

PROPOSAL BY
COUNCILMEMBER HADERLEIN
AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE

ATTACHMENT 1




RECEIVED

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CITY COUNCIL
STEVE HADERLEIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 4

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

TO: Senior Assistant City Clerk Mark Jomsky
FROM: Councilman Steve Haderlein 
CC: Mayor Bill Bogaard, City Manager Cynthia Kurtz, City Jane Rodriguez
DATE & SUBJECT: July 11, 2006, PUSD Elections

Please place the following on the July 17 agenda of the Pasadena City Council.

Direct the City Attorney to prepare all the paperwork needed to place the following on the November 2006 ballot.

Amend the method of electing the Pasadena Unified School District to the following:

One member elected region-wide and six members elected from subregions of the Pasadena Unified School District. The one member elected region-wide shall serve as President of the School Board and perform the duties of that office. The seven members shall choose a Vice President from the remaining six members. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President. Members elected from subregions must reside within the subregion that they represent.

Boundaries of the subregions shall be created by a committee representing the communities of Altadena, Sierra Madre and Pasadena. The committee shall be appointed by the Pasadena City Council and will make recommendations to the Pasadena City Council. The Council shall adopt the recommendations by ordinance. Subregions shall be adjusted in 2013 and every ten years thereafter based on the most recent census data.

Terms shall be four years long. The terms shall be staggered with three elected in 2007, 2011, 2015, etc. and three elected in 2009, 2013, 2017, etc. The term of the President shall also be four year and will commence 2007.

Rodriguez, Jane

From: Esteban Lizardo [elizardo@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 2:10 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Haderlein, Steve; Holden, Chris; Paul Little; Streator, Joyce; Tyler, Sid
Cc: Kurtz, Cynthia; Rodriguez, Jane
Subject: PUSDGovernance Discussion

Honorable Mayor & Council:

As I understand that you will be discussing proposals related to PUSD School Board elections, I wanted to share with you a few of my thoughts as a member of your sister governing body. Based upon the many significant concerns expressed by the overwhelming majority of constituents who regularly contact me as an elected Board member, I support changing the manner in which the Board is elected to a system that insures a Board that must be responsive to its constituents and must exercise more significant oversight over the implementation of its policy directives. A governing body that is more closely connected to its electorate provides the promise that constituent concerns will find a responsive and decisive Board, or at least one that charts a non-responsive path at its own electoral peril. The City Council has first-hand experience with at least one proven method of bringing an electorate closer to its elected officials and insuring that those officials are responsive—geographic district elections. Based upon the proposals before the Council, I would support Mr. Haderlein's proposal for one at large and six geographic district seats as an excellent proposal for submitting to the School District's voters.

I've seen in my interactions with several Council offices how having a more closely connected electorate motivates responsiveness. While constituents certainly do not get the answers they want all the time, I've seen that they invariably get a response and an understanding that their concern was noted, though not always agreed to. In elections where votes are gained primarily through direct contact (usually a handshake), voters become habituated to expecting responses and remember when they get none. When a voter knows that their vote was a significant part of your election, they have high expectations on responsiveness. On the other side, an elected official also tends to respond effectively when they have a clear picture of their supporters. This closely connected system is a sharp contrast from the current election process for school board where the universe of voters is over 100,000 and the voter turn out hovers between 10,000 and 15,000. This distance was aptly demonstrated in the proposals from the most recent City of Pasadena Task Force on School District Governance three of which were strongly endorsed by the voters, including expanding the number of seats on the Board, requiring a yearly State of the Schools presentation, and endorsing the Task Force's specific recommendations as a blue print for school district reform. Despite the fact that all board candidates focused on endorsing the recommendations, few actually worked to implement the recommendations. In fact, when the Task Force reconvened as required by the vote of our community, a majority of the School Board came before the Task Force essentially requesting that it not complete the will of the voters. On one of the most significant and timely recommendations of the reconvened Task Force, a comprehensive management audit, the majority of the School Board resisted until only recently. With a more closely connected electorate, it is doubtful that any Board member would be able to so easily avoid the will of the voters.

Although concerns have been raised regarding how the demographics of the District would play under a geographic district election plan, the concerns are misplaced. As a result of the District's open enrollment process, a great many of our families have their children in schools outside of their

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neighborhood area. As such, there is little likelihood that any Board member would focus on only the schools in their geographic voting area. Given the District's demographics, it is most likely that Board members would be called upon by families in their geographic voting area to solve issues across the District. Another missed mark is a concern that parents might be too dispersed among various geographic voting districts to create an impact on any single Board member. That is, in fact, the current situation for all voters in the PUSD. As the Council is very aware, it frequently is not the number of persons who call you with a concern, but the fact that even a single call must at least receive a response. This is the motivation to address issues initially, then resolve them if they present a significant concern for constituents. As parents from any particular school likely will be in various voting districts, the closer connection will likely guarantee that more than one Board member will respond (initially) and then take up issues more vigorously, and that Board members will find Board colleagues to join them in addressing issues. The close connection between voters and their elected officials provides the incentive to address issues—be responsive. The current at-large system has historically not provided this close accountability, specifically in Pasadena it has not provided much motivation, and in recent examples with our current Board demonstrated itself unable to provide this critical incentive.

Perhaps, the most loudly raised concern is a call for more study and more time to avoid hasty action. Some even have written arguing that the Council should convene a citizens task force to study the issue, bring in experts, and hold public meetings before rushing into a new system. Prior to my five years as an elected member of our School Board, I volunteered on two separate City of Pasadena Task Forces that addressed the issues of our public schools and their governance structure. The first City Task Force proposed submitting to the voters a system of Preference Voting which I strongly supported and still endorse as the most effective way to insure both responsiveness and diversity of our community's varied opinions. I note that this method has been endorsed by the League of Women of Voters statewide and locally, and also is endorsed by many forward thinkers in our community including one of our most energetic minds—former Pasadena City Board of Director and Mayor John Crowley. The second Task Force proposal was approved by the City Council and submitted to the voters a system for geographic (sub) district elections. The proposal was not successful although several other proposal from our Task Force were strongly endorsed by the voters. Each Task Force was a citizen task force that included a diverse cross section of our community, called in experts in the field of electoral systems, held numerous public meetings in which all aspects of our community attended to provide input and respond to proposed changes. Apart from including a diverse cross section of our community, the most recent Task Force specifically included representation from Altadena, the City of Sierra Madre, and the PUSD Board. This Task Force held a significant number of specific public forums and the public was invited and attended these public meetings. Given this recent background, there simply is no justified concern that the community has not been given the opportunity and time to understand and voice their concerns prior to a community-wide vote on adopting a geographic subdistrict election method.

As a member of your sister governing body, I appreciate the time, effort, and tangible support the Council has committed to the PUSD and our communities' children. I appreciate your work on behalf of our kids and our shared constituents, and I support your efforts to discuss and propose solutions to the significant governance issues related to our schools.

Esteban Lizardo
Board Member, Seat No. 5

7/17/2006



MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

National Headquarters
Los Angeles
Regional Office
634 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90014
Tel: 213.629.2512
Fax: 213.629.0266

July 17, 2006

Atlanta
Regional Office
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Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: 678.659.1071
Fax: 678.659.1079

The Honorable Bill Bogaard
Mayor
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Mayor Bogaard:

Chicago
Regional Office
11 East Adams Street
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60603
Tel: 312.427.0701
Fax: 312.427.0691

On behalf of the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF), we write to urge you and members of the City Council to continue discussing and soliciting public input over alternatives to the present way Pasadena voters elect members of the Board of Education. While all of our futures depend upon the quality of education afforded young people, parents are the most vital stakeholders in public education. Therefore, it is essential that whatever reform is to be presented to the voters, if any, the voice of Pasadena parents not be ameliorated. This is especially important given the recent increase in new citizen parents and the sizable number of Pasadena parents who are not yet United States citizens. It is unclear from the documents made available to us whether either of the two proposals offered by members of the City Council promote democracy, enhance accountability and, ultimately, improve educational quality.

San Antonio
Regional Office
110 Broadway
Suite 900
San Antonio, TX 78205
Tel: 210.224.5476
Fax: 210.224.5882

With regard to proposed Measure B, offered by Councilmember Streater, we generally oppose moving from district elections to at-large elections. The supposed benefits of electing individuals on an at-large basis pale in comparison to the impact this change has on the conduct and cost of elections. Running city-wide costs far more than in a district. It places distance between neighborhoods and their elected officials and fosters unaccountability. Moreover, it promotes slate campaigning that also increases the impact that money has on elections. Most important, it makes it far more difficult for the composition of the Board of Education to reflect the diversity of the residents and allows for a small majority to effectively control all seats on the Board. While this change removes the possibility of mischief related to reapportionment, our experience with at-large election systems strongly suggests to us that minority voters are poorly served and often shut out of the process.

Washington, D.C.
Regional Office
1717 K Street, NW
Suite 311
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202.293.2828
Fax: 202.293.2849

With regard to the proposal offered by Councilmember Haderlein, we have reservations about it largely due to the relative lack of information about how it would work in practice. Any such reform should ensure that the Council's selection of the committee members who would draw the district lines be open to the public, rather than have each Council member appoint a committee member. In addition, the committee members must be geographically, racially, and ethnically diverse and the enabling legislation should require public hearings both before and after initial creation of the district lines. Hearings should be held across the city. In order for members of the public to fully understand and participate in this process, full access to redistricting technology must be made available to Pasadena residents. If these reforms are put into place, the committee members should be empowered to have the final say on the district lines rather than reserving that authority for the City Council. Most important, districts must conform to the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. Finally, the Board of Education president should be selected from among the seven district-elected trustees rather than reduce the number of districts to six. Having seven districts fosters greater diversity, representation and contact among, by and with the Board of Education trustees.

Houston
Program Office
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4410 Navigation
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Tel: 713.315-6484
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Sacramento
Satellite Office
1107 9th Street
Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95814
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Fax: 916.443.1541

*Celebrating Our 37th Anniversary
Protecting and Promoting Latino Civil Rights*
www.maldef.org

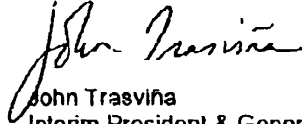
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7.B.5. &
7.C.1.

We urge the Council to postpone further consideration of these matters in order to give Pasadena residents more time and opportunity to evaluate their impact on our schools, our children and our future. Clearly, our public schools need greater public involvement and official accountability no matter what the method of selection of trustees may be. We urge the Council to use its existing authority to delve more deeply into education matters and focus on educational quality in Pasadena, irrespective of the outcome of these efforts for election reform.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Valenzuela
Director of Litigation



John Trasviña
Interim President & General Counsel

cc: Members, Pasadena City Council

NOVEMBER 7, 2000
VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET
MATERIALS FOR MEASURE BB
(PUSD SUB-DISTRICT ELECTIONS)

ATTACHMENT 2

STATE MEASURES

39	SCHOOL FACILITIES. 55% LOCAL VOTE. BONDS, TAXES, ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Authorizes bonds for repair, construction or replacement of school facilities, classrooms, if approved by 55% local vote. Fiscal impact: Increased bond debt for many school districts. Long-term costs statewide could total in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Potential longer-term state savings to the extent school districts assume greater responsibility for funding school facilities.	105	YES <input type="radio"/>
		106	NO <input type="radio"/>

COUNTY MEASURE

A	CHARTER AMENDMENT. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS. Shall the Board of Supervisors be increased from five to nine members as detailed in the ordinance adopting the proposed charter amendment.	111	YES <input type="radio"/>
		112	NO <input type="radio"/>

CITY

PASADENA CITY SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

AA	Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to increase the size of the Board of Education from five (5) to seven (7) members?	115	YES <input type="radio"/>
		116	NO <input type="radio"/>
BB	Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to provide for the nomination and election of members of the Board of Education by geographic sub-districts, effective upon the enactment of enabling legislation by the State, with geographic sub-districts to be drawn after each federal census by a commission composed of members appointed by the Cities of Pasadena and Sierra Madre, the Board of Education and the County Supervisor representing the area?	117	YES <input type="radio"/>
		118	NO <input type="radio"/>
CC	Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to require that the President of the Board of Education address the people each September on the state of the Pasadena Unified School District to articulate its goals and objectives for the school year and to report on the progress of the District in achieving its prior goals and objectives, including the financial state of the schools?	120	YES <input type="radio"/>
		121	NO <input type="radio"/>
DD	ADVISORY VOTE ONLY. Shall the voters of the Pasadena Unified School District adopt the Reform Plan of the Charter Reform Task Force as a blueprint for the schools and, consistent with its terms, call upon the Board of Education to provide an accounting, within six months, of the Plan's implementation and direct the City Council to reconvene the Task Force within one year to assess the progress of the Plan's implementation?	123	YES <input type="radio"/>
		124	NO <input type="radio"/>
EE	Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to permit an active or retired member of the Fire and Police Retirement System to seek election as a member of the Fire and Police Retirement Board?	126	YES <input type="radio"/>
		127	NO <input type="radio"/>
FF	Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to permit retired members of the Fire and Police Retirement System to work for the City as a volunteer on City boards, commissions and committees, as an elective officer, and on a temporary basis for up to 960 hours per calendar year, performing duties in which they have specialized skills?	128	YES <input type="radio"/>
		129	NO <input type="radio"/>

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE BB

Under the current City Charter and pursuant to current California law, the members of the School Board of the Pasadena Unified School District are elected at large to individual numbered offices and each member of the School Board is elected by a majority of the voters from the entire Unified School District at either the primary or general election. No person may be a candidate for more than one of the numbered offices to be filled at an election.

If this charter amendment is approved by the voters and if enabling legislation is enacted by the State, then the members of the School Board would be elected by geographic subdistrict instead of at large. This means that the Pasadena Unified School District would be divided into geographic subdistricts which would each elect one member to the School Board. This Measure would not take effect unless and until State law allows geographic subdistricts within the School District.

This Measure would change the process for nominating candidates for members of the School Board into one which requires nomination by geographic subdistrict instead of at large. Currently, nomination papers under the present at-large voting method are required to be signed by 100 qualified voters within the School District territory. Under this Measure, nomination papers would need to be signed by 25 qualified voters within the geographic subdistrict. Each member of the School Board would be required to be a qualified voter and resident of the geographic subdistrict from which the member is elected.

Upon enactment of enabling State legislation, this Measure would also establish a redistricting commission and a process for dividing the Pasadena Unified School District into geographic subdistricts. The redistricting commission would be composed of nine members appointed by the Cities of Pasadena and Sierra Madre, the Board of Education and the County Supervisor representing Altadena and other unincorporated areas served by the School District. The boundaries of the geographic subdistricts would be drawn by the redistricting commission after each federal census.

FISCAL IMPACT: There would be undetermined administrative costs in undertaking the redistricting process and in establishing geographic subdistricts. The City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District consolidate their elections for City Council and the Board of Education, with a pro rata cost formula established by the County Registrar of Voters, based on the number of eligible voters in each jurisdiction. The formula for sharing election costs between the City and the School District for elections involving geographic subdistricts would vary, depending on the number of seats up for election and whether there are also measures on the ballot. Based on current costs, the cost to the Pasadena Unified School District of subdistrict elections would be less than the cost of at-large elections because fewer precincts would be voting during an election.

MICHELE BEAL BAGNERIS
City Attorney

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure BB. If you desire a copy of the Charter amendment text, please call the Pasadena City Clerk's Office at (626) 744-4124 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you, or you may access the text from the Internet at www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/cityclerk/election.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE BB

The Charter Reform Task Force clearly heard that the public wants access, responsiveness and accountability.

Currently, every School Board candidate runs for office at-large. The at-large system was appropriate for its time, in years past when the main goal was to avoid divisive debates over the schools. The at-large system, however, also kept control of elections out of the hands of the grass roots community.

But times have changed. There is a whole new generation of students and parents in the District. The community wants responsiveness and wants to know whom to hold accountable. They want greater decentralization. It is time for a change!

The Task Force recommends that School Board candidates be elected from smaller subdistricts rather than at-large.

If a change in State law is required to authorize subdistrict elections, your vote for this measure will make that change much more likely to happen.

With subdistrict elections, School Board members will be closer to neighborhoods and the people. The growing movement toward neighborhood schools will be strengthened. Residents will have a stronger voice.

That's not balkanization, as opponents claim. That's representation.

Subdistrict elections will put neighborhoods first, and that will be good for the whole school system. The same voter who presently votes for at-large Board members is going to care just as much about the whole system when he or she votes for a subdistrict member. The only difference is that the voters will know who represents them and whom to hold accountable.

With School Board members elected by subdistrict, problems in the schools won't get swept under the rug. At least one Board member will make sure something gets done.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE BB. BRING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSER TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND MAKE IT MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU!

CHRIS HOLDEN
Chair, Charter Reform Task Force
on School District Governance

BART DOYLE
Vice Chair, Charter Reform Task Force
on School District Governance

BILL BOGAARD
Mayor, City of Pasadena

ESTEBAN LIZARDO
Member, Charter Reform Task Force
on School District Governance

STEVE HADERLEIN
Pasadena City Councilmember;
Member, Charter Reform Task Force
on School District Governance

PR-020.002

N LA 064-026

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE BB

Usually, reforms are good things. The Charter Reform Task Force suggested many good ideas to improve our School Board and schools.

Sometimes, though, reforms aren't good ideas. Measure BB is one of those bad ideas.

Measure BB would chop our school District into "subdistricts". But nobody knows what the boundaries of those "subdistricts" will be. And nobody will—for nearly two years. That's a bad idea.

Presently, you can vote for every member of the PUSD Board—which, for decades, has reflected our community's geographic and ethnic diversity. Under Measure BB, you will vote for just one member—and then only once every four years. That's not an improvement.

Presently, it doesn't matter where you live or where your children go to school; each Board member is elected by—and accountable to—all voters, and responsible for all students. But under Measure BB, you may live in one "subdistrict", but your children may well attend school in other "subdistricts". Which Board member will respond when you call—the one you can vote for, or the others you can't vote for?

Worse yet, if Board members represent particular neighborhoods, they naturally become most concerned for their own area's particular schools—more than for the needs of the whole District. Listen to **Ramon Cortines**, formerly Pasadena—and interim LA—Schools Superintendent:

"I urge voters to oppose Measure BB. I saw firsthand the destructive effects of subdistrict elections. That system inevitably leads to unhealthy competition among Board members and their subdistricts, and it encourages micromanagement. Subdistricts are not good for our schools, our children or their families. They divide rather than unify our community."

Let's not create an LA-type School Board. Join former Mayors **John Crowley**, **Katie Nack**, **Bill Thomson** and hundreds of your neighbors and friends; vote **NO** on Measure BB.

SIDNEY F. TYLER, JR.
City Councilmember - District 7

MARGE WYATT
Former PUSD Board Member

BILL UKROPINA
Parks & Recreation Commissioner

ELBIE J. HICKAMBOTTOM
Former PUSD Board Member

ARMANDO L. GONZALEZ
Architect

PR-020.003

N LA 064-027

EXHIBIT "B"

PROPOSITION B

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE
CITY OF PASADENA ESTABLISHING ELECTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION BY GEOGRAPHIC SUB-DISTRICT

Section 1. Section 702 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 702. TERM OF OFFICE. Except as set forth herein, the members of the Board of Education shall hold office for a term of four years, and until their successors are elected and have duly qualified. The exceptions are as follows: The initial term of office shall be two years. At the time of the first election by geographic sub-districts, pursuant to Section 705(A), all terms shall expire and all offices shall be subject to election, whether or not the member holding an office has served a term of four years. The initial terms for each office elected in the initial election by geographic sub-district shall be staggered, pursuant to Section 705(C), notwithstanding the fact that some members shall serve an initial term of less than four years."

Section 2. Section 703 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 703. ELECTION. Elections shall be primary nominating and general. Members of the Board of Education shall be elected from the school district at large, until geographic sub-districts are established pursuant to Section 705 and, after that time, members of the Board of Education shall be elected by geographic sub-districts, on the third Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years, unless elected by a majority of votes at the primary nominating election. Candidates to be voted on at the general election shall be residents and qualified voters of the Pasadena Unified School District, until geographic sub-districts are established pursuant to Section 705, and, after that time, candidates to be voted on at the general election shall be residents and qualified voters of the geographic sub-district in which the election is held and shall be nominated at a primary nominating election, held on the sixth Tuesday preceding the date fixed for the Board of Education general election. No person shall become a candidate for more than one of the numbered offices to be filled at such election. No names shall be printed upon the ballot in the general election for a member or members of the Board of Education other than those selected in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

So far as possible, the same officers of election shall be appointed for the primary nominating election and for the general election, utilizing, so far as possible, the same polling places. The officers of the elections shall be compensated for their services as provided by the general laws of the State governing school elections; such compensation and any other expense incurred in the conduct of said elections shall be a charge upon the School District and not upon the City."

Section 3. Section 704 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 704. NOMINATING PETITION. Any person desiring to become a candidate for one of the numbered offices of the Board of Education to be filled at such election, shall file, or have filed, with the City Clerk, acting in the capacity of Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education during the Board of Education elections, in the form and in the period prior to the primary nominating election prescribed by the California Elections Code, nominating papers signed by him/her specifying for which of the numbered offices he/she is a candidate, signed by not less than one hundred (100) qualified voters and residents of the Pasadena Unified School District, until geographic sub-districts are established pursuant to Section 705 and, after that time, by not less than twenty five (25) qualified voters and residents of the geographic sub-district of the Pasadena Unified School District for which the candidate is being nominated, requesting such candidacy, and accompanied by a filing fee of \$25.00. The names of voters not residents of the Pasadena Unified School District, until geographic sub-districts are established pursuant to Section 705 and, after that time, the names of voters not residents of the geographic sub-district for which the candidate is being nominated, shall not be counted by the County Registrar of Voters in determining the sufficiency of such petition.”

Section 4. Section 705 is hereby added to the Charter of the City of Pasadena, to read as follows:

“Section 705. ELECTION DISTRICTS.

A. The Board of Education shall be elected at large until the State of California enacts legislation to authorize or to allow the election of the Board of Education by geographic sub-district. Should such enabling legislation become effective less than one year prior to a regularly scheduled election of the Board of Education, that election shall be conducted at large, and elections by geographic sub-district, primary nominating and general, shall then commence at the following regularly scheduled election of the Board of Education, such that each of the members of the Board of Education shall be nominated and elected by geographic sub-district as provided for in this Charter. Should such enabling legislation become effective one year or more prior to a regularly scheduled election of the Board of Education, that election and all subsequent elections, primary nominating and general, shall be conducted by geographic sub-district such that each of the members of the Board of Education shall be nominated and elected by geographic sub-district as provided for in this Charter. Each member of the Board of Education shall be a qualified voter and resident of the geographic sub-district from which the member is elected.

B. Geographic sub-districts for the Board of Education shall be established by resolution of the City Council of the City of Pasadena no later than 18 months following the end of each decennial census year, except that the initial geographic sub-districts shall be established as soon as feasible after the state legislation referenced in subsection A of this section becomes effective. The City Council shall establish, by ordinance, a Redistricting Commission to recommend to the City Council the configuration of election sub-districts for the area served by the Pasadena Unified School District. The Redistricting Commission shall consist of nine members, as follows:

1. Two members of the Pasadena City Council appointed by the City Council;
2. Two persons appointed by the Board of Education who are not then members of the Board of Education;
3. Two residents of Altadena or of the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County served by the Pasadena Unified School District to be appointed by the County Supervisor representing such area or, if the area should be split between two supervisors, then one such resident shall be appointed by each supervisor;
4. One resident of the City of Sierra Madre to be appointed by the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre;
5. Two residents of the area served by the Pasadena Unified School District to be appointed by the Pasadena City Council who are not current members of the City Council.

The recommendations of the Redistricting Commission shall be approved by resolution of the Pasadena City Council unless the City Council finds that such recommendations are contrary to law or create substantial inequities among the residents of the geographic sub-districts.

C. All offices on the Board of Education shall be subject to election at the first election of geographic sub-districts as governed by this section. The staggering of initial terms for which each of the offices shall be elected in the initial election by geographic sub-district shall be included in the recommendations of the Redistricting Commission appointed to establish the initial geographic sub-districts.”

PROP B

LETTERS REGARDING
INSTANT RUNOFF
VOTING

ATTACHMENT 3



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®**
PASADENA AREA

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Pasadena CA 91104
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FAX 626-798-0966
E-MAIL office@lwvpasadenaarea.org
www.lwvpasadenaarea.org

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

September 27, 2006

To: Jane Rodriguez, City Clerk
Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney

Re: July 17 City Council Directive on School Board Elections
(Council meeting minutes p. 15)

Dear Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Bagneris:

The Alternative Voting Methods (AVM) Committee of the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area, would like to offer some suggestions and observations to help you in fulfilling the City Council's July 17 directive that you report back (within 120 days of then) with information on putting changes in Pasadena Unified School District governance and elections before voters, and on the related need for committees, drawing subregions for PUSD elections, and a Task Force. Our committee members are available to assist you with developing or refining specific proposals.

As you know the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area supports Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for electing officials. We believe that IRV is more fair, and provides voters more freedom of expression, than the two-round systems in place for electing PUSD officials. In addition, the city (and candidates, voters, volunteers and donors) might save substantial amounts of time and money by eliminating separate runoff elections.

We believe that including material about IRV in your report would be consistent with the City Council's directive, since it applies to all three types of elections - the current single seats, the single member geographic district elections and the multi-winner at large elections. We would be happy to provide such material, including the text of a charter amendment if you think that would be helpful.

The Council's directive asked about drawing subregion boundaries for elections. The AVM committee would like to note that IRV elections can be conducted with or without districts. Electing several members of a board or council at large by the instant runoff method (sometimes called "Choice Voting") has the benefit of providing a form of proportional representation that single-winner district elections cannot provide.

Please let us know when your report is available and if we can be of any assistance do not hesitate to contact me at 626-798-0965 or office@lwvpasadenaarea.org.

Sincerely,

Ray Bennett

Chair, Alternative Voting Methods Committee

Does our VOTING SYSTEM need improvement?

YES. The evidence is all around us: low voter turnout, negative campaigning, superficial treatment of the issues, narrow range of debate and distrust of politicians.

The two most common voting systems in the United States – plurality and two-round runoff elections – have serious shortcomings. Among these are:

Minority Rule: In a plurality election, a winner can be elected with less than a majority. Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon won presidential races with less than 45%. In 1994, three governors won with less than 38%. In 1997, the mayor of Albuquerque won with just 29%. When powerful offices can be won with such low percentages, there's no guarantee of majority rule.

Problem with Spoilers: Plurality voting allows candidates with little chance of winning to knock off popular candidates. Voters' choices are limited, as potential candidates with good ideas don't run, due to fear of this "spoiler" effect.

Costly and Inefficient: With two-round runoff elections, if there is no majority winner in the first round, taxpayers pay for two elections, candidates raise and spend more money, and voter turnout is often extremely low. If many candidates run, the majority of voters could have voted for candidates who were not the top two who

reached the runoff. In a low turnout runoff, it's impossible to say that the winner has majority support.

Can IRV solve these problems?

YES! Unlike a plurality election, IRV assures that the winner enjoys majority support. IRV avoids the problem of multiple candidates splitting the vote, throwing elections to less popular candidates. It accomplishes this in a single election when turnout is highest. Taxpayers save the cost of a separate runoff election.

How does IRV work?

Voters simply rank the candidates as 1st Choice, 2nd Choice, 3rd Choice... ranking as many as they wish: 1, 2, 3...

For example:

Your Ballot <i>(Voter chooses 1, 2, 3)</i>	All First Choice Votes <i>(No Majority winner in first round)</i>
Smith 2	41% of all votes
Garcia 1	40% of all votes
Franklin 3	19% of all votes

Initially, ballots are counted based only on first choice votes. If a candidate receives a majority (50% + 1) of first choices, that candidate is elected. If there is no majority winner of first choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated for the next round. Ballots are counted in a series of rounds (or instant runoffs). Each round, your ballot counts for

your highest-ranked candidate still in the running. The election is over when a candidate wins a majority.

In this example, since no candidate received a majority of first choice votes and Franklin received the fewest (19% of the total), Franklin was eliminated. In the second round, the ballots listing Franklin as first choice were counted for their voters' second choices, giving Smith another 4% of the total and Garcia another 15%. (Your ballot had Garcia as 1st choice and was still counted for Garcia in the second round.) Garcia won since 55% of all voters actually preferred her to Smith.

Instant Runoff <i>(second round, no new election)</i>	IRV Majority Winner
Franklin's 19% is distributed to voters' second choices: 15% to Garcia, 4% to Smith	
Smith 41%+4%	
Garcia 40%+15%	Garcia 55%
Franklin eliminated	

Has IRV ever been used?

Yes, IRV is used to elect the members of the Australian Legislature, the President of Ireland, and the Mayor of London. In March 2002, voters in San Francisco chose IRV as the method for electing their Mayor and other officials. The American Political Science Association (APSA) also uses IRV because its members – political scientists who study these things – know it is a fair way to elect a single candidate when there are more than two choices.

Is IRV too complicated for the voter?

No, IRV is as easy as 1, 2, 3. All the voter does is rank one or more candidates in order of choice.

Doesn't IRV give extra votes to fringe voters who vote for eliminated candidates?

No, IRV works much like a series of instant or quick runoffs if no candidate receives a majority of first choice votes. If your 1st choice does make a runoff, your ballot continues to support that candidate. If your 1st choice candidate doesn't make a runoff, your ballot supports your next choice still in the running. With IRV, this all happens with one election.

Is IRV constitutional?

Yes, IRV is a constitutional voting system which upholds the principle of one person - one vote.

Instant runoff voting can:

- Promote majority rule, in contrast to plurality voting where the one with the most votes wins even if a majority voted against that candidate by voting for others.

- Save money compared to costly two-round runoff elections, which often have low voter turnout.

- Increase voter turnout by giving voters more choices. Experience around the world shows that voter turnout goes up when voters have a wider range of choices.

- Promote positive, issue-based campaigns because candidates will want voters to rank them 2nd or 3rd if they do not rank them as a first choice.

- Create a clearer mandate for a winning candidate's agenda, giving better direction for policy-making.

- Allow you to vote for the candidate you really prefer without helping to elect someone else.

- Minimize "wasted" votes, votes which don't help elect a winner. To the extent possible, your vote will help elect a candidate you like.

- Avoid a delay in electing a winner - a problem of two-round runoff elections.

- Eliminate the spoiler problem of plurality elections.

Instant Runoff Voting

What is IRV?

IRV is a fair way to elect a single candidate when there are more than two choices.

IRV allows you to vote for the candidate you like without helping to elect the candidate you don't.

A Simple Guide to Instant Runoff Voting



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE PASADENA AREA**

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[Replication and distribution of this material are encouraged.]

**Los Angeles Voters
For Instant Runoff Elections**

1255 Federal Ave. #304
Los Angeles, CA 90025-3969

September 21, 2006

Jane Rodriguez, City Clerk
117 E. Colorado Blvd., 6th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91105-1938

Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney
215 N. Marengo Ave. #100,
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: July 17 City Council Directive on School Board Elections
(Council meeting minutes p. 15)

Dear Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Bagneris:

I participate in meetings of the Alternative Voting Methods (AVM) Committee of the League of Women Voters, Pasadena Area, and would like to echo and expand upon its communications with you regarding election system reform. Please consider the comments and suggestions below as you fulfill the City Council's July 17 directive that you report back (within 120 days of then) with information on putting changes in Pasadena Unified School District governance and elections before voters, and on the related need for committees, drawing subregions for PUSD elections, and a Task Force.

As long as you are considering ways to improve PUSD elections, you may wish to address Pasadena city election methods at the same time. Voters, and perhaps the City Council as well, would appreciate having the two election systems in harmony. Why upgrade one without upgrading the other? In your report to the Council, you should address reasons for, and effects of, any differences.

By now you should know that the California and Pasadena Area Leagues of Women Voters advocate instant runoff elections, and that the instant runoff method of electing officials is more fair, and provides voters more freedom of expression, than the two-round systems in place for electing both PUSD officials and Pasadena city officials. In addition, the city (and candidates, voters, volunteers and donors) might save substantial amounts of time and money and environmental impact by eliminating separate runoff elections. To be complete in fulfilling the Council's directive, you should address the fairness, freedom and savings accorded by the options you consider.

To promote those values, please provide for the Council's consideration a charter amendment with the following elements:

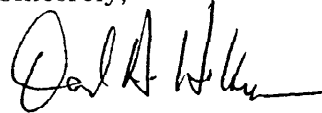
1. A statement that elections "shall be by the system of the single transferable vote (the instant runoff method, using ranked-choice voting)."

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CITY OF PASADENA

2. Implementation date: 2011.
3. The establishment of an Elections Upgrade Task Force to advise city officials and assist them with voter education during the transition to the new election system. This provision would give each current City Council Member and each PUSD Board Member the authority to appoint a certain number of Task Force members. Perhaps the Task Force would complete its work with an evaluation of the regularly scheduled 2011 (or 2013) election.
4. A statement that the City Clerk (or Council) "shall have the authority to choose the equipment, and to prescribe the ballot format and rules for use in each election, subject to the requirements of this Charter and the Pasadena Municipal Code." (A clear statement of intent to exercise home rule could ease implementation in the absence of state guidelines or state-certified machines for instant runoff elections.)
5. A statement that a paper ballot cast by the voter shall be the official record of each vote. (To address a likely concern about home rule.)
6. A requirement for manual audits of ballot counts. (Ditto.)
7. Provisions for regular (once a decade) redistricting, perhaps requiring the city to retain an independent entity to prepare district maps for Council approval. (If elections are to be at large, this would be unnecessary.)
8. The establishment of two committees: An election equipment committee to advise the City Clerk on ballots and machines, and an audit committee to perform the manual audit of ballots after each election. (These committees could also be established by the Council rather than by Charter amendment.)

Please keep me apprised of your progress in fulfilling the Council's directive. For more information, or if I might possibly assist you in any way, please contact me at (310) 477-5934 or dah@lavotefire.org.

Sincerely,



David A. Holtzman, Esq., Founder