

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 1, 1981

REPLY RECEIVED
FROM
CONGRESSMAN
SHUMWAY RE
MULTI-LINGUAL
BALLOT
REQUIREMENTS

City Clerk Reimche presented a letter which had been received from Congressman Norman Shumway stating that he shared the City's opposition to the multi-lingual ballot requirements of the 1975 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act. Congressman Shumway further stated that he has joined Representative Bill Thomas in sponsoring a bill to repeal the provisions of this Act that provide for bilingual ballots and that the bill will be introduced in the near future.

Alice
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
14th DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON BANKING,
FINANCE, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

1250 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
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CHRISTOPHER C. BEESER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1049 NORTH EL DORADO, ROOM 8
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202
(202) 444-7918

MARK A. DENZRO
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

March 24, 1981

Mrs. Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk
City Hall, 221 West Pine Street
Lodi, Ca 95240

Dear Mrs. Reimche:

I share your opposition to the multi-lingual ballot requirements of the 1975 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act.

When the 96th Congress amended the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to require the use of bilingual ballots, the intent was to incorporate our nonEnglish-speaking population into the mainstream of American society by allowing them to vote in a language they can read and write. The effect of the Act, however, is to foster the idea among immigrants to the United States that they can fully take part in the political process without overcoming the language barrier. That simply is not true. It is difficult to be an informed voter or run for office if one is dependent on foreign language media. In addition, the bilingual needs of the community could be determined and served more efficiently at the state and local level.

✓ You will be interested to know that I have joined Representative Bill Thomas in sponsoring a bill to repeal the provisions of the Voting Rights Act that provide for bilingual ballots. The bill will be introduced in the near future.

I appreciate knowing of your support for my position and I thank you for sharing your views with me.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Member of Congress

NDS:am

MAR 30 1981