

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE "T"

The recommendation to approve this ballot measure is driven by the attorneys for MALDEF and for the city. They have chosen to divide the city at the Santa Fe railroad for council district boundaries and they insist on six single-member districts instead of allowing consideration of three districts with two council members each. They argue that two-member districts are not acceptable to the courts, though there are no court rulings specifically on city two member districts. Three council districts for example, a north district, (north of Bear Creek), a south district, (south of Highway 99), and a central district (between 99 and the creek), will still result in all neighborhoods being represented and in one or two districts being predominantly Hispanic in population. Three council districts with two council members each will result in better choice of candidates, elected by more voters, representing more voters, and keep council issues before all voters at every election. How city leaders are chosen is very important. This is your city, consider the issues and vote what YOU want. You know what is best for the City of Merced.

Michael Belluomini

Member Merced City Council