

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION OF THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE
OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS

RECEIVED
CITY OF IRVINE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Argument Against Measure _____

2023 OCT 24 AM 10:31

"Charter Amendment to Expand City Council and Establish City Council Districts"

The City Council's decision to create multiple districts, ostensibly to overcome the dilution of minority voting power in compliance with the *California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)*, will replace our constitutional election process with multi-district voting, introducing segregation and its pernicious consequences into our community. In the words of Irvine's City Attorney:

It is one thing to order a city to draw districts along race-based lines when doing so will give a protected class electoral strength it never had before. It is quite another to order a city to engage in such race-conscious line-drawing when it will achieve no purpose. The U. S. Supreme Court has condemned "[r]acial gerrymandering," which threatens to "balkanize us into competing racial factions" and "to carry us further from the goal of a political system in which race no longer matters." **Forcing the most integrated big city in the country to draw race-based districts would be a huge step backwards. "It would be an irony" if the CVRA 'were interpreted to entrench racial differences by expanding a 'statute meant to hasten the waning of racism in American politics.'**"

Irvine need and should not adopt a by-district voting system because (a) there is no evidence it will improve minority representation; (b) **other remedial alternatives, such as cumulative voting, limited voting, or ranked choice voting, exist**; and (c) by-district elections will yield negative consequences, including:

- self-segregation** of populations;
- conflict among districts** for resources;
- loss of collaboration among councilmembers**;
- gerrymandering**; and
- costs** to redraw maps after each census.

Voting districts will foment divisions among communities as residents migrate to districts where they will be surrounded by people of like minds, creating exclusionary ghettos. "Segregation was wrong when it was forced by white people, and I believe it is still wrong when it is requested by black people." (Coretta King.)

The undersigned author of the Direct Argument against Ballot Measure ___ named "Charter Amendment to Expand City Council and Establish City Council Districts" at the Special Municipal Election for the City of Irvine to be held on March 5, 2024, hereby states that such argument is true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Signed _____

Cathy R. Schiff
Concerned Citizen

Date: _____

10/24/2023