

Resolution Regarding a Fair and Equitable Elections Process for Escondido

(Submitted to members January 14, 2012)

Whereas the City of Escondido (the City) has an at-large election system that has resulted in domination of its Council and Mayor positions by people who reside in the City's suburbs and are overly partial to business interests, and

Whereas the current system allows a large number of candidates to seek each position but does not include a primary selection process that narrows the field and permits a majority of voters to select the winners, and

Whereas the central residential areas of the City have received little attention from these elected officials, and

Whereas large numbers of voters feel disenfranchised from the current system and see no reason to register or to vote because their interests are not being represented, and

Whereas district elections would be much less costly for candidates to run and it would be possible for candidates to canvass an entire district, and

Whereas the current system appears to violate the California Voting Rights Act,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Escondido Democratic Club supports a change in the City's current system of electing its Council and Mayor to include election of Council members from four districts, and

Be it further resolved that the Escondido Democratic Club supports changing to a primary election system that will narrow the field of Council and Mayor candidates to the two individuals receiving the highest number of votes in the primary, thus allowing a majority of Escondido voters to select their Council members and Mayor, and

Be it further resolved that the Escondido City Council take immediate action to replace the current system in order to grant residents the fullest and fairest representation in the conduct of local government, and

Be it finally resolved that the members of the Escondido Democratic Club direct the Club's officers to take any and all actions to advance the reform effort on behalf of the organization.