

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.

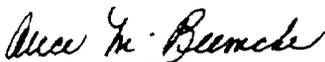
Dated: January 16, 1985

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