



## CITY OF FORT BRAGG

*Incorporated August 5, 1889*

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April 22, 2019

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg  
Chair, Senate Elections and Constitutional  
Amendments Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2203  
Sacramento, 95814

### **RE: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 212 (ALLEN)**

Dear Senator Umberg:

The City of Fort Bragg writes in support of SB 212, which would provide general law cities, general law counties, and school districts the option to adopt two majority-winner voting methods: two-round runoff and ranked choice voting (RCV) for local elections.

Under current law, only charter cities and counties may use RCV for their local elections. This means that roughly 75 percent of California's cities and counties do not have the authority to use these methods. Several charter cities in California already use these systems of voting. Cities using two-round runoffs include Los Angeles, Seal Beach, Burbank, San Bernardino, and Sacramento. San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro use RCV.

Fort Bragg is a general law city with a population of approximately 7,300 and was subject to a California Voting Rights Act claim last year. As a result of settling the CVRA claim, the City is in the process of reviewing alternative voting systems for the purpose of evaluating the best system for our City. While the City has not determined what system best fits our needs, the option to consider two-round runoff and ranked choice voting for local elections is an important choice for the City Council.

For this reason, we ask you to vote **"AYE"** on **SB 212 (Allen)**.

Sincerely,

William V. Lee  
Mayor

Bernie Norvell  
Vice Mayor

Teresa K. Albin-Smith  
Councilmember

Jessica Morsell-Haye  
Councilmember

Lindy Peters  
Councilmember

cc: Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee Consultant