

Nov. 18

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Dear Honorable council,

re: IRV/ (3-Choice elections)

We know that Berkeley will vote on modernizing elections sometime this year, and it will surely pass. Berkeley voters strongly support election reform.

We can expect lots of statewide and national publicity for Berkeley when this passes, because millions of people nationwide look to Berkeley for better ideas.

IRV will cut election/campaign costs, increase voter turnout, and give minority voices much stronger voice in elections.

Please:

- 1- Please pass this motion unanimously to call attention to the importance and urgency of election reform
- 2- Make sure IRV is the first of local issues on the ballot. ("Measure A")
- 3- The measure should include all elected offices including school board and rent board
- 4- It will be as effective but similar finalize the language as "3-choice elections" if the voter will only select up to 3 choices for each office.
- 5 - This will be better for Berkeley on the March ballot so that Berkeley can get more attention during the primary (and also higher voter turn-out)
- 6- The language should allow use of IRV in Nov. '04.

*How often have wished to also
vote for a 2nd or 3rd choice?*

Sincerely,



Sennet Williams

2124 Bonar st.

RECEIVED AT
COUNCIL MEETING OF:
NOV 18 2003
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

Council of Neighborhood Associations
P. O. Box 1217
Berkeley, CA 94701
(510) 587-3257

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NOV 18 2003
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

SENT VIA EMAIL & HAND DELIVERED

November 18, 2003
Mayor Bates, City Councilmembers, City Manager
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94701

Re: CNA Opposition to Proposed Changes to City Charter, November 18, 2003 Council Agenda Item #24

The Board of Directors of the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA) is strongly opposed to placing a charter amendment on the March ballot which would modify the current process for conducting elections.

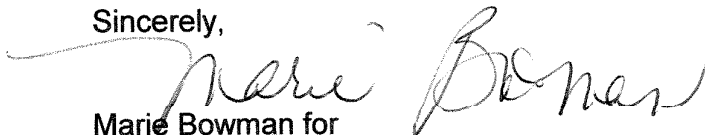
Berkeley prides itself on being a model of public participation in the political process, and this needs to be reflected in how our elections are conducted. Our democratic right to run for public office should not be precluded by having to pay a filing fee. Managing a campaign is already a financial burden to candidates. The goals of democratic participation are furthered by encouraging individuals to seek public office, not by raising barriers.

We should not delay runoff elections by approximately 90 days until the first Monday in February. Doing so would significantly add to the cost of running a campaign and could deter residents from seeking public office.

We recommend no change to the requirement that a candidate receive a minimum of 45% of the votes cast. Those who would govern us need to build consensus for legitimacy. Going below 45% is a step towards illegitimacy, since more than 55% of the voters chose not to elect the candidate in question.

Our organization will raise this issue in our newsletter and through community forums, to educate the public about the undemocratic and unnecessary nature of the proposed amendments to the City's charter.

Sincerely,



Marie Bowman for
President

CNA Board of Directors

President: Marie Bowman , Vice President: Laurie Bright, Treasurer: George Oram, Secretary: Martha Nicoloff
Directors at Large: Ted Edlin, John Cecil, Robert Migdal, Evelyn Giordina, Janice Thomas, Tim Hansen, Pat Devaney, Art Golberg, David Krasnor, Greg Harper