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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE P

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Should this measure be approved, 80% of Eureka's voters won't have a say in who represents them on the City Council in any given election. The ward system of voting in a city the size of Eureka is as far from a representative democracy as possible. The promoters of this ill-advised change want to limit the number of people who elect City Council members.

Under this measure the voter would only be able to participate in electing the ONE councilmember living in their ward. They would not be able to vote in the election of councilmembers in the other four wards. As a result, the city will have five councilmembers answerable to the constituents of their respective wards and not to the citizens of the city as a whole. This may lead to more infighting and be less likely to prioritize the good of the city over the good of their ward.

It is a false argument to suggest that smaller voting areas will attract more diverse candidates in order not to be sued for having racially polarized voting. There is zero evidence that there is a minority voting bloc that is being excluded from political representation.

Our present "hybrid" system allows for the best of both worlds. Each City Council candidate must be registered to vote and live in their ward, however the entire city gets to vote for candidates in all five wards of the Eureka City Council.

In our population of 27,000 with 15,000 registered voters, of which about 3,000 reside in each ward, with an average of 60% voting per election, a mere 900 (50% +1) people could elect one councilmember. The remaining 9,000 voters HAVE NO SAY in who represents them.

VOTE NO ON P!

Marian Brady MARIANBRADY 08/03/16  
Mike L Newman MIKE L NEWMAN 8/3/2016  
Melinda J. Ciarrabellini Melinda J. Ciarrabellini 8-3-16  
Rex H Bohn Rex H Bohn 8-3-16