

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE S CITY OF LOS BANOS

Los Banos is a small city with only about 20,000 registered voters. Dividing the city into four (4) districts will disenfranchise minorities, including Americans of African, European, and Asian descent. The argument that Americans of Latin descent have not been elected to office because of alleged discrimination and thus the support for implementing district elections is unfounded. Latin Americans are not being elected, because very few have run for an elected office. In the 5 council elections since 2006 only six (6) people of Latino descent chose to run in a field of twenty-seven (27) candidates. With 55% of the population many more Latin Americans could have become candidates. Having a majority (55%) of the population, Latin Americans could have elected Latinos to local office had they desired. Dividing the city into districts will not encourage more Latin Americans to run, nor will it help candidates. Historically, it takes three election cycles for most candidates to be elected because of the time required to organize, develop a team, and plan – not to mention name recognition. Currently, a candidate running in citywide elections can typically be elected within three election cycles, or six (6) years maximum. If the new approach of divided/fragmented districts is approved by the voters, then it can take up to twelve (12) years for a candidate to develop name recognition. How many people will really commit to twelve (12) years? This would instead enable an entrenched “Good Ol’ Boys and Girls” network to further gain power and influence, thus reducing the possibility of a people's candidate winning. Divided districts will disunite the citizens of our city, favoring the special interest of a few.

This initiative is not about fairness, it is about power and control.

Vote NO on this initiative.

Citizens for Citywide Representation

Leslie Palocsay, Concerned Citizen
Ken Heaton, Concerned Citizen
Sondra Palocsay, Concerned Citizen
Laurel Heaton, Concerned Citizen