

## Lemos, June

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**From:** Lee, Will  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 2, 2018 2:09 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[vickymiller@mcn.org](mailto:vickymiller@mcn.org)>  
**Date:** May 2, 2018 at 12:11:32 PM PDT  
**To:** <[WLee@FortBragg.com](mailto:WLee@FortBragg.com)>

Will,

My opinion of this Jacob Patterson and his ideas for change in Fort Bragg must be denied! I hope you consider this when the decision is made!

Thank you,

Vicky Miller  
320 E Oak Street

## Lemos, June

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**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 2, 2018 12:18 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[vickymiller@mcn.org](mailto:vickymiller@mcn.org)>  
**Date:** May 2, 2018 at 11:54:59 AM PDT  
**To:** <[bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)>

I am a resident of Fort Bragg, born and raised! This person, Jacob Patterson is an insult to our community! Please, reject his idea of change for our voting system!

Thank you,

Vicky Miller  
320 E Oak Street  
Fort Bragg, CA

**From:** Steve Chessin  
**To:** [Lemos, June](#)  
**Cc:** [Scott Menzies](#)  
**Subject:** Fort Bragg's CVRA notice letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 2, 2018 3:07:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [sample2articlecharter.txt](#)  
[sample1articlecharter.txt](#)

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Dear Ms. Lemos: Please forward this to the Fort Bragg City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney, in time for Wednesday's City Council meeting.

To the Fort Bragg Mayor, City Council Members, City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney:

My name is Steve Chessin. I am President of Californians for Electoral Reform (CfER) and a nationally-recognized expert on electoral systems. CfER is a membership-based organization that performs educational and advocacy work on instant runoff voting and forms of proportional representation. Our member Scott Menzies brought Mr. Patterson's CVRA notice letter to my attention, and asked me if I could provide you with any advice. (Please note that I am not a lawyer and this is not meant to be legal advice. You should consult with your City Attorney before taking any action on any of my recommendations.)

Mr. Patterson's letter is similar to a letter that a Mr. Kevin Shenkman sent to the City of Menlo Park last year, and I will give you advice similar to the advice I gave that City (advice that they followed, I might add).

To avoid an expensive lawsuit, and to limit your liability to \$30,000, you must adopt by June 1, 2018, a resolution of intent to switch to district elections. You must then adopt, within 90 days of the adoption of the resolution of intent, an ordinance that establishes district elections. (This is all specified by Elections Code section 10010(e).)

I suggest you plan on adopting the resolution of intent as late as possible. I also suggest planning to adopt a districting ordinance as late as possible. The reason for both of these actions is to keep you within the safe harbor of EC 10010(e) while preventing district elections from taking effect in 2018, so that you have time to appoint an advisory citizens committee that would determine if there might be a better solution for Fort Bragg than either district elections or the current at-large system. If a districting ordinance is adopted after August 8th, 2018, the districts cannot go into effect until after the November 6th, 2018, election. There is nothing Mr. Patterson can do to force you to adopt district elections for this November. And rushing to do so would not be good for Fort Bragg.

In parallel to planning for the resolution of intent and the districting process, I suggest you contact Mr. Patterson and see if he is open to negotiating an agreement that (a) limits Fort Bragg's liability to \$30,000, (b) gives Fort Bragg more time to explore its options, (c) allows you to prepare a two-article charter for the November 2018 ballot that contains a mutually-agreed-upon solution, should you find one that is better than single-member districts using plurality voting, and (d) should the charter proposal fail at the November 2018 election, still

gives you time to then adopt an ordinance for district elections. If he doesn't agree to (c), then ask if he will at least give the City more time for the adoption of a districting ordinance, so that a citizens advisory districting committee can be formed to draw district lines. (This is what Menlo Park did. They also are considering putting a simple charter on the November ballot that codifies the districts they were forced to adopt for this November, in order to become a charter city so they can consider other options going forward.)

Becoming a charter city will give Fort Bragg more electoral options, such as cumulative voting, limited voting, the single transferable vote, district elections with instant runoff voting (to avoid vote-splitting effects), and hybrid systems. If there isn't sufficient time to develop a two-article charter with a mutually-agreed-upon electoral system for the November election, then you can put a one-article charter on the November 2018 ballot that just converts Fort Bragg to a charter city. The advantage of doing that is that the charter can then be amended in March 2020 to specify the electoral system you want for November 2020. (Existing charters can be amended at statewide primary and statewide general elections, but an original charter can only be adopted at a statewide general election.)

If Mr. Patterson does not agree to negotiating such an agreement, or you and he cannot agree on an electoral system for Fort Bragg, you can still adopt a districting ordinance after August 8th but before the end of the safe harbor period, as well as place a one-article charter on the November ballot. You can then appoint a citizens electoral system task force to study electoral systems and develop a recommendation that can be converted into an amendment to that charter that can be voted on at the March 2020 statewide election.

For your benefit I am attaching sample two-article and one-article charters to this email.

I and my organization are happy to be resources for you, at no cost to the City. We also work with the national organization FairVote ([www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org)), and I am sure that they would be willing to help as well.

Thank you for considering my proposal.

Sincerely,  
--Steve Chessin  
President, Californians for Electoral Reform  
[www.cfer.org](http://www.cfer.org)  
[steve.chessin@cfer.org](mailto:steve.chessin@cfer.org)  
1426 Lloyd Way, Mountain View, CA 94040  
(408)-276-3222(w), (650)-962-8412(h)

[Sample] CHARTER

PREAMBLE

We, the citizens of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, with a desire for self-determination in selecting our elected officials and to initiate the process to govern our City by charter government, do hereby adopt this charter.

ARTICLE I. - CITY COUNCIL

101. - Governing Body.

The governing body of the City is a Council of [for example] five (5) members elected as specified in this Charter. [Substitute the appropriate number.]

102. - Terms of Office.

The term of the office of Council Member is four (4) years.

103. - Method of election.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Council shall be elected using [name of electoral system], with two members elected in (month) of (year) and every four years thereafter, and three members elected in (month) of (year+2) and every four years thereafter. If the County of \_\_\_\_\_ is unable to conduct these elections for the City, the City, under its plenary authority as granted to it by Article 11, Section 5(b)(4) of the Constitution of the State of California, may contract with a vendor of its choice capable of conducting a [name of electoral system] election, or may conduct the election itself.

[Adjust number elected each cycle as appropriate.]

104. - Method in special elections to fill vacancies.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a special election is called to fill a vacancy, the same electoral system as specified by Section 103 shall be used.

ARTICLE II. - GENERAL

201. - Initiative and Referenda.

This charter does not abridge or modify the rights of citizens to propose initiatives and referenda (including amendments to this charter) as provided for in the general laws of the State of California.

202. - General Law Governs.

Except as expressly set forth in this charter, the general law set forth in the Constitution of the State of California and the laws of the State of California shall govern the operations of the City of \_\_\_\_\_.

203. - City Ordinances Enacted by the Voters Remain in Effect.

Ordinances of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ adopted by the voters prior to the enactment of this charter shall remain in full force and effect and may only be modified or repealed by a vote of the people.

[Sample] CHARTER

PREAMBLE

We, the citizens of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, with a desire for self-determination and to initiate the process to govern our City by charter government, do hereby adopt this charter.

ARTICLE I. - GENERAL

101. - Initiative and Referenda.

This charter does not abridge or modify the rights of citizens to propose initiatives and referenda (including amendments to this charter) as provided for in the general laws of the State of California.

102. - General Law Governs.

Except as expressly set forth in this charter, the general law set forth in the Constitution of the State of California and the laws of the State of California shall govern the operations of the City of \_\_\_\_\_.

103. - City Ordinances Enacted by the Voters Remain in Effect.

Ordinances of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ adopted by the voters prior to the enactment of this charter shall remain in full force and effect and may only be modified or repealed by a vote of the people.

## Lemos, June

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**From:** Scott Menzies <scott.m.menzies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018 10:17 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Cc:** Steve Chessin  
**Subject:** Voting Reform in Fort Bragg

Mayor Peters and Members of the City Council,

Over a decade ago I was heavily involved in advocating for voting reform in Eureka, CA, during which I learned a lot, but it's been a long time since I've talked on these issues, though they have never been far from my mind, especially after my run for City Council in 2016.

So, since there is talk of creating a ward/district system in Fort Bragg, I present below my understanding of things. I have also contacted Steve Chessin of Californians for Election Reform (CfER), for which I have been a supporting member for about 15 years, so he can share his expertise. If anything I present below is inaccurate, Steve is the expert to whom to turn. He will be submitting his own letter and documentation, as well.

There is no doubt that Fort Bragg needs a better voting system. While I would have likely lost anyway, a voting system failure called the Bullet Voting Predicament contributed to my losing my bid for City Council in 2016. (The Bullet Voting Predicament, where there are two open seats and three viable candidates in an at-large plurality election where voters get to vote for every seat, ensures that the common second choice candidate will garner top votes, clearly misrepresenting the will of the people.)

If the system charged with turning the will of the people into fair political representation does not reliably do so, why would anyone want to put in the time, energy, and money required to run? It's certainly a deterrent for me (and, no, for multiple reasons - some personal some politico-systemic - I'm not running).

A great voting system allows the people to voice their opinions honestly (not strategically) and ensures that representation is given proportional to the people who hold a particular perspective. Multi-seat plurality elections like Fort Bragg's, where candidates regularly win without a majority and where one voter can help pick multiple winners while another voter can stuck picking multiple losers (allowing for one perspective/ideology to unfairly sweep the election), is the worst of the worst.

Ward (or district) systems are a nice ideal, but completely inappropriate for a town our size and will actually exacerbate our voting/election situation. Wards are nice because the representatives are geographically connected to the people they represent, and theoretically could result in greater, and better diversity, on a council. It also ensures that only one person votes for one candidate (as opposed to one person voting for two or three, as is the case in our system). This is fine for a large city where there are lots of people who can run for election.

The problem is that, in a small town like ours, this is a completely inappropriate system, as there are already insufficient viable candidates. Spread that out amongst wards, and, without a culture of cultivation for a solid pipeline of quality candidates (which is not the voting system's responsibility), a ward system will create a situation where candidates regularly run unopposed. Without a diversity of candidates, voters have no choice, which undermines the point of democracy and makes it possible for people who are completely unfit for leadership to end up in leadership positions just because they were the only ones willing or able to run in a particular district.

Considering the difficulty of running and the low pay of City Council seats definitely creates a pressure against the running of younger people with jobs and families, what does the further squeezing our candidate situation by creating wards mean for our local democracy and the quality and representation of our municipal leadership?

Another problem with the ward system, especially in a small town, is it assumes people of a similar perspective all live in the same place. While this can be true to a certain degree, it's not a given that, for example, the person who might be best able to represent a particular perspective or ethnicity will live in the ward that has enough of that population to get them elected. If a large minority perspective (20-30% of the whole population) is spread evenly throughout all the wards, they will be disenfranchised completely.

Furthermore, ward systems multiply the number of candidate forums that need to be held by the number of wards (i.e., one for each ward). Who is this going to fall upon, the League of Women Voters? Local ward-based groups?

More time and energy for less choice with potentially worse outcomes.

Let's put this into an example with our very own demonstrably emotionally out-of-control and inconsistently-opinioned Rex Gressett, who, carrying a criminal record with multiple restraining orders and a well-documented reputation for abusive behavior, felt okay as a candidate pointing out at our 2016 public candidate forum that if he doesn't smoke enough weed he gets into fistfights. By my and even his own assessments, Mr. Gressett is absolutely unfit to be in a leadership position. Unfortunately, between his being driven to run repeatedly and his being supported and facilitated by people who should know better, he's actually been a candidate multiple times.

Knowing Mr. Gressett was so angrily driven to run that he actually moved his residence to do so, what would happen if, under a ward system, he decided to move into a predominantly Latino ward where everyone else has families and jobs or, for whatever reason, is unable to run? Uncontested, he could end up on our Council, at the expense of the diversity that the ward system is presented as providing.

That's a problem (as is that people who should know better give him power, but that's another, deeper societal issue).

The short of it: A ward system in a small town like ours will make our local voting situation worse by increasing the likelihood of uncontested candidates that do not allow the voters to have a choice as to who represents them, resulting in possible poor, to completely unfit, representation and leadership.

But there is an option that will ensure greater diversity on our City Council, give voters greater ability to choose honestly (and not strategically), and better reflect the actual political and perspective needs of Fort Bragg in relation to their proportion.

For nearly 80 years now, Cambridge, Massachusetts has been using Proportional Representation to elect its Council. Originally, Cambridge was one of many cities across the country that used Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) to elect local representatives, including Sacramento. The others abandoned it because the system did its job better than the racist, sexist establishment was willing to accept: it was allowing for the representative election of women and people of color. Cambridge, being historically "liberal", was the only one to keep it, and has used it since then - well before the computer age and well into it.

Proportional Representation, also called Single-Transferable Vote, essentially acts as virtual, ideological wards, rather than geographic wards. Explained simply, on a five seat council, each council member represents 20% of the population, so if a candidate has 20% of the population behind them (a majority in that virtual "ward"), then they get elected. The voters rank the candidates in order of preference, and each voter only gets to actually pick



(with their ballot) one winner, as opposed to what commonly happens under Fort Bragg's current system. It ensures no ideology sweeps an election.

This is basically how it works: Voters rank the candidates they wish to in order of preference. If a candidate gets 20% or more of the votes, they win a virtual ward. Those ballots are now done and gone, and that candidate is removed from the virtual runoffs used to select the winners for the next ward, and the next, and the next, until all the wards are filled by candidates who have won by a majority (NOT a plurality).

Any group, ethnicity, or perspective that composes at least 20% of the population would be able to elect a candidate that represents their values (provided at least one runs, but that's a different issue).

For example, in Cambridge, which is, again, highly liberal, the conservatives love the Proportional Representation because it ensures they get at least one representative on their council.

A further benefit: All five seats are elected at one time every four years, a financial savings on elections every two years, and encouraging greater effort on the part of voters who only have to carefully vet candidates every four years, not every two.

(Understand that the reason plurality and winners without majorities exist in the first place is to save money: municipalities don't want to spend money finding actual majority winners by paying for actual runoff elections. Again, RCV solves this problem by gathering all runoff information at one time and doing "instant" runoffs in one election.)

Unfortunately, because Governor Brown chose to veto legislation that would have allowed General Law cities to implement RCV, Fort Bragg would have to create a charter in order to implement RCV. It's actually not that hard, and Mr. Chessin has more information on that.

In short: If the goal here is to create a better voting system that allows for diverse representation and does not discriminate against Latinos or other ethnicities/perspectives, then Ranked Choice Voting in the form of Single Transferable Vote (Proportional Representation) is the best possible way for Fort Bragg to do it.

Conversely, districts or wards are the worst possible choice and will exacerbate an already problematic local election system.

Is RCV perfect? No, because no system is. But it is tried and true, historically and currently, and is a vast and near-perfect improvement over the worst of the worst: plurality.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them as best as I can, though, again, Mr. Chessin is the expert.

And in case you heard about folks in Oakland blaming RCV for their dissatisfaction with their mayor, here is CfER's analysis of the situation, showing it had nothing to do with the use of RCV:

<https://www.cfer.org/learn/oakland-2010.php>

Thank you,  
Scott Menzies

**From:** Linda Jupiter  
**To:** [Lemos, June](#)  
**Subject:** Fort Bragg District Elections  
**Date:** Monday, April 30, 2018 8:15:12 PM

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Dear City Clerk June Lemos,

Please add my name to the list of voters who agree that district elections would be wonderful for the health and vitality of Fort Bragg.

It is important that city council seats represent the city as a whole. At present, only middle-aged and older white men are represented. I look forward to the day when Latinos, women, young folks, etc., all take their place in making decisions that affect our varied community. Anything I can do to help that happen I will be happy to do. I hope our city council takes this issue seriously. Having district elections would be a win-win for us all.

Regards,  
Linda Jupiter  
Fort Bragg

**From:** Linda Jo Stern  
**To:** [Lemos, June](#)  
**Subject:** voting by district for city council  
**Date:** Monday, April 30, 2018 9:55:39 PM

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To: Members of the city council

I am in favor of having district elections in Fort Bragg. It is important that city council seats represent the city as a whole - the young people, the Latino community, women. I believe that having district elections would be a positive reflection on our city.

Best regards,

*Linda Jo*

Linda Jo Stern  
[lindajostern@gmail.com](mailto:lindajostern@gmail.com)  
617-435-8412

**Jourdain, Brenda**

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**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 3:22 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patricia Peeler <[glassbeach2@gmail.com](mailto:glassbeach2@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 3:21:01 PM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)

I am concerned at what I am reading about our city council vote.. I want our community to be strong and united, we should be able to vote from all applicants running for city council..I can't imagine only being able to vote for one person in my district..we need our council to be strong...please do what you can to not allow this change...thank you

Sent from my iPad

## Jourdain, Brenda

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**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** rodney garrison <[rctgarrison@comcast.net](mailto:rctgarrison@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 8:14:37 AM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)  
**Subject:** Redistricting  
**Reply-To:** rodney garrison <[rctgarrison@comcast.net](mailto:rctgarrison@comcast.net)>

In Regards to Jacob Patterson's Ideal of Dividing the City into Districts. The City of Fort Bragg is not Big enough. I feel that the people of Fort Bragg wouldn't be Represented Equally. By takeaway our right to vote for who we want on City Council.

Sincerely Rodney Garrison

**Jourdain, Brenda**

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**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd: District voting system

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** JULIE MCHENRY <[juliemchenry@comcast.net](mailto:juliemchenry@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 8:27:46 AM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com), [wlee@fortbragg.com](mailto:wlee@fortbragg.com)  
**Cc:** <[mcimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:mcimolino@fortbragg.com)>, <[lpeters2@fortbragg.com](mailto:lpeters2@fortbragg.com)>  
**Subject:** District voting system  
**Reply-To:** JULIE MCHENRY <[juliemchenry@comcast.net](mailto:juliemchenry@comcast.net)>

4/20/2018

I am writing you all in regards to Jacob Patterson's lawsuit threat to change our voting system from At-Large to a District system. I believe this is a ridiculous idea due to the fact Fort Bragg has such a small population, District systems are for large cities. I find Jacob Patterson's lawsuit threat offensive and hurtful to the city.

Sincerely,

Julie A. McHenry

30690 Pudding Creek Road

Fort Bragg, CA

## Jourdain, Brenda

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**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 7:35 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: Jacob Patterson

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Valadao <[j.valadao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.valadao@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 7:25:13 AM PDT  
**To:** Bernie Norvell <[bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)>  
**Subject:** Jacob Patterson  
**Reply-To:** Judith Valadao <[j.valadao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.valadao@sbcglobal.net)>

To Council Member Norvell,

After reading Jacob Patterson's threat of a law suit I think it's important to point out this isn't his first City he has pulled this on. Claremont was probably happy to see him move on to his next victim. Perhaps it's his way of earning a living? Or perhaps he thinks if he can't take over the Council fairly with people he approves of so he will simply change the rules.

We are a small community and in the process of healing from issues in the past. Jacob is doing nothing more than destroying this community and when he's done and has "earned" his dues he will laugh all the way to the bank. If this asinine idea is passed it will be the destruction of whatever progress we have made as a community.

I believe our Hispanic community wants to be a part of our entire community. As far as I'm concerned Jacob has insulted our entire community and every race within our community.

Shame on Jacob Patterson.

Please fight this for the sake of our community. I believe this is something that we won't recover from if it is allowed to happen.

Judy Valadao

## Lemos, June

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**From:** Lee, Will  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2018 1:49 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: RE closed session tonight

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <jay@mcn.org>  
**Date:** April 23, 2018 at 1:47:13 PM PDT  
**To:** <wlee@fortbragg.com>  
**Subject:** RE closed session tonight

Dear Will,

I feel our Council Members are dispersed throughout our City.

I have a call into the County Clerk Recorder to ask a couple questions of.

The increased cost to the County for printing different ballots.  
And the cost of printing the Voter Handbooks for different small districts.

And if the City pays for the Election costs for printing or how that works.

Maybe you all ready know the answer but I want to know if it costs the City of the County or who absorbs that cost.

I would like to encourage you to look at other alternatives for our City to keep the At Large Election Process in our City.

Forming a Charter City is one idea I have heard could work.

Please don't support changing our elections from at large to districts.

Kind Regards,  
Jay



## Lemos, June

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**From:** Cimolino, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2018 6:14 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: tonights closed session agenda item

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [jay@mcn.org](mailto:jay@mcn.org)  
Date: Apr 23, 2018 2:36 PM  
Subject: tonights closed session agenda item  
To: "Cimolino, Michael" <[MCimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:MCimolino@fortbragg.com)>  
Cc:

Dear Michael,

I feel our Council Members are dispersed throughout our City.

I have a call into the County Clerk Recorder to ask a couple questions of.

The increased cost to the County for printing different ballots.  
And the cost of printing the Voter Handbooks for different small districts.

And if the City pays for the Election costs for printing or how that works.

Maybe you all ready know the answer but I want to know if it costs the City of the County or who absorbs that cost.

I hope you will look at other alternatives for our City to keep the At Large Election Process in our City.  
Forming a Charter City is one idea I have heard could work.

Kind Regards,  
Jay

## FORT BRAGG CITIZENS AGAINST DISTRICT ELECTIONS

### PATTERSON'S PLOY

The election process is under attack in the City of Fort Bragg. A group calling themselves the "Coast Committee for Responsive Representation," being represented by local attorney Jacob Patterson, is claiming that our voting process is discriminatory to minority voters within our community. Mr. Patterson is following the latest trend of parasitic attorneys suing governmental agencies over their current "at large" election process whereby every voter in a municipality, school or service district can choose from each candidate on the ballot. Mr. Patterson and The Coast Committee are demanding a switch to a district vote whereby our City is divided into districts and the voter is only allowed to vote for those candidates within their own district but may be allowed to vote for the mayoral position. We use this district election process in the election of our supervisors at the county level. However, one can see the advantage of having our own representative from our own district when we have differing economies and the bulk of the population is inland. But in our small City of approximately 7,200 residents, is this really the best form of conducting elections?

Mr. Patterson and his Committee are threatening to file suit based upon the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, as amended. While we believe the intent of this act is honorable, we also believe it was to address larger cities whose citizens of color face reduced participation, reduced services and reduced opportunity. Smaller cities, however, are increasingly coming under attack. Fort Bragg is the smallest municipality to date to face this.

Mr. Patterson's plan assumes that if there is a particular neighborhood with a large minority of people of color, specifically our Latino and Hispanic population, then having their own district would allow better representation of that group and make it easier for minorities to seek office. Mr. Patterson claims that our current election process keeps Latino and Hispanic voters from running for election and that the Southern portion of Fort Bragg has a Latino or Hispanic population that is four times that of the Northern part of Fort Bragg. Mr. Patterson is basing his claim by comparing federal census tracts 104 and 105 and other data. We have not had a chance to review this information, but we question the methodology used to reach Mr. Patterson's conclusions

Historically, the change from an at large election process to a district election process has resulted in little added participation by the Latino and Hispanic communities. It may have helped in larger communities, but in Fort Bragg, Latino and Hispanic voters would be barred from supporting another Latino or Hispanic in another district and therefore may face less representation. Fort Bragg is a very liberal city with an open heart to the Latino and Hispanic minority. The real issue here is whether our election process has thrown roadblocks into Latino and Hispanic participation in City government. We have many Latino and Hispanic employees working for our City and our own Chief of Police and many of our police officers are of Latino and Hispanic descent. Even undocumented Latino and Hispanic members of our community have been welcomed to participate in many of the programs offered to the community in general, including water and electric discounts, among a multitude of social services.

Dividing Fort Bragg into voting districts will not guarantee that Latino and Hispanic voters would even elect a representative of color. As for Mr. Patterson's claim of a 4 to 1 ratio of Latino and Hispanic residents between the Southern half of Fort Bragg and the Northern half of Fort Bragg, we feel that his figures are far off the mark. Were the City to divide into four districts of approximately 1,800 residents

## FORT BRAGG CITIZENS AGAINST DISTRICT ELECTIONS

each, the Northern half would have approximately 3,600 residents including approximately 900 Latino and Hispanic residents (25%). The other 3,600 residents on the South would be comprised of approximately 1,225 Latino and Hispanic residents (34%), but one might have to gerrymander the district to get a majority of Latino or Hispanic residents into one district, which may be illegal under both Federal and State law. Many of these residents may not even register to vote or may be ineligible to vote because of citizenship status. Changing to a district voting system would also serve to disenfranchise those Latino or Hispanic voters in other districts from voting for a candidate who came from a predominately Latino or Hispanic district. How is this equitable?

We believe this attack is being orchestrated by Mr. Patterson, who has a definite financial interest in the outcome and is using his Committee to achieve this goal. In our opinion, were Mr. Patterson interested in being a good citizen, he would have brought this issue before the City Council, without threat of legal action and allowed the City and its' citizens to conduct hearings and study the issue instead of forcing us to modify our election process within 135 days. Most all of our Latino and Hispanic residents work hard to be a part of our community, they participate in the education process and have become good citizens, whether legal or not. We cannot say the same for Mr. Patterson when he threatens his own home town.

To date, no municipality has been successful in defending the at-large voting process and Mr. Patterson is guaranteed attorney fees of as much as \$30,000 without even filing a lawsuit should the City give in to his demands. Mr. Patterson claims that he is very successful suing governmental entities. Does he plan to sue all of our school districts, fire districts and other special districts here in Mendocino County where he resides? One may wonder whether Mr. Patterson earns his living off the backs of taxpayers and in the case of Fort Bragg, taxpayers with limited income.

Fort Bragg Citizens Against District Elections

April 23, 2018

RECEIVED

APR 23 2018

CITY OF FORT BRAGG  
CITY CLERK

My name is Dawn Ferreira  
I am not able to make it to  
the meeting tonite. 4/23/18  
I would like this added to  
public comment

I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg.

1. print name Rob Davenport signature [Signature]  
address 110 N Mc Pherson St. FB. CA 95437

2. print name Morgan Davenport signature [Signature]  
address 110 N Mc Pherson St. FB

3. print name Raegyn Davenport signature [Signature]  
address 110 N Mc Pherson St. FB. CA 95437

4. print name Cody Lowe signature [Signature]  
address 170 Riverview Dr Fort Bragg, Ca 95437

5. print name Hillary Davenport signature [Signature]  
address 170 Riverview Dr. Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437

6. print name 126 Nor Leopold's Narez signature [Signature]  
address 126 Nor Franklin St Fort Bragg, Ca 95437

7. print name Alicia Narez signature [Signature]  
address 126 N. Franklin St. Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437

8. print name Betty Irwin signature [Signature]  
address 229 E Oak St Fort Bragg

9. print name Richard B. Tucker signature [Signature]  
address 488 B South Harold St Fort Bragg

10. print name Donald J. Corchia signature [Signature]  
address 400 South St. #18 - Fort Bragg, CA.

I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg,

1. print name Timothy J. Powell signature Timothy J. Powell  
address 320 N. McPherson St. Ft. Bragg, CA 95437
2. print name Dawn G. Ferreira signature Dawn Ferreira  
address 320 N. McPherson St Fort Bragg, CA 95437
3. print name Rick Crosby signature Rick Crosby  
address 103 A Harrison St Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
4. print name Bob Stillwell signature Bob Stillwell  
address 108 OLSON CV. FB 95437
5. print name HARRELL E. SIMPSON signature Harrell Simpson  
address 223 Wall St FB CA 95437
6. print name M KATHLEEN BROWN signature M Kathleen Bro  
address 155 DANA ST Fort Bragg CA 95437
7. print name Howard Brown signature Howard Brown  
address 155 Dana St. Fort Bragg Ca. 95437
8. print name JOHN M. WHITNEY signature John M. Whitney  
address 331 S. FRANKLIN ST. FORT BRAGG CA. 95437
9. print name Helsey Valachi signature Helsey Valachi  
address 145 Jewett St Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
10. print name Rubi Garcia signature Rubi Garcia  
address 204 E Redwood Ave Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437



I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg,

1. print name PAUL NOSTWICH signature Paul Nostwich  
address 335 N. McPHERSON
2. print name Nicole Powell signature Nicole Powell  
address 328 N. McPherson St.
3. print name Gayle Trevor Mackley signature Gayle Trevor Mackley  
address 335 1/2 N. McPherson St, Fort Bragg CA
4. print name Nate Ortiz signature Nate Ortiz  
address 335 N. McPherson St, Fort Bragg CA
5. print name Erik Erickson signature Erik Erickson  
address 335 N. McPherson St. Fort Bragg CA
6. print name Michelle Lucas signature Michelle Lucas  
address 234 N. McPherson St
7. print name Mike Brown signature Mike Brown  
address 219 N McPherson
8. print name Jim Matson signature Jim Matson  
address 248 Alder St.
9. print name MANUEL ORNELAS signature Manuel Ornelas  
address 200 N. McPherson St Fort Bragg CA 95437
10. print name Lisa Davenport signature Lisa Davenport  
address 110 N Mc Pherson St. FB CA 95437

I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg,

1. print name Lynnett Cooper signature L. Cooper

address 300 N. Corry St FB.

2. print name LORRAINE Reid signature Lorraine Reid

address 127 N. Hansen FB

3. print name Sarita Colberg signature Sarita Colberg

address 334 N. Corry St. Fort Bragg

4. print name SEAN PATRICK signature Sean Patrick

address 334 N. Corry St., Fort Bragg

5. print name Brenda L. Costa signature Brenda R. Costa

address 136 Woodland Dr. Fort Bragg, Ca

6. print name Hope Sterns signature Hope Sterns

address 152 Woodland Dr. Fort Bragg, CA

7. print name LAVON TAYLOR signature Lavon Taylor

address 132 WOODLAND DR., F.B., CA 95437-4521

8. print name Evangelina Renteria signature Evangelina Rente

address 120 Woodland Dr. FB. CA 95437

9. print name RONALD LUZZI signature Ronald Luzzi

address 101 EBBING WAY FORT BRAGG

10. print name Dianna Menthe signature Dianna Menthe

address 190 Ebbing Way



I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg,

1. print name CLAIRE ROBERTSON signature Claire Robertson  
address 165 Dana St. #B
2. print name BILL ROBERTSON signature [Signature]  
address 165 Dana St. Ft. Bragg, CA
3. print name Carolyn Petersen signature [Signature]  
address 669 N. Harold St. Ft Bragg
4. print name Summer Sinnette signature [Signature]  
address 525 East. Laurel St Fort Bragg CA
5. print name Elyse Brumeloe signature Elyse B  
address 525 East Laurel St. Fort Bragg, CA
6. print name CHARLA BRAGA signature Charla Braga  
address 148 E Redwood Ave
7. print name DENIS TONGE signature [Signature]  
address 129 N. HARRISON F.B. CA
8. print name KATE PILE signature [Signature]  
address 472 S. WHIPPLE, FB 95437
9. print name Lori Gibson signature [Signature]  
address 330 N. Main St FB CA 95437
10. print name Jeff Rickard signature [Signature]  
address 496 S. Harrison st #B F.B. CA 95437

0 I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg,

1. print name Steve Burdick signature SB  
address 300 oak st #13 Fort Bragg
2. print name Jeanine Jordan signature Jean J  
address 152 N. Lincoln St.
3. print name Joel A Jordan signature [Signature]  
address 152 N Lincoln Real Local FB ca.
4. print name Andrew Moore signature Andrew Moore  
address 32800 Hwy 20 spe 27 FB. ca.
5. print name Walker Ferreira signature WLF  
address 320 n mepheson st Fort Bragg CA 95437
6. print name Richard Seale signature Richard A. Seale  
address 260 N. Harrison Fort Bragg
7. print name Diolinda T. Giusti signature Diolinda T Giusti  
address 260 S. Harrison St - Fort Bragg, Ca 95437
8. print name Faoundo A. Giusti signature Faoundo A. Giusti  
address 260 S. Harrison St. Fort Bragg, Calif. 95437
9. print name Linda Sousa signature Linda Sousa  
address 218 S Harrison St Fort Bragg, CA 95437
10. print name Anthony Sousa signature Anthony Sousa  
address 218 S. Harrison St. Fort Bragg, CA 95437



I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg,

1. print name Nancy Byrnes signature Nancy Byrnes  
address 112 Morrow St Fort Bragg, Ca 95437
2. print name John Byrnes signature John Byrnes  
address 112 Morrow St Fort Bragg Ca 95437
3. print name Charles Melendrez signature Charles Melendrez  
address 460 N Franklin St Fort Bragg, Ca 95437
4. print name MICHAEL B. PARAVICINI signature Michael Paravicini  
address 23730 Bouldin Lane Fort Bragg CA 95437
5. print name ROBERT ALAN WRIGHT signature Robert Alan Wright  
address 128 E RICHWOOD (POB 2950) Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
6. print name DOUGLAS BUZZY signature Douglas Buzzy  
address 361 S. WHIPPLE ST FORT BRAGG CA 95437
7. print name Leslie Doyle signature Les Doyle  
address 303 S. Lincoln Fort Bragg, Ca 95437
8. print name Josh Brown signature Josh Brown  
address 461-N Curry Street, Fort Bragg CA 95437
9. print name Justin Ball signature Justin Ball  
address 315 N Harold St Fort Bragg, Ca 95437
10. print name Jeff Ball signature Jeff Ball  
address 315 N. Harold St. Fort Bragg, Ca 95437

I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg.

1. print name Bruce Koski signature Bruce Koski  
address 323 S. McPherson St #11 Fort Bragg
2. print name Rosa Ramos signature Rosa Ramos  
address 340 1/2 S Harold St Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
3. print name Noel Gipson signature Noel Gipson  
address 195 Dana St Fort Bragg CA 95437
4. print name Ben Fienburgh signature [Signature]  
address 195 Dana St Fort Bragg CA 95437
5. print name Anne Marie Cesario signature Anne Marie Cesario  
address 545 Stewart St, Fort Bragg CA 95437  
DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY legal threats! Please.
6. print name Kevin Allegrini signature [Signature]  
address 525 Stewart Fort Bragg CA 95437
7. print name Laura Schroeder signature Laura Schroeder  
address 521 Stewart St.
8. print name Ruth Schroeder signature Ruth Schroeder  
address 521 Stewart St.
9. print name Tina Thompson signature [Signature]  
address 401 East Oak St FB
10. print name Mike Wineland signature [Signature]  
address 131 Park St. Fort Bragg Ca



I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg.

1. print name ROBERT E COLOMBI signature Robert E Colombi  
address 647 OAK ST FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
2. print name Kayla Ornelas signature Kayla Ornelas  
address 233 PARK ST. FORT BRAGG CA. 95437
3. print name Nancy Jones signature Nancy Jones  
address 449 SMC PULMON ST #5 FORT BRAGG CA 95437
4. print name Michael Lowe signature Michael Lowe  
address 503 WALNUT ST FORT BRAGG CA 95437
5. print name Jill Johnson signature Jill Johnson  
address 31780 Johnson Ln Fort Bragg CA
6. print name Phillip Johnson signature Phillip Johnson  
address 32400 FOREST LAKE FORT BRAGG
7. print name ROHARD RODRIGUEZ signature Rohard Rodriguez  
address 539 S. HAZEL ST FORT BRAGG CA 95437
8. print name KEVIN FRASEN signature Kevin Frasen  
address 104 DICK WILLIAMS WAY FORT BRAGG CA 95437
9. print name Terry Comstock signature Terry Comstock  
address 24860 PARK DR FORT BRAGG CA 95437
10. print name Raymond Sabaski signature Raymond Sabaski  
address 30250 Pudding Creek Fort Bragg CA 95437

I support maintaining the At Large Election System. The City of Fort Bragg is too small for a District Election System. The At Large Election System is working well for the whole community.

Residents and Voters of Fort Bragg.

1. print name Crystal Newman signature 

address 730 Chestnut St. FB CA 95437

2. print name Junice Gleason signature Junice Gleason

address 130 Park St, Fort Bragg CA 95437

3. print name Mike Norman signature 

address 401 wall st, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

4. print name Marcie Lazarus signature Marcie Lazarus

address 215 wall st. Fort Bragg CA 95437

5. print name Tim Harris signature Jim Harris

address 540 S Harold St. Fort Bragg CA. 95437

6. print name Tracy McDaniel signature Tracy McDaniel

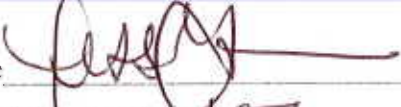
address 32501 McDonnell Ln FB CA 95437

7. print name Rainee Sunrise signature Rainee Sunrise


address 309 Penitenti Way FB CA 95437

8. print name Carina Morales signature Carina Morales

address 328 1/2 W. McPherson St Fort Bragg, CA 95437

9. print name Jessica Gonzalez signature 

address 501 West St Fort Bragg, CA 95437

10. print name Quinton Jamar signature 

address 501 West St Fort Bragg CA 95437

## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Cimolino, Michael  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:52 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: potential lawsuit

----- Forwarded message -----

From: James Hooper <[pinejdh@mcn.org](mailto:pinejdh@mcn.org)>  
Date: Apr 22, 2018 9:04 PM  
Subject: potential lawsuit  
To: "Peters, Lindy" <[LPeters2@fortbragg.com](mailto:LPeters2@fortbragg.com)>,"Lee, Will" <[Wlee@fortbragg.com](mailto:Wlee@fortbragg.com)>,"Norvell, Bernie" <[Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)>,"Cimolino, Michael" <[MCimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:MCimolino@fortbragg.com)>  
Cc:

It bothers me that a certain attorney is looking for a fast buck claiming that Fort Bragg needs districts because it discriminates against minorities. Since when is our community discriminating. By being forced into districts will encourage segregation and even gerrymandering. Certainly certain groups will identify with their district discouraging assimilation. It is my understanding that the attorney is looking for a Hispanic individual as a representative of discrimination. How much is the attorney going to pay that "witness".

## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Cimolino, Michael  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: Plan for districts

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alice Chouteau <[alicat@mcn.org](mailto:alicat@mcn.org)>  
Date: Apr 20, 2018 10:22 AM  
Subject: Plan for districts  
To: "Cimolino, Michael" <[MCimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:MCimolino@fortbragg.com)>  
Cc:

Hi Mike

Please vote no on the Paterson proposal to divide the town into districts. Not practical or helpful for a small city.

Thanks

Alice  
Chouteau

Sent from my iPad



## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Cimolino, Michael  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:02 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: City council vote

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Patricia Peeler <[glassbeach2@gmail.com](mailto:glassbeach2@gmail.com)>  
Date: Apr 20, 2018 11:57 PM  
Subject: City council vote  
To: "Cimolino, Michael" <[MCimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:MCimolino@fortbragg.com)>  
Cc:

I'm hoping you and the rest of the council will stand united and be able to stop this idea of only being able to vote for only one person for council. I don't think in our town it can work. We should be able to vote whether we want to have our town run that way..and it doesn't sound very democratic to me..thank you

Sent from my iPad

## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Cimolino, Michael  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:02 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: Dividing the City into voting districts

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [malynnel@mcn.org](mailto:malynnel@mcn.org)  
Date: Apr 21, 2018 2:00 PM  
Subject: Dividing the City into voting districts  
To: "Cimolino, Michael" <[MCimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:MCimolino@fortbragg.com)>  
Cc:

To Council member Mike Cimolino,

This letter is intended to be read by the council members only and not to be made public!

I am deeply concerned about the motive behind Jacob Patterson wanting to change our voting system by dividing the city into districts.

This is the most absurd proposal I have heard! First of all, we are a small community that does not need to be divided up into districts and second of all, many of the Hispanics that he is so concerned about, we rent to right here in the city limits of Fort Bragg. Not to mention, that most of our employees are Hispanic.

Gee, I am wondering where Jacob was when they decided to house mentally ill pedophiles at the Hospitality Center, right next door to where one of my motel housekeepers lives with her her small children? I did not hear one person give a goddam about those people and the situation that they were putting them into! I was the only person that said something and it fell upon deaf ears!

After being with my Mexican guy for 25 years now, I am really tired of seeing people who claim to be concerned about the Hispanic community use these people as pawns to pass their own agenda.

I am wondering how many Hispanic people this guy actually hangs out with or how many Hispanic people he actually knows here?

As far as I am concerned, this is just another ploy to help him along in his own agenda of suing the city or else getting people that he chooses elected into office. The whole idea is a bunch of BS!

Thank you for your time.  
Marissa Colombi

## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Peters, Lindy  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 5:02 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please oppose...

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Alice Chouteau <[alicat@mcn.org](mailto:alicat@mcn.org)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 9:21:18 AM PDT  
**To:** <[lpeters2@fortbragg.com](mailto:lpeters2@fortbragg.com)>  
**Subject:** Please oppose...

The plan proposed by Paterson to divide FB into voting districts. We need more unification, not more divisiveness.

Thanks

Alice Chouteau

Sent from my iPad

## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Peters, Lindy  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 5:00 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: City council vote

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patricia Peeler <[glassbeach2@gmail.com](mailto:glassbeach2@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 3:29:57 PM PDT  
**To:** [lpeters2@fortbragg.com](mailto:lpeters2@fortbragg.com)  
**Subject:** City council vote

Please do whatever you can to keep our vote the way it is now. I want our town to be strong and able to work together. I don't understand how or why we should only be allowed to vote for the person in our district, it doesn't seem very democratic to me, and if it came to that we should be able to vote to be able to do that..so please help thank you

Sent from my iPad

## Lemos, June

---

**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 3:22 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patricia Peeler <[glassbeach2@gmail.com](mailto:glassbeach2@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 3:21:01 PM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)

I am concerned at what I am reading about our city council vote.. I want our community to be strong and united, we should be able to vote from all applicants running for city council..I can't imagine only being able to vote for one person in my district..we need our council to be strong...please do what you can to not allow this change...thank you

Sent from my iPad

**Lemos, June**

---

**From:** Bernie Norvell [<mailto:bnorvell@mcn.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 2:53 PM  
**To:** Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd: This isn't his first rodeo

Bernie Norvell  
NORVELLS PAINT AND GARAGE DOORS.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Valadao <[j.valadao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.valadao@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 7:39:09 AM PDT  
**To:** Michael Cimolino <[cimolino@hotmail.com](mailto:cimolino@hotmail.com)>, Cimolino Cimolino <[cimolino@att.net](mailto:cimolino@att.net)>, Will Lee <[tonelee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tonelee@sbcglobal.net)>, Bernie Norvell <[bnorvell@mcn.org](mailto:bnorvell@mcn.org)>  
**Subject:** This isn't his first rodeo  
**Reply-To:** Judith Valadao <[j.valadao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.valadao@sbcglobal.net)>

**I predict if Jacob has his way it will be the downfall of Fort Bragg.**



COURIER photos/Steven Felschundneff

A line of local citizens wishing to address the Claremont City Council stretches out the door as the fatigue of a long meeting shows on the expression of resident Jacob Patterson in May. The museum Pomona College plans to build, along with the related issues such as moving Renwick House, resulted in some very long council meetings.

On September 8 and Tuesday night, emails highlighting alleged violations to the city's housing element—a state-required document that demonstrates readiness and ability to provide low-income housing—were delivered at the 11th hour to try to persuade the council to vote against Serrano II. The emails, penned by Claremont resident Jacob Patterson, claimed the project violates the city's existing housing element in regards to the percentage of affordable housing required for each development.

Claremont's housing element was approved by the planning commission in January 2014. Amid outcry from residents over the rumored development of low-income housing on a 5.9-acre parcel on Mills Avenue, the city council opted to send the housing element back to the commission for further review.

With a February 15, 2014 deadline looming, the council was aware of the penalties, which included the city having to review and resubmit again in four years instead of the eight years afforded to cities that met the deadline.

The housing element does not require cities to actually provide low-income housing, it only says that cities must prove to the state of California that they have the available land to do so. Since that January 2014 meeting,

Council member Sam Pedroza, after expressing his dismay at the "piecemeal" development along Baseline, acknowledged the need to update the housing element. The councilmember then criticized Mr. Patterson's letter, calling it "threatening." "Now in the meantime, I say 'bring it on, sue us already.' Stop making threats," Mr. Pedroza said. "Especially with these last-minute emails that, they're just meant for complete inside baseball."

## Jourdain, Brenda

---

**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 3:22 PM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patricia Peeler <[glassbeach2@gmail.com](mailto:glassbeach2@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 3:21:01 PM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)

I am concerned at what I am reading about our city council vote.. I want our community to be strong and united, we should be able to vote from all applicants running for city council..I can't imagine only being able to vote for one person in my district..we need our council to be strong...please do what you can to not allow this change...thank you

Sent from my iPad



## Jourdain, Brenda

---

**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** rodney garrison <[rctgarrison@comcast.net](mailto:rctgarrison@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 8:14:37 AM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)  
**Subject: Redistricting**  
**Reply-To:** rodney garrison <[rctgarrison@comcast.net](mailto:rctgarrison@comcast.net)>

In Regards to Jacob Patterson's Ideal of Dividing the City into Districts. The City of Fort Bragg is not Big enough. I feel that the people of Fort Bragg wouldn't be Represented Equally. By takeaway our right to vote for who we want on City Council.

Sincerely Rodney Garrison

**Jourdain, Brenda**

---

**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June; Jourdain, Brenda  
**Subject:** Fwd: District voting system

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** JULIE MCHENRY <[juliemchenry@comcast.net](mailto:juliemchenry@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 8:27:46 AM PDT  
**To:** [Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com), [wlee@fortbragg.com](mailto:wlee@fortbragg.com)  
**Cc:** <[mcimolino@fortbragg.com](mailto:mcimolino@fortbragg.com)>, <[lpeters2@fortbragg.com](mailto:lpeters2@fortbragg.com)>  
**Subject:** District voting system  
**Reply-To:** JULIE MCHENRY <[juliemchenry@comcast.net](mailto:juliemchenry@comcast.net)>

4/20/2018

I am writing you all in regards to Jacob Patterson's lawsuit threat to change our voting system from At-Large to a District system. I believe this is a ridiculous idea due to the fact Fort Bragg has such a small population, District systems are for large cities. I find Jacob Patterson's lawsuit threat offensive and hurtful to the city.

Sincerely,

Julie A. McHenry

30690 Pudding Creek Road

Fort Bragg, CA

## Jourdain, Brenda

---

**From:** Norvell, Bernie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 7:35 AM  
**To:** Lemos, June  
**Subject:** Fwd: Jacob Patterson

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Valadao <[j.valadao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.valadao@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 at 7:25:13 AM PDT  
**To:** Bernie Norvell <[bnorvell2@fortbragg.com](mailto:bnorvell2@fortbragg.com)>  
**Subject:** Jacob Patterson  
**Reply-To:** Judith Valadao <[j.valadao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.valadao@sbcglobal.net)>

To Council Member Norvell,

After reading Jacob Patterson's threat of a law suit I think it's important to point out this isn't his first City he has pulled this on. Claremont was probably happy to see him move on to his next victim. Perhaps it's his way of earning a living? Or perhaps he thinks if he can't take over the Council fairly with people he approves of so he will simply change the rules.

We are a small community and in the process of healing from issues in the past. Jacob is doing nothing more than destroying this community and when he's done and has "earned" his dues he will laugh all the way to the bank. If this asinine idea is passed it will be the destruction of whatever progress we have made as a community.

I believe our Hispanic community wants to be a part of our entire community. As far as I'm concerned Jacob has insulted our entire community and every race within our community.

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Shame on Jacob Patterson.

Please fight this for the sake of our community. I believe this is something that we won't recover from if it is allowed to happen.

Judy Valadao

**Jourdain, Brenda**

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**Subject:** FW: Bernie you can share this email with the public

Bernie Norvell Fort Bragg City Council

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <malynne1@mcn.org>

**Date:** April 21, 2018 at 9:51:04 PM PDT

**To:** <Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com>

**Subject:** Bernie you can share this email with the public

To Council member Bernie Norvell,

I am deeply concerned about the motive behind Jacob Patterson wanting to change our voting system by dividing the city into districts.

This is the most absurd proposal I have heard! First of all, we are a small community that does not need to be divided up into districts. Second of all, no one in our community has ever discouraged any group from running for office or participating in the voting process.

Matter of fact, in the last election I tried to get several Hispanics to run for City council and they said they were too busy.

I have been with my Hispanic partner for 25 years now, and I am really tired of people who "claim" to be concerned about the Hispanic community use these people as pawns to pass their own agenda.

I would like to know how many Hispanic people this guy actually hangs out with or how many Hispanic people he actually knows here?

I am wondering if this could just be a ploy to help him along in his own agenda of suing the city or else getting people that he chooses elected into office?

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Thank you for your time.  
Marissa Colombi