

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 4, 1981

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PRESIDENT
REAGAN URGED TO
RESCIND
MULTI-LINGUAL
BALLOT
REQUIREMENTS

Mayor Katnich read aloud a letter which had been drafted by City Clerk Reimche at the direction of the City Council addressed to the President of the United States urging that in view of the present economy of the nation and the financial reversals being encountered by cities throughout this nation, that immediate action be taken to rescind the multi-lingual ballot requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

CITY COUNCIL

WALTER KATNICH, Mayor
JAMES A. McCARTY, Mayor Pro Tem
RICHARD L. HUGHES
ROBERT G. MURPHY
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95240
(209) 334-5634

HENRY A. GLAVES, Jr.
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

February 23, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mr. President:

Since the passage of the 1975 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act, the City Council of the City of Lodi has been keenly concerned with the costs incurred in providing multi-language elections.

The language of the Act speaks to the "State" and "Political Subdivision". The Act's terminology, "Political Subdivision", has been determined to include counties and parishes. All cities, therefore, located within a county or parish must comply with the requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act to which that county or parish is responsible for compliance. In many cases cities have been forced to expend funds which they can ill-afford because of the broad geographical area covered within the "Political Subdivision".

The City Council of the City of Lodi, over the past several years, has made a concerted effort to determine the benefits to the citizens of this community for such a costly program. In canvassing the municipal election results in this community during the past several years, we have not found an instance of the Spanish language portion of the ballot within our City being voted. Election after election we are contacted by our constituents expressing their anger over this mandated expenditure.

In view of the present economy of the nation and the financial reversals being encountered by cities throughout this nation, the City Council of the City of Lodi would ask that immediate action be taken to rescind the multi-lingual requirements of this Act. Certainly funds presently being expended to meet the requirements of this Act can be better spent in meeting the ongoing needs of our community.

Respectfully,

LODI CITY COUNCIL



by Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AR:dg