

CC/18
pp 353

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 1985

RESOLUTION URGING
MODIFICATION TO
ABSENTEE VOTING
PROCEDURES

Following introduction of the matter by City Clerk Reimche, Council, on motion of Council Member Pinkerton, Reid second, adopted Resolution No. 85-12 as follows urging the passage of legislation modifying absentee voting procedures. The City Clerk was directed to forward copies of the subject resolution to the the appropriate legislators.

RES. NO. 85-12

RESOLUTION NO. 85-12

RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL URGING MODIFICATION
TO ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi is concerned with the growing use of absentee ballots, the increased potential for election fraud, and the administrative difficulties created for the State's election officials; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi feels that the need for legislative changes in the area of absentee voting is clear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby support the following modifications to absentee voting procedures and urges the adoption of legislation that would enact these modifications.

- a) Require absentee ballot applications to be identical and conform to the application prepared by the election office and that no address other than the election office's address appear on the application;
- b) Make official applications available 90 days prior to an election;
- c) Keep the list of absentee voters confidential until election day;
- d) Require that voted ballots be returned to the election official by mail or in person with each jurisdiction having the option of providing the voters with prepaid postage for the return of voted ballots.
- e) Allow only members of the immediate family (of first consanguinity) to return a voted absentee ballot if the person signs a register upon returning the ballot.
- f) Only a designated election official should be allowed to collect and return absentee ballots from homes for the unsighted or handicapped, or from other residents or convalescent homes, hospitals or homes for the aged;

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 1985

CC 18
pg 353

- g) Include on the application a statement that, once issued an absentee ballot, the voter will only be allowed to vote in the polling place on election day if he/she surrenders the issued ballot; and
- h) Require absentee ballot applications to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to an election rather than one week as is now provided. (The "special application process" which currently permits persons to apply for an absentee ballot during the week immediately prior to the election if necessitated by an "emergency" situation, and which allows a designated third party to handle the ballot, would be amended to extend that pre-election period to two weeks.
- i) Make any fraud involving absentee voting a felony under state law.

Dated: January 16, 1985

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 85-12 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held January 16, 1985 by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members - Hinchman, Pinkerton, Olson,
Reid, and Snider (Mayor)

Noes: Council Members - None

Absent: Council Members - None

Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER, Mayor
DAVID M. HINCHMAN
Mayor Pro Tempore
EVELYN M. OLSON
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.
FRED M. REID

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 320
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241
(209) 334-5634

HENRY A. GLAVES, Jr.
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

January 4, 1985

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the Lodi City Council

From: Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

Subject: Absent Voting Procedures

Election officials throughout the State of California are concerned about the existing absent voting procedures. Areas of concern are:

1. Problems created by third party handling of absentee ballots and applications;
2. The possibility of fraud under the current system;
3. Administrative workload problems caused by the increase in absentee ballots cast;
4. Problems caused by the inflated voting rolls due to inadequacies in the purging system; and
5. Existing confusion regarding absentee voting rules.

Many of the problems that have arisen are a result of court cases and interpretations. Among the many suggested reforms being proposed are:

1. Eliminating, restricting or monitoring handling of applications or ballots by third parties;
2. Approval of voter application forms by election officials;
3. Standardizing absentee ballot applications;
4. Maintaining the confidentiality of the names of persons requesting absentee ballots until after the election; and
5. Pursuing legislation to reinstate the restrictive pre-1978 law on absentee voting.

A hearing concerning this matter was recently held before the Fair Political Practices Commission where election officials throughout the state provided testimony on this subject.

After considering all public testimony, the commission voted to adopt the following resolutions:

1. The FPPC's staff shall modify the Act's campaign reporting requirements by creating a new code ("AB") for reporting expenditures for absentee ballot solicitations;
2. The staff shall study whether the Political Reform Act should be amended to require additional disclosure by committees which are actively involved in the absentee voting process. This additional disclosure may include the disclosure of the names of paid or unpaid persons who, on behalf of a committee, deliver or receive absentee voter applications or absentee ballots.
3. If legislation is introduced to reinstate the restrictive absentee voting provisions which were in effect prior to 1978, the Commission will support the legislation.
4. The Commission supports in principle the recommendations of the League of California Cities with regard to absentee voting.

The Commission is supportive in principal of the recommendations of the League of California Cities with regard to Absentee voting which are to:

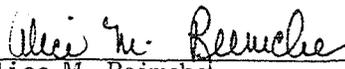
- a. Require absentee ballot applications to be identical and conform to the application prepared by the election office and that no address other than the election office's address appear on the application;
- b. Make official applications available 90 days prior to an election;
- c. Keep the list of absentee voters confidential until election day;
- d. Require that voted ballots be returned to the election official by mail or in person with each jurisdiction having the option of providing the voters with pre-paid postage for the return of voted ballots. In addition allow a registered voter within the jurisdiction to return up to four voted absentee ballots if the person signs a register upon returning the ballots. Only a designated election official should be allowed to collect and return absentee ballots from homes for the unsighted or handicapped, or from other residents or convalescent homes, hospitals or homes for the aged;
- e. Include on the application a statement that, once issued an absentee ballot, the voter will only be allowed to vote in the polling place on election day if he/she surrenders the issued absentee ballot; and
- f. Require absentee ballot applications to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to an election rather than one week as is now provided. (The "special application process" which currently permits persons to apply for an absentee ballot during the week immediately prior to the election if necessitated by an "emergency" situation, and which allows a designated

third party to handle the ballot, would be amended to extend that pre-election period to two weeks).

g. Make any fraud involving absentee voting a felony under state law.

We would concur with the League's recommendation except to allow a third party (who is a registered voter within the jurisdiction) to return up to four voted absentee ballots. We do feel that an immediate family member should be allowed to return a voted ballot of another member of his family.

We would ask that this matter be placed on the Agenda for the January 16, 1985 Regular Meeting for action by the Council urging the adoption of legislation setting forth the recommendation of the League of California Cities with the suggested changes heretofore listed.



Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER, Mayor
DAVID M. HINCHMAN
Mayor Pro Tempore
EVELYN M. OLSON
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.
FRED M. REID

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 320
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241
(209) 334-5634

HENRY A. GLAVES, Jr.
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

January 24, 1985

Secretary of State
March Fong Eu
Public Market
1230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary of State Eu:

Enclosed herewith please find certified copy of Resolution No. 85-12 - Resolution of the Lodi City Council Urging Modification to Absentee Voting Procedures in the State of California which was adopted at its regular meeting held January 16, 1985.

The City of Lodi joins election officials throughout the State of California regarding the significant increase in the use of absentee voting and its impact on the administrative workload, the integrity of the election process and voters relations and urge your support of legislation that would mitigate the problems being encountered.

Very truly yours,

Lodi City Council

by

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AMR:jj
Enc.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-12

RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL URGING MODIFICATION
TO ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi is concerned with the growing use of absentee ballots, the increased potential for election fraud, and the administrative difficulties created for the State's election officials; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi feels that the need for legislative changes in the area of absentee voting is clear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby support the following modifications to absentee voting procedures and urges the adoption of legislation that would enact these modifications.

- a) Require absentee ballot applications to be identical and conform to the application prepared by the election office and that no address other than the election office's address appear on the application;
- b) Make official applications available 90 days prior to an election;
- c) Keep the list of absentee voters confidential until election day;
- d) Require that voted ballots be returned to the election official by mail or in person with each jurisdiction having the option of providing the voters with prepaid postage for the return of voted ballots.
- e) Allow only members of the immediate family (of first consanguinity) to return a voted absentee ballot if the person signs a register upon returning the ballot.
- f) Only a designated election official should be allowed to collect and return absentee ballots from homes for the unsighted or handicapped, or from other residents or convalescent homes, hospitals or homes for the aged;
- g) Include on the application a statement that, once issued an absentee ballot, the voter will only be allowed to vote in the polling place on election day if he/she surrenders the issued ballot; and

- h) Require absentee ballot applications to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to an election rather than one week as is now provided. (The "special application process" which currently permits persons to apply for an absentee ballot during the week immediately prior to the election if necessitated by an "emergency" situation, and which allows a designated third party to handle the ballot, would be amended to extend that pre-election period to two weeks.)
- i) Make any fraud involving absentee voting a felony under state law.

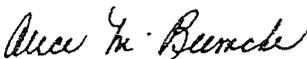
Dated: January 16, 1985

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 85-12 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held January 16, 1985 by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members - Hinchman, Pinkerton, Olson, Reid, and Snider (Mayor)

Noes: Council Members - None

Absent: Council Members - None


Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER, Mayor
DAVID M. HINCHMAN
Mayor Pro Tempore
FVELYN M. OLSON
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.
FRED M. REID

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 320
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241
(209) 334-5634

HENRY A. GLAVES, Jr.
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

January 24, 1985

Honorable John Garamendi
Senator
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Garamendi:

Enclosed herewith please find certified copy of Resolution No. 85-12 - Resolution of the Lodi City Council Urging Modification to Absentee Voting Procedures in the State of California which was adopted at its regular meeting held January 16, 1985.

The City of Lodi joins election officials throughout the State of California regarding the significant increase in the use of absentee voting and its impact on the administrative workload, the integrity of the election process and voters relations and urge your support of legislation that would mitigate the problems being encountered.

Very truly yours,

Lodi City Council

by

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AMR:jj
Enc.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-12

RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL URGING MODIFICATION
TO ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi is concerned with the growing use of absentee ballots, the increased potential for election fraud, and the administrative difficulties created for the State's election officials; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi feels that the need for legislative changes in the area of absentee voting is clear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby support the following modifications to absentee voting procedures and urges the adoption of legislation that would enact these modifications.

- a) Require absentee ballot applications to be identical and conform to the application prepared by the election office and that no address other than the election office's address appear on the application;
- b) Make official applications available 90 days prior to an election;
- c) Keep the list of absentee voters confidential until election day;
- d) Require that voted ballots be returned to the election official by mail or in person with each jurisdiction having the option of providing the voters with prepaid postage for the return of voted ballots.
- e) Allow only members of the immediate family (of first consanguinity) to return a voted absentee ballot if the person signs a register upon returning the ballot.
- f) Only a designated election official should be allowed to collect and return absentee ballots from homes for the unsighted or handicapped, or from other residents or convalescent homes, hospitals or homes for the aged;
- g) Include on the application a statement that, once issued an absentee ballot, the voter will only be allowed to vote in the polling place on election day if he/she surrenders the issued ballot; and

- h) Require absentee ballot applications to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to an election rather than one week as is now provided. (The "special application process" which currently permits persons to apply for an absentee ballot during the week immediately prior to the election if necessitated by an "emergency" situation, and which allows a designated third party to handle the ballot, would be amended to extend that pre-election period to two weeks.)
- i) Make any fraud involving absentee voting a felony under state law.

Dated: January 16, 1985

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 85-12 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held January 16, 1985 by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members - Hinchman, Pinkerton, Olson, Reid, and Snider (Mayor)

Noes: Council Members - None

Absent: Council Members - None

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER, Mayor
DAVID M. HINCHMAN
Mayor Pro Tempore
EVELYN M. OLSON
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.
FRED M. REID

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 320
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241
(209) 334-5634

HENRY A. GLAVES, Jr.
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

January 24, 1985

Honorable Philip Isenberg
Assemblyman
State Capital, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA

Dear Assemblyman Isenberg:

Enclosed herewith please find certified copy of Resolution No. 85-12 - Resolution of the Lodi City Council Urging Modification to Absentee Voting Procedures in the State of California which was adopted at its regular meeting held January 16, 1985.

The City of Lodi joins election officials throughout the State of California regarding the significant increase in the use of absentee voting and its impact on the administrative workload, the integrity of the election process and voters relations and urge your support of legislation that would mitigate the problems being encountered.

Very truly yours,

Lodi City Council

by

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AMR:jj
Enc.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-12

RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL URGING MODIFICATION
TO ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi is concerned with the growing use of absentee ballots, the increased potential for election fraud, and the administrative difficulties created for the State's election officials; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lodi feels that the need for legislative changes in the area of absentee voting is clear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby support the following modifications to absentee voting procedures and urges the adoption of legislation that would enact these modifications.

- a) Require absentee ballot applications to be identical and conform to the application prepared by the election office and that no address other than the election office's address appear on the application;
- b) Make official applications available 90 days prior to an election;
- c) Keep the list of absentee voters confidential until election day;
- d) Require that voted ballots be returned to the election official by mail or in person with each jurisdiction having the option of providing the voters with prepaid postage for the return of voted ballots.
- e) Allow only members of the immediate family (of first consanguinity) to return a voted absentee ballot if the person signs a register upon returning the ballot.
- f) Only a designated election official should be allowed to collect and return absentee ballots from homes for the unsighted or handicapped, or from other residents or convalescent homes, hospitals or homes for the aged;
- g) Include on the application a statement that, once issued an absentee ballot, the voter will only be allowed to vote in the polling place on election day if he/she surrenders the issued ballot; and

- h) Require absentee ballot applications to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to an election rather than one week as is now provided. (The "special application process" which currently permits persons to apply for an absentee ballot during the week immediately prior to the election if necessitated by an "emergency" situation, and which allows a designated third party to handle the ballot, would be amended to extend that pre-election period to two weeks.)
- i) Make any fraud involving absentee voting a felony under state law.

Dated: January 16, 1985

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 85-12 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held January 16, 1985 by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members - Hinchman, Pinkerton, Olson, Reid, and Snider (Mayor)

Noes: Council Members - None

Absent: Council Members - None

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk