

From: Rick Childs
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Letter to City Council re District Voting
Date: Monday, June 11, 2018 3:08:39 PM
Attachments: [District-Voting in Ft Bragg.docx](#)

June 11, 2018

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to join the overwhelming majority opposed to this silly idea of setting up five “district” elections instead of at-large voting.

Although I don’t live within the Ft Bragg city limits, I consider myself a Fort Bragg area resident.

There are no good reasons for this proposal: although generally intended to help assure minority/ethnic representation on City Councils, Ft Bragg doesn’t have a positive way to make that happen. Its population base is way too small to allow this. The council has a hard enough time attracting competent, would-be candidates without forcing residency in small-population-based-districts as a requirement. Four additional reasons present themselves:

- Meg Courtney, trying to get Hispanic candidates to run (so there could be Hispanic representation on the council), found *no one* (male or female) in three months of diligent searching.
- I’ve been told the Hispanic community doesn’t even want this type of special treatment and forced geographical preferences.
- Even if those factors disappeared in the future, trying to create a “Hispanic” district, given their diverse residency, would necessitate an absurd gerrymandering of the the city to enable this to happen.
- And then, given each district’s small population base, there is a great likelihood many districts would have very few candidates willing to run... thus unopposed candidates frequently (not good for democracy) and, equally likely, *no* candidates at all.

We’ve been told such districting is a state “law.” I’ve got to believe it was written to create an option for cities, not a requirement. I would suggest contacting attorneys as well as state legislature representatives to confirm this, so you can deep-six this idea without legal and/or financial jeopardy.

I see no benefit other than a single attorney’s ego enhancement and/or financial betterment (at the expense of the taxpayers). This has already cost the city way too much money, time, and aggravation. I urge the City Council to find whatever ways it can to stop this. I would further

suggest the Council encourage citizens to write the legislature to get this law amended so small cities can opt out of this if, indeed, the city’s legal counsel advises that Ft Bragg *must* create district-voting.

Thank you,

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