you are ok with the current city council just getting to decide this by a vote.

NOT NECESSARY FOR THEM TO PROPOSE ANYTHING IF ENOUGH INFO WAS NOT PROVIDED TO US IN THE 1ST PLACE. WHY WOULD WE BELIEVE THAT MORE INFO WOULD BE PROVIDED WHEN WE REQUEST IT?

2. Please let Elizabeth Monley and Jose Posadas know if you want them to propose an independent

commission to look at the equity issue before submitting their recommendation for a vote of the Charter Review Commission. Please let them know anything else you would like them to research.

EXAMINING EQUITY ISSUE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED LONG AGO. TOO LATE IN THE PROCESS AFTER 9 MONTHS HAVE ALREADY GONE BY. RUSHING TO EXAMINE EQUITY WON'T LIKELY LEAD TO A QUALITY REPORT.

3. If you are going to add City Council Districts, then a key issue is going to be who is going to draw the lines for this larger City Council?

NO BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO ADD COUNCIL MEMBERS

4. How will the City make sure that lines are drawn using an equity lens that reflects the various ethnic and socio-economic communities of the City?

N/A

5. Do you want gerrymandering?

[That vote becomes a recommendation that the current City Council can then vote on.]

PRECISELY WHY I DON'T WANT THIS BECAUSE IT'S A FORM OF GERRYMANDERING SO THAT THE CURRENT REGIME GAINS MORE POWER.

2. Moving Election Timing to Years When We Vote For President

What was the research recommending this?

SHOW US THE RESEARCH BECAUSE HONESTLY MANY VOTERS CAN VOTE MORE DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, BUT THEN SKIP THE BALLOT FOR LOCAL GOV'T AND ONLY FOCUS ON FEDERAL POSITIONS.

ALSO, HAVING MAYORAL ELECTION AT SAME TIME AS PRESIDENTIAL MEANS THAT MORE PEOPLE WILL BE OVERWHELMED WITH DECISION MAKING ON FEDERAL ISSUES ALLOWING LOCAL POLITICIANS TO HAVE LESS SCRUTINY ON THEIR CAMPAIGNS.

3. Do you want a Citizen's Policing Committee to be added to the City Charter to replace the Independent Police Auditor?

YES BUT ONLY IF IT'S SEPARATE FROM THE IPA. IT HAS TO BE IT'S OWN THING OR REPLACE THE IPA.

4. Do you want to merge the office of the Independent Police Auditor with a Citizen's Policing Committee?

NO BECAUSE THE IPA IS ALREADY HAMPERED BY MEASURE G (WHICH WAS BACKED BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGS), WHICH LIMITED THE IPA FROM BEING ABLE TO INVESTIGATE FREELY. WE NEED THE CITIZEN VOICES ENGAGED RATHER THAN ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL.

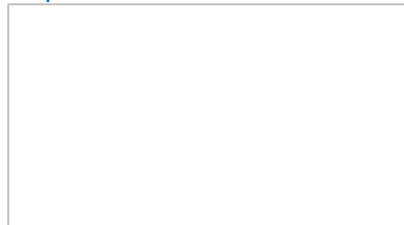
THE ONES WHO EXPERIENCE POLICE VIOLENCE AND CORRUPTION MUST HAVE A WAY TO ENACT REFORM.

Lida Vala, LMFT #85639

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



Web Portal: www.doxy.me/lidavala
<http://www.lidavala.com>



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