

CITY COUNCIL

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

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
CALL BOX 3006
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910
(209) 334-5634

TELECOPIER (209) 333-6795

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager

RECEIVED
ALICE M. FEINICHE
City Clerk

JUN 12 1987
RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

ALICE M. FEINICHE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

June 8, 1987

The Honorable Peter R. Chacon
Assemblyman
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 2190 (Chacon) District City Council Elections

Dear Assemblyman Chacon:

A person, much wiser than we are, once said "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Obviously, said person was not a member of the class of '87 of the California Legislature. This class' motto must be: "If we think it's broke, we'll fix it, even if it's not". AB2190 (Chacon) which will mandate district elections in all cities, is a work of this class of 1987. The authors of this bill were well aware that cities have the present ability, and the mechanism to choose to have district elected officials. These legislators are also well aware of how well a majority of California cities work with the present city-wide voting system. However, for some obscure reason, these legislators just can't help getting themselves involved in deciding what is "right", and thereby forcing district voting down the throats of California cities.

It appears that the legislators believe in their heart of hearts, that local governments' sole purpose in life is to exploit minorities and to make certain that minorities are not represented in government; and further to make certain that minorities never receive essential governmental services. After all, they believe, only a minority can represent a minority. If, however, they would take a moment to look at the essential local services -- be it police, fire, sewer, or water -- they would find that these services are essentially colorblind -- and clearly, they would see that one need not be a minority to make sure that the local services are given to minorities.

These legislators need to be reminded that one reason that this government has lost its competitive edge in the world, is that we have become a nation of ethnicity, with each minority fighting and suing the other minorities and the government, to ensure they get their "rights", rather than being a nation of commonality, where we would be Americans first, with common goals and desires. Wasn't it a great man who said "A house divided will not stand"?

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AB2190 perpetuates the cynical belief that we are not Americans first, but a nation of distinct minorities, all of whom must fight for a piece of the pie, rather than working together for the commonweal. District voting unfortunately provides the framework for continuous devisive fiefdom politics, where the district's concerns will be seen as more important than the common concerns of the whole city. We as Americans, if we are to survive in this complex world of geopolitics, must begin again to learn to sublimate our individual desires for the commonweal. Now, the question comes up: Will district voting provide the necessary leadership in this area?

We ask you to reconsider your position on AB2190, and if you cannot, to let us know in writing, exactly the reason why you are supporting AB2190.

Yours for good government.

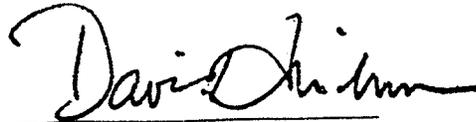
Very truly yours,



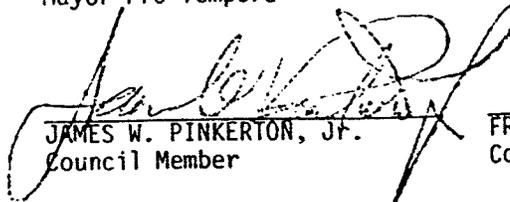
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Council Member



JAMES W. PINKERTON, JR.
Council Member



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Council Member

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ab2190/txta.01v

the above sent to [unclear] copy in city attorney file

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JUN 12 PM 4:28
ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
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City Manager
ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk
RONALD M. STEIN
City Attorney

June 8, 1987

Editor
San Diego Tribune
San Diego, California

Dear Editor:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter from the Lodi City Council regarding AB2190 (Chacon). It is very important that the public be aware of the legislation your Assemblyman Chacon is a co-author of. It is interesting to note that in California, there are 444 cities and only 26 cities have any form of district voting. Perhaps you can ask your Assemblyman why he is sponsoring this bill.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Evelyn Olson
EVELYN M. OLSON
MAYOR
CITY OF LODI

RMS/vc

enclosure