

## Jourdain, Brenda

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**From:** Scott Menzies  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 19, 2018 12:55 PM  
**To:** Jourdain, Brenda  
**Cc:** Lemos, June; Miller, Tabatha  
**Subject:** Election Evaluation Committee Application  
**Attachments:** Election%20Committee%20Application.pdf

CITY OF FORT BRAGG

REC'D DEC 19 2018

Hi Brenda,

Attached is my completed application for consideration for the Election Evaluation Committee. My essay answer is copied below, in case the PDF form doesn't allow you to see the whole thing. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you have any problems with the filled out file.

Thank you!

Scott

The vote of the people is the very currency of the political economy, and our elections fundamental to our democracy. When I became politically-involved in 2005, it became clear to me that every issue that was important to me was underpinned by our election process and our ability to get informed leadership on those issues elected to public office. From our every-four-yearly Presidential Election chaos to the commonplace local-level plurality elections where candidates win without a majority of votes so regularly that we've nearly forgotten the importance of majority support to a clear office-holder mandate, our voting system is deeply flawed. Fort Bragg is no exception. While I have problems with how Fort Bragg has been forced into this position, it does offer us an opportunity to be another leader, with other cities in California and places including Cambridge, MA, Ireland, and Australia, on implementing a superior voting system that most accurately reflects the will of the people, increases voter turnout, increases diversity of candidates, and encourages more positive (and less negative) campaigning. Because of my past experience with voting reform advocacy and alternative voting systems, I'm well-positioned to be a part of this committee. In 2005 I worked with other local residents to advocate for reform in Eureka, CA. During our advocacy efforts in Eureka I co-led a Town Hall Forum on voting reform with a Eureka City Council member, our group held a Parallel Election (essentially an exit poll) where we used a form of ranked-choice voting to tally the results, and I gave presentations and spoke at public meetings. I joined Californians for Election Reform at that time, and have been a member ever since. I also helped get the Humboldt County Election Transparency Project moving. Endorsed and actively supported by the County Registrar-Recorder at that time, Carolyn Crnich, the project found significant errors in the 2008 presidential election that resulted in the California Secretary of State, Debra Bowen, "decertif[ying] identical Diebold voting equipment throughout California." Spurred by the CVRA issue here, a couple weeks ago I attended FairVote California's conference on Ranked-Choice Voting, where I reconnected with leaders doing this important work, all of whom are well aware of what's going on in California with CVRA, including Fort Bragg. So I've a solid understanding of election reform and election issues, I have experience working on those issues, I am connected with folks who have expertise and resources on these issues, and I know I can be of great help to the committee to determine the best path forward to ensure Fort Bragg isn't seen as an easy target for further CVRA lawsuits while implementing a system that actually creates material improvement in our local election processes, diversity, voter confidence, and results. Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Menzies, M.A. (Environment & Community)  
Instructor/Proprietor  
Perfect Circle Taijiquan  
330 N. Franklin St, Fort Bragg, CA

## **CITY OF FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA**

### **APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE ELECTION EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

#### **INFORMATION**

The recent California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) Settlement Agreement with the Coast Committee for Responsive Representation (Committee) and the Committee's attorney, Jacob Patterson, calls for the formation of a separate committee to research and evaluate electoral systems and make a recommendation to the City Council on a preferred electoral system. Two members of City Council will be appointed to the new committee and at a minimum, three members of the community will also be appointed. As part of the electoral system review, the new committee will also consider the benefits and limitations of a charter city and, if recommended, suggest a draft ordinance to be placed on the ballot in November 2020.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

If you are interested in appointment to this committee, please provide the information requested and any additional information you feel would be useful to the Council in making their appointment selection.

**NAME:**

**RESIDENT ADDRESS:**

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

**HOME PHONE:**

**CELL PHONE:**

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

**OCCUPATION:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

Brief statement:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the election evaluation committee?

Please return this application to the Attention of Brenda Jourdain, City Hall, 416 North Franklin Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 or [BJourdain@fortbragg.com](mailto:BJourdain@fortbragg.com).