



City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

September 7, 2010
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-090 IN SUPPORT OF YES ON PROPOSITION 20

Submitted by Jerome G. Groomes
City Manager


Approved by Jerome G. Groomes
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item on the agenda at the request of Mayor *Pro Tem* Santarina.

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11 which gave the power to draw state legislative and Board of Equalization districts to a newly created independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. All state legislative and state Board of Equalization offices were included, but Congress was not. Proposition 20 (Prop. 20) extends the redistricting reforms voters passed in 2008 so the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, instead of politicians, will draw California congressional districts in addition to drawing state legislative districts (Exhibit No. 1). Resolution No. 10-090 supports Proposition 20 (Exhibit No. 2).

II. RECOMMENDATION

TAKE the following actions:

1. WAIVE further reading and ADOPT Resolution No. 10-090, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 20."
2. INSTRUCT staff to transmit a copy of the executed resolution to Mr. Fred Keeley, First Act for Congress, 925 University Avenue, Sacramento, California 95825-6709.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

Prop. 20 will allow the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, instead of legislators, to draw congressional districts and ensure the process is fair, open and transparent. The commission excludes individuals with obvious conflicts of interest, including elected officials and their family and staff, from serving on the commission. The commission is comprised of five Republicans, five Democrats and four members not associated with either party and must reflect the diversity of the state.

11.

When politicians draw districts, cities, counties and communities around the state are purposely divided up so politicians can get the outcome they desire. Districts that cut up counties, cities and communities leave voters with no political voice and no real choice when it comes to election day. Prop. 20 could actually end up saving California taxpayers and reducing bureaucracy by having both state legislative and congressional redistricting conducted by the same voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Prop. 20 helps ensure communities of interest are kept intact in congressional districts giving voters a greater political voice to demand that important issues are addressed. The measure specifically defines communities of interest as "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation." In 1991, the California Supreme Court relied on these principles to draw districts that respected the state's communities (Exhibit Nos. 3 and 4). Prop. 20 supporters include AARP, the National Federation of Independent Business/California, the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California NAACP, Cal-Tax, the California Chamber of Commerce, California Common Cause and the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs Association.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Yes on Proposition 20 Fact Sheet. (pgs. 4-5)
2. Resolution No. 10-090. (pgs. 6-7)
3. Letter to Mayor *Pro Tem* Santarina requesting support. (pg. 8)
4. Yes on 20 Support Sheet. (pg. 9)

Document39

Prepared by: Lisa Berglund, Senior Administrative Analyst

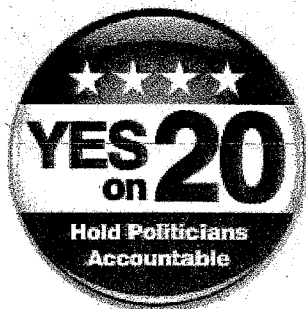
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Reviewed by:

<u>City Clerk</u>	<u>City Treasurer</u>
<u>Administrative Services</u>	<u>Development Services</u>
<u>Economic Development Services</u>	<u>Public Services</u>

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____



Facts About Proposition 20 *Hold Politicians Accountable*

Voting Yes on Proposition 20 expands the work of the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission so that the Commission, rather than politicians, draws election districts for members of Congress. It ensures voters can hold politicians accountable through fair and competitive elections. And if the politicians don't do their jobs, Prop. 20 makes it easier to vote them out of office!

Yes on Prop. 20 Creates Fair Elections, Puts Voters in Charge

- In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11 and took the power to draw state legislative and Board of Equalization districts out of the hands of politicians and gave it to an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. However, the politicians still draw congressional districts so that their friends in Congress are virtually guaranteed reelection.
- Proposition 20 extends what voters already approved under Prop. 20, the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, not legislators, will draw both legislative *and* congressional districts.
- Proposition 20 will finally put an end to legislators drawing districts that virtually guarantee Members of Congress get reelected, even when they don't listen to voters.

Yes on Prop. 20 Lets Voters Hold Politicians Accountable

- When congressional representatives are guaranteed reelection, they have little incentive to work together to solve the serious problems we all face.
- Proposition 20 will let the Citizens Redistricting Commission create fair congressional districts so politicians will actually have to work for our votes and respond to voter needs.
- With Proposition 20, voters will have a real voice in elections and it will be easier to vote politicians out of office when they don't do their jobs.

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with major funding by Charles T. Munger, Jr.



Yes on Prop. 20 Puts an End to Politicians' Backroom Deals

- Right now, legislators and their paid consultants draw districts behind closed doors to guarantee their friends in Congress are reelected. Sacramento politicians pick the voters for their friends in Congress, instead of voters picking who will represent them in Congress.
- The *Los Angeles Times* and *Orange County Register* revealed that in the last redistricting, 32 Members of Congress and other politicians paid one political consultant over one million dollars to draw district boundaries to guarantee their reelection!
- In the process, the politicians and their consultants drew bizarrely-shaped districts, dividing up cities and communities – stifling the power of voters.
- Proposition 20 will end political backroom deals by ensuring the congressional redistricting process is completely open to the public and transparent.
- Voting Yes on Proposition 20 means no more secret meetings or payments are allowed and politicians can't divide cities and communities just to get the political outcome they want.

Prop. 20 Has Strong, Broad-based Support

- Yes on Prop. 20 supporters include organizations and individuals who may not normally agree on many issues, but have come together because they believe it is important to ensure we can finally hold all of our politicians accountable through fair elections.
- Prop. 20 supporters include AARP, the National Federation of Independent Business/California, the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California NAACP, Cal-Tax, the California Chamber of Commerce, California Common Cause and the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs Association, just to name a few. You can see the growing list of supporters by visiting www.YesProp20.org.

It's time voters stand up to the politicians and pass Prop. 20 to help create fair elections and hold politicians accountable. Voters already created the Citizens Redistricting Commission – it is common sense to have the Commission draw congressional AND legislative districts.

Vote Yes on Proposition 20.

For more information and/or to join the coalition, please visit www.YesProp20.org or call 1-866-395-6121.

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with major funding by Charles T. Munger, Jr.



RESOLUTION NO. 10-090

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING
PROPOSITION 20

WHEREAS, in 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11 and took the power to draw state legislative and Board of Equalization districts out of the hands of politicians and gave it to an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 20 extends what voters already approved under Proposition 11, the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, not legislators, will draw both legislative *and* congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, voting Yes on Proposition 20 expands the work of the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission so that the Commission, rather than politicians, draws election districts for members of Congress. It ensures voters can hold politicians accountable through fair and competitive elections; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 20 helps ensure communities of interest are kept intact in congressional districts -- giving voters a greater political voice to demand that important issues are addressed. The measure specifically defines communities of interest as "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation;"and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the California Supreme Court relied on these principles to draw districts that respected the state's communities; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 20 supporters include AARP, the National Federation of Independent Business/California, the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California NAACP, Cal-Tax, the California Chamber of Commerce, California Common Cause and the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the city of Carson, California, supports a Yes vote on Proposition 20.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 7th day of September, 2010.

Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

City Clerk Helen S. Kawagoe

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

925 University Ave
Sacramento, CA 95825-6709



Phone: (866) 395-6121
Fax: (916) 923-2931
Web: www.votersfirstact.org

July 6, 2010
1165 6

Dear Elito Santarina,

We are writing to ask you to join us in supporting **Proposition 20 the Voters FIRST Act for Congress (VFC)**. We support Prop 20 because it is a critically important part of election reform, allowing us to make the congressional redistricting process more open, fair and transparent, and helps us hold elected officials accountable for solving the tough problems we face in California and across the nation.

We come together as members of diverse political persuasions, – Democrats, Republicans, and independents – putting partisan positions aside, and uniting together to pass this urgently needed electoral reform.

Prop 20 the Voters FIRST Act for Congress will extend the Proposition 11 election reforms approved by California voters in 2008, and give the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission the additional authority to draw new boundaries for U.S. congressional districts in 2011. This reform will help make certain that congressional districts are also drawn fairly and protect communities of interest, and will help ensure politicians are no longer guaranteed re-election so they actually have to work for our votes.

Voters passed Proposition 11 to hold state legislators accountable because California voters were tired of politicians playing partisan games and not addressing the major challenges before us. Now, we need to pass the **Voters FIRST Act for Congress** so that all of California's politicians will be held accountable and have to work together to effectively address problems like unemployment, the economy, education, health care and the environment.

Please, help us in our effort to reform congressional redistricting and join **Prop 20 the Voters FIRST Act for Congress** coalition by returning the enclosed sign up form and faxing it to **916-923-2931** or by signing up online at www.votersfirstact.org.

Sincerely,

Fred Keeley, Democrat
Former Speaker pro Tempore, California State Assembly

Bruce McPherson, Republican
Former California Secretary of State

Jason Olson, Independent
Independentvoice.org

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EXHIBIT NO. - 3





Please list me/my organization as a supporter of Proposition 20, the Voters FIRST Act for Congress!

Please select a category:

Organization Company Individual Elected Official

Please complete the following information:

Company or Organization Name/Occupation

Name & Title (as you wish to be listed on any materials)

Mailing Address

City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address

Signature (Required)

Date

I/we can help in the following ways:

Receive weekly campaign updates via email and forward them to my colleagues and friends

Please return this completed form to:

Voters FIRST Act for Congress
925 University Ave
Sacramento, CA 95825-6709
FAX: (916) 923-2931


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EXHIBIT NO. - 4

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