

Resolution to Oppose AB 2808

WHEREAS, in November 1998, the voters of Santa Clara County passed Measure F, an amendment to the Santa Clara County Charter that permits the County to change its elections from two-round runoff to ranked choice voting, a measure that was endorsed by the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, and a request to make such a change is now pending before the Board of Supervisors, and in December 2021, the San Jose Charter Review recommended to the San Jose City Council that the City of San Jose change its elections from two-round runoff to ranked choice voting; and

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party in the Political Reform plank of its Platform supports the ability of local communities to choose alternative voting systems, such as ranked-choice voting and instant-runoff voting; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2022, Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell (D-AD70) introduced AB 2808, a bill that would ban the use of ranked choice voting in California at both the state and local level, including in the jurisdictions that currently use it (San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro) and the jurisdictions that plan to use it for the first time in 2022 (Albany, Eureka, and Palm Desert), and would thus preclude both Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose from switching their elections from two-round runoff to ranked choice voting should they decide that it is in their respective constituents best interest to do so;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party goes on record as being vigorously opposed to AB 2808, and shall inform the Assembly Elections Committee of its opposition, as well as the Assembly Members who represent at least some part of Santa Clara County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party will consider submitting to the Legislation Committee of the California Democratic Party a recommendation that the California Democratic Party oppose AB 2808.

Submitted by Steve Chessin