



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES RIVERSIDE COUNTY DIVISION

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Jim Cooper
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol – Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 319-2109

RE: AB 2220 (Cooper) Elections in cities: by or from district.
Notice of Support

Dear Assemblymember Cooper:

The Riverside County Division of the League of California Cities®, representing 27 cities in the county, **supports** your Assembly Bill (AB) 2220, which allows cities to switch to district based elections by ordinance, regardless of population size.

This tool serves as a cost saving measure to cities that face possible litigation under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) allowing them to settle with the plaintiffs and convert to by district election system quicker than by placing the question on the ballot for voter approval. Furthermore, this allows cities to be proactive and quickly switch to district *before* a lawsuit is brought.

This measure is a simple expansion of current law that looks to cut unnecessary spending from scarce local government funding by removing the population requirement and allowing all jurisdictions to use this cost saving model. Cities over 100,000 who are not able to utilize this tool have reported costs ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$6,000,000+ in legal fees and election costs associated with CVRA litigation and “by-district” conversions. This money could be better spent providing critical services for the public.

The bill also requires that the adopted ordinance include a declaration that the change in the election method of electing members of the governing body is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the CVRA. The CVRA was enacted in 2001 to address racially polarized voting in at-large elections for local offices in California. The Riverside County Division supports civic engagement and believes that providing jurisdictions with this option furthers the intent of the CVRA.



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AB 2220 is a common sense measure that will give all cities the same opportunity to implement this cost effective method and streamlined process to move from at-large to by-district council elections while furthering the purposes of the CVRA.

For these reasons, the Riverside County Division **supports** your AB 2220.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Mann".

SCOTT MANN
Mayor, Menifee
President, Riverside County Division

cc: Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, fax: (916) 391-2194
Debbie Michel, Chief Consultant, Assembly Local Government, fax: (916) 319-3959
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