

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JULY 17, 2006

FROM: CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006, FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE CITY OF PASADENA AND PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE RELATING TO THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Should the City Council wish to pursue a change in the voting method for the members of the Board of Education, pursuant to its direction given to City staff on June 12, 2006, the City Council should:

- (1) Adopt the following resolutions related to the calling of a special municipal election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006:
 - (a) A resolution of the City Council of the City of Pasadena calling and giving notice of a special municipal election to be held in said City and in the territory annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, for the submission of a Charter amendment measure relating to the method of electing the Board of Education.
 - (b) A resolution of the City Council of the City of Pasadena requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to authorize and order the consolidation of a special municipal election of the City of Pasadena and the territory annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes with the statewide General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, and requesting the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters to provide certain services.
 - (c) A resolution of the City Council of the City of Pasadena setting priorities for filing written arguments pertaining to a proposed Charter amendment measure relating to the method of electing the Board of Education and directing the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis.
 - (d) A resolution of the City Council of the City of Pasadena providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments with respect to the measure.

- (2) That the City Council direct the City Clerk to print the full text of the proposed Charter amendment text in a bilingual (English/Spanish) supplemental voter information pamphlet.

BACKGROUND:

Council Direction of June 12, 2006

On June 12, 2006, the City Council took action to direct staff to prepare formal resolutions and ballot language to place a measure on the consolidated November 7, 2006 ballot to effectuate a change in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) election process that would remove the numbered Board seats and would provide for at-large plurality election of Board members. The Mayor was asked to inform the Board of Education of this proposal to change the election process, and request input from the Board prior to formal documents/resolutions being adopted by Council to place the measure on the November ballot.

PUSD Input on Proposed Measure

The Mayor appeared at the June 13, 2006 School Board meeting and advised the Board of the City Council's initial action to place this measure on the November ballot. The Mayor has been informed that the Board of Education is planning to discuss the matter on its agenda in the near future.

Current Charter Provisions/Summary of Proposed Charter Changes

A strike-out version of the proposed Charter amendment text is attached as Exhibit A to the first resolution calling the election. Under current City Charter provisions, Board of Education candidates must pull nomination papers for a specific numbered seat on the Board, and candidates only run against other candidates for the same seat. Candidates must currently receive a majority of the votes (50% plus 1) to be declared elected in the primary nominating election. If not, the top two vote-getters' names are placed on the ballot for the general election, which is held six weeks after the primary nominating election.

The proposed Charter change would delete the numbered seats on the Board of Education, references to "primary nominating election" would be deleted and the PUSD election would be called a "general election"; said "general election" would continue to be consolidated with the City of Pasadena primary nominating election; the two jurisdictions would continue to share costs for the consolidated election; there would no longer be a requirement for the Board of Education candidates to receive a majority of the votes and the top vote-getters would be elected based on the number of open positions on the Board; and there would no longer be PUSD run-off elections.

As noted above, the name of the PUSD election would be called a "general election." For general law cities and school districts that conduct one (plurality) election, the California Elections Code refers to the election as a "general election." However, the City of Pasadena will continue to conduct a primary nominating election and its general election six weeks later (if a run-off election is necessary). It may be somewhat awkward referring to the consolidated City and PUSD election as both a City of Pasadena primary nominating election and a PUSD general election, and the two different election names may be confusing to voters. Beginning with the 2007 municipal election, a bilingual ballot (in addition to the voter information pamphlet) will be printed in both English and Spanish. It will be difficult to print the different election names of the two jurisdictions on the ballot stubs and have sufficient room for translation in Spanish. One option Council may want to consider is to change the name of Pasadena's primary nominating election to "general election" and refer to the second election as a "municipal run-off election". This would require additional Charter changes in Article IV (the City Council) and Article XII (Elections).

Adoption of Resolutions

Adoption of the four resolutions will accomplish the following: (1) formally call the special municipal election for submission of the Charter amendment measure to the voters within the City of Pasadena and within the PUSD territory that is annexed for school purposes; (2) request the Board of Supervisors order the consolidation of this special municipal election with the statewide General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006; (3) set priority order for the filing of arguments, authorize the City Council to file a written argument in favor of the measure, and direct the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis; and (4) authorize the filing of rebuttal arguments for the measure.

Supplemental Voter Information Pamphlet

An initiative measure (NFL/Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation) has already been placed on the November 7, 2006 special municipal election ballot. The County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office has informed the City Clerk that the County is not able to print and mail to all registered voters a bilingual English/Spanish voter information pamphlet of Pasadena's measure. Therefore, Council has directed the City Clerk to print and mail a supplemental voter information pamphlet. For this initiative measure, Council directed that the ballot measure text of the proposed ordinance and exhibits (almost 100 pages long) not be printed in the voter information pamphlet but be available upon request and free of charge to voters, and posted on the Internet. For the measure relating to the method of electing the Board of Education, because the Charter text is not lengthy, the City Clerk is requesting direction from Council to print a strike-out/underline version of the proposed Charter amendment text in the supplemental voter information pamphlet. The cost to include this second measure in the supplemental voter information pamphlet is reflected below.

FISCAL IMPACT:

To consolidate a special municipal election with the statewide general election on November 7, 2006, the County provided a cost estimate of \$122,000 (for the NFL initiative measure). The City Clerk was advised that it would cost approximately \$3,000 for each additional City measure placed on this ballot, and the County Registrar estimated it would cost approximately \$126,000 - \$137,000 to have up to four measures placed on the November ballot. However, the Registrar's Office subsequently informed the City Clerk that because this additional measure would actually be initiating a consolidated election in the PUSD territory outside the City limits, the Registrar's Office is now estimating a cost of \$68,000 - \$108,000 to add this second measure, which is considerably higher than the prior quote of \$3,000 to add a City measure to the November ballot. The combined total County Registrar's estimated costs for the City to consolidate elections for both measures is now in the range of \$190,000 - \$230,000 (range depends on whether other jurisdictions consolidate for the November election). This cost estimate would also include if up to two additional measures (Good Government Recommendations and Contribution Limits) are placed on the November ballot.

In adding a second measure to the November ballot, the cost to print a bilingual (English/Spanish) supplemental voter information pamphlet will increase an additional \$40,035. The estimated cost to print a supplemental pamphlet for the NFL initiative measure is \$49,469. Adding this second measure to the ballot, and increasing the number of pamphlets to be printed to include the PUSD area outside the City limits, will add an estimated \$40,035 to the cost, for a total of \$89,504 to have two measures printed in the supplemental pamphlet.

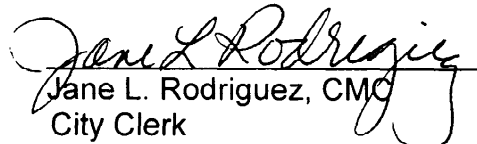
If a third measure (Task Force on Good Government recommendations) is placed on the November ballot, the estimated cost to print and mail a supplemental pamphlet will increased to \$107,014. If a fourth measure is placed on this ballot (Contribution Limits), the estimated cost to print and mail a supplemental pamphlet is \$116,841.

The City Clerk's Department Election Budget for FY 2007 does not include funds for this special municipal election. The Election Budget will need to be amended after Council has determined all the measures to be placed on this ballot.

Reviewed by:


Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney

Respectfully submitted,


Jane L. Rodriguez, CMC
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY AND IN THE TERRITORY ANNEXED THERETO FOR PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006, FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE RELATING TO THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority provided in California Elections Code, Sections 9255 and 10201, and in the Pasadena City Charter, Section 1206, the City Council of the City of Pasadena desires to submit to the voters of the City of Pasadena and of the territory that is annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes, a charter amendment measure relating to the method of electing the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Pasadena as follows, that:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the requirements of the Pasadena City Charter and the laws of the State of California, a Special Municipal Election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the City of Pasadena and in the territory that is annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes, on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

SECTION 2. At said election there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of said City and the territory that is annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes, a Charter amendment measure relating to the method of electing the Board of Education.

SECTION 3. The text of said measure, labeled as Measure B, which may be redesignated by the County Clerk, is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 4. The procedures for voting for and against said measure shall be those established by Los Angeles County, and the question shall be printed in substantially the following form:

MEASURE B. Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to eliminate the requirement that candidates for the Board of Education run for specific, numbered seats and to provide that the members be elected to the Board of Education by a plurality of votes at a general election, consolidated with the City of Pasadena primary nominating election, such that the candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected to fill vacant positions?	YES	
	NO	

SECTION 5. The ballots to be used at the election shall be in form and content as required by law.

SECTION 6. The polls shall be open at 7:00 a.m. of the day of the election and shall remain open continuously from that time until 8:00 p.m. of the same day when the polls shall be closed, except as provided in Section 14401 of the California Elections Code.

SECTION 7. Under separate resolution, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County shall cause the precincts, polling places and election officers for said election to be established and cause the returns of said election to be canvassed and to certify the same to the City Council of the City of Pasadena.

SECTION 8. In all particulars not recited in this resolution, the election hereby called shall be held and conducted as provided by law for holding municipal elections in said City and the territory annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes.

SECTION 9. Notice of the time and place of holding the election is given and the City Clerk is authorized, instructed and directed to give further or additional notice of the election, in time, form and manner as required by law.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Jane L. Rodriguez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 7/12/06

for _____
Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

MEASURE B

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER
OF THE CITY OF PASADENA RELATING TO THE
METHOD OF ELECTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Section 1. Section 701 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 701. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The control, management, and administration of the public elementary and secondary schools of the City of Pasadena and such territory that is now or may hereafter be annexed thereto for school purposes, in accordance with the Constitution and general laws of the State of California, is hereby vested in a Board of Education consisting of seven members ~~holding offices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 respectively.~~ The initial election for offices ~~6 and 7 shall occur in 2001, along with the election for offices 1, 3 and 5, and the initial term of office 6 shall be two years.~~ The Board of Education is hereby vested with all the powers and charged with all the duties provided under state law for city boards of education."

Section 2. Section 702 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 702. TERM OF OFFICE.

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. There shall be an election for three of the members in 2007 and for four of the members in 2009."

Section 3. 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 in a general election on the third Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years, consolidated with the City of Pasadena primary election described in Section 1202 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 ~~a Pasadena school district~~ the Pasadena Unified School District, 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 in the manner set forth in Section 704. 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~~ nominated 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~~ election 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~~ election shall be a charge upon the school district and not upon the City."

Section 4. 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 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 from the Pasadena Unified School District, requesting such candidacy, and accompanied by a filing fee of \$25.00. The qualified voters signing any petition for the nomination of any person to the office of member of the Board of Education shall be residents of the Pasadena Unified School District. The names of voters not residents of the Pasadena Unified School District shall not be counted by the County Registrar of Voters in determining the sufficiency of such petition."

Section 5. Section 706 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 706. ELECTION AT THE PRIMARY AND BALLOTS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.

~~The two candidates for each of the numbered offices of the Board of Education receiving the highest number of votes at the primary nominating election shall be the candidates and the only candidates for such office whose names shall be printed on the ballots to be used at the general election; provided that any candidate who at a primary nominating election shall receive a majority of all the votes cast for candidates for said office, shall be elected to said office. The ballots at such general election shall be in the same general form as for such primary nominating election, so far as applicable. All properly nominated candidates shall appear on a single ballot. When one member of the Board is to be elected, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. When two or more members are to be elected, the two or more candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Each voter may vote for as many candidates as there are members to be elected. The ballot shall contain instructions stating the maximum number of candidates for whom each voter may~~

vote. In the case of a tie vote, the Board of Education shall summon the candidates affected to appear at a time and place designated by the said Board and shall at that time and place determine the tie by lot.”

Section 6. Section 708 of the Charter of the City of Pasadena is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 708. STATE LAW APPLICABLE; ERRORS OR IRREGULARITIES.

In all other matters, the election for members of the Board of Education shall, ~~as to the primary nominating and as to the general election,~~ be governed by the applicable general laws of the State relating to city boards of education.

No election, ~~whether primary nominating or general,~~ shall be set aside for any error, irregularity or defect in the proceedings leading up to or in said election, when the provisions of law governing the same are substantially complied with and where a fair expression of the will of the electorate is secured.”

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO AUTHORIZE AND ORDER THE CONSOLIDATION OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AND THE TERRITORY ANNEXED THERETO FOR PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES WITH THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006, AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY CLERK/ REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pasadena has called a Special Municipal Election to be held on the day of the statewide General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is submitting to the qualified voters of the City of Pasadena and of the territory that is now annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes, a Charter amendment measure relating to the method of electing the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the Special Municipal Election be consolidated with the statewide General Election to be held on the same date and that within the city and the territory that is now annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes, the precincts, polling places and election officers of the two elections be the same, and that the Los Angeles County Clerk/Registrar of Voters canvass the returns of the Special Municipal Election and that the election be held in all respects as if there were only one election; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to secure the consent and order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to effect such consolidation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Pasadena as follows, that:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the requirements of Section 10403 of the California Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is hereby requested to consent and agree to the consolidation of a Special Municipal Election with the statewide General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, in order that a charter amendment measure may be submitted to the voters of the City of Pasadena and of the territory that is annexed thereto for Pasadena School District purposes.

SECTION 2. A measure is to appear on the ballot in substantially the following form:

MEASURE B. Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to eliminate the requirement that candidates for the Board of Education run for specific, numbered seats and to provide that the members be elected to the Board of Education by a plurality of votes at a general election, consolidated with the City of Pasadena primary nominating election, such that the candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected to fill vacant positions?	YES	
	NO	

SECTION 3. The County Clerk/Registrar of Voters is authorized to canvass the returns of the Special Municipal Election and to certify the same to the City Council of the City of Pasadena at the time and in the manner provided by law. The vote requirement for passage of the measure shall be a majority of votes cast (50% plus 1) for the measure. The election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used.

SECTION 4. The Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.

SECTION 5. The City of Pasadena recognizes that additional costs will be incurred by the County by reason of this consolidation, and the City agrees to reimburse the County for all expenses incurred for services requested by this resolution.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters of Los Angeles County.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Jane L. Rodriguez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 7/12/06

fw Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FILING WRITTEN ARGUMENTS PERTAINING
TO A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE RELATING TO
THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN IMPARTIAL
ANALYSIS

WHEREAS, a Special Municipal Election, to be consolidated with the statewide General Election, is to be held in the City of Pasadena and in the territory that is annexed thereto for Pasadena Unified School District purposes on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, at which there will be submitted to the voters a Charter amendment measure in substantially the following form:

MEASURE B. Shall the Charter of the City of Pasadena be amended to eliminate the requirement that candidates for the Board of Education run for specific, numbered seats and to provide that the members be elected to the Board of Education by a plurality of votes at a general election, consolidated with the City of Pasadena primary nominating election, such that the candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected to fill vacant positions?	YES	
	NO	

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Pasadena does resolve, declare, determine and order as follows, that:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby authorizes the following member(s) of the City Council: _____

to file a written argument in favor of the measure in accordance with the Elections Code of the State of California, Section 9280, et seq., and may be changed until and including the date fixed

by the City Clerk, August 7, 2006, after which no arguments for or against the measure may be submitted to the City Clerk.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the measure to the City Attorney. The City Attorney shall cause to be prepared an impartial analysis of the measure showing the effect of the measure on the existing law and the operation of the measure. The impartial analysis shall be filed by the date set by the City Clerk for the filing of primary arguments.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

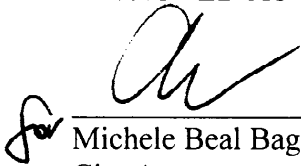
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Jane L. Rodriguez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

7/12/06



Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS WITH
RESPECT TO A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURE
RELATING TO THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION SUBMITTED AT THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

WHEREAS, Section 9285 of the California Elections Code authorizes the City Council, by majority vote, to adopt provisions for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city measures submitted at municipal elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Pasadena does resolve, declare, determine and order as follows, that:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 9285 of the California Elections Code, when the elections official has selected the arguments for and against the measure which will be printed and distributed to the voters, the elections official shall send a copy of an argument in favor of the measure to the authors of any argument against the measure, and a copy of an argument against the measure to the authors of any argument in favor of the measure immediately upon receiving the arguments.

The author or a majority of the authors of an argument relating to a City measure may prepare and submit a rebuttal argument not exceeding 250 words or may authorize in writing any other person or persons to prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal argument. A rebuttal argument may not be signed by more than five persons.

The rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the City Clerk, signed, with the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers, not more than 10 days after the final date for filing direct arguments. The rebuttal arguments shall be accompanied by the Declaration by Author(s) form to be supplied by the City Clerk.

Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments. Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut.

SECTION 2. The provisions of Section 1 shall apply only to the Special Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, and shall then be repealed.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Jane L. Rodriguez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 7/12/06

for

Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney

CORRESPONDENCE



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OF WOMEN VOTERS®
PASADENA AREA

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Copy for Jane Rodriguez, City Clerk

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

26 June 2006

Bill Bogaard, Mayor
City Councilmembers
and
PUSD Board of Education

Subject: Election System for PUSD Board of Education

The Alternative Voting Methods Committee of the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area (the League) recently learned of the proposal to change the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education election system. We have alternative proposals for consideration.

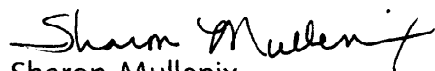
The League opposes use of a plurality system. Plurality systems allow top vote getters to win even if the majority voted against them. This method invites spoiler candidates. Voters face the dilemma that casting a vote for the candidate they want could help elect a candidate they do not want. Although plurality voting is efficient it devalues many votes, sometimes a majority of votes.

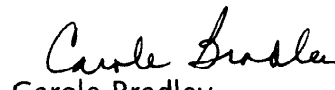
As alternatives we propose Choice Voting for multi-winner elections or Instant Runoff Voting for single-winner elections. The League has adopted positions favoring Choice Voting or, for single winner elections, Instant Runoff Voting.

Both Choice and Instant Runoff Voting emphasize the value of an individual's vote. Each voter ranks acceptable candidates and these ranked preferences are used in the tallying process to ensure elected officials have strong support from the electorate. Voting equipment for ranked voting is anticipated to be available next year so our suggested proposal would provide for implementation in the near future.

We encourage the Board of Education and the City Council to consider the reform alternatives and the pitfalls of plurality systems with detailed discussion before proceeding. The August 11 deadline for placing a proposal on the November ballot leaves little time for study of the alternatives and adequate community input. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further information to you or to discuss these methods at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Sharon Mullenix
President


Carole Bradley
V.P. Action