



Resolution #21-06-2

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF DISTRICT ELECTIONS IN ORANGE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) was passed by the California State Legislature in 2002 and specifically targets at-large election systems. It prohibits such systems from being “imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election.” Upon finding a violation of the CVRA, the act requires courts to “implement appropriate remedies, including the imposition of district-based elections that are tailored to remedy the violation.” This law applies to county, city, school, and special districts.

WHEREAS, the CVRA was amended in 2016 to prohibit district-based elections that are imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice as a result of the dilution or the abridgment of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class. This amendment was needed based on the politicization of the process which favored the drawing of districts that supported incumbents and failed to protect the ability of underserved minority communities to elect candidates of their choice.

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party Platform encourages “the replacement of at-large election methods with the adoption of by-district and/or alternative voting methods, such as ranked choice voting, cumulative voting, or limited voting for city, school, and special district elections to ensure that the votes of diverse communities are not diluted and to ensure that grassroots candidates can compete without needing to raise prohibitively large sums of money.” The CDP platform has two purposes to ensure both non-discrimination against protected class of candidates and making it easier for grassroots candidates to compete.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Democratic Party of Orange County supports district elections for county, city, school, and special districts and supports the drawing of districts that in a fair way by nonpartisan independent citizen districting commissions that accounts for the size of a district’s population, its racial and ethnic diversity and encourages grassroots candidates to run for office.

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**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
Central Committee Meeting on June 28, 2021**