



STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
OF GREATER SACRAMENTO



August 15, 2025

Open Letter to Sacramento County Board of Supervisors about Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Sacramento County Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to urge you to consider improving Sacramento County's local elections process by asking the voters to adopt Ranked Choice Voting. Specifically, we support Ranked Choice Voting for elections of Sacramento County's Assessor, Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, and Sheriff. We ask you to allow County voters to choose whether to start using Ranked Choice Voting for these County offices.

We have come together because we deeply value democracy in our local governance. We value robust voter participation in elections to County offices, equitable representation of all members of our community, and empowering candidates to appeal broadly to voters on the basis of community priorities with an inclusive and constructive vision for the future. Evidence shows that Ranked Choice Voting will improve Sacramento County's elections process on each of these fronts.

Unfortunately, Sacramento County's current elections process results in very low levels of voter participation in most elections to County offices, inequitable voter representation, and structural incentives for candidates to appeal narrowly to their base instead of broadly to the whole community.

Despite officeholders' best efforts to uphold good governance, these poor outcomes result from several factors built into Sacramento County's current elections process (the "two-round runoff"):

- About 90 percent of races for County offices in Sacramento County are decided in the Primary Election with extremely low voter turnout. (The current process leaves out General Election voters). This tendency has been consistent over the last two decades. For example, Sacramento County's Sheriff has not been elected in a General Election since 2010, and the County's District Attorney has never been elected in a General Election in the last twenty years.
- On the rare occasion that a race for County office does go to a runoff in the General Election, the current process requires each candidate to run an entire second campaign, requiring extreme levels of fundraising and often resulting in negative attack ads. Runoffs also require Sacramento County to administer two elections, which is an unnecessary expense of taxpayer dollars when Ranked Choice Voting can produce a majority winner in a single election.

Ranked Choice Voting could solve these problems and revitalize Sacramento County's local democracy. With Ranked Choice Voting, Sacramento County could move all races for County offices to the General Election, where more people vote and diverse voices can be heard. This simple upgrade would also improve the efficiency of election administration by electing a majority winner in a single election instead of two.

Evidence from communities that have been using Ranked Choice Voting shows it encourages positive campaigning, increased voter engagement, higher voter turnout, and high levels of voter satisfaction. This evidence is substantial, gathered from more than 800 elections (with over 40 million ballots cast) using Ranked Choice Voting.

Sacramento County could replace our "two-round runoff" with Ranked Choice Voting by asking the voters to approve a ballot measure making the necessary charter amendment, as many other local governments have already done.

We urge you to start a process of developing a ballot measure for the 2026 General Election, asking the voters whether to approve adopting Ranked Choice Voting for elections to County offices going forward. We encourage you to move swiftly on this matter now. Doing so will afford Sacramento's voters an opportunity to weigh-in on whether to adopt Ranked Choice Voting in 2026.

Thank you for your leadership in support of our local democracy.

Sincerely,

(Letter signers listed on the following pages. Organizations are listed with letter signers for identification purposes only).

(Organizations supporting this letter are indicated in the letterhead on Page 1).

(See next page).

Andrés Ramos, Chair, Democratic Party of Sacramento County

Paula Lee, League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

Veria Johnson, President, Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC), Sacramento Chapter

Sandra Hazel, President, Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Joe Little, City Council Member, City of Rancho Cordova

Jose Navarro, Trustee, Sacramento City Unified School District Board

Faye Wilson Kennedy, Lead Organizer, Poor People's Campaign Sacramento

Mario Guerrero, President, Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

Tina Reynolds, Uptown Studios

Carol McKee Marque, Environmental Council of Sacramento County (ECOS), League of Women Voters, and Third Act Sacramento

Jag Nagendra, President, Folsom Area Democratic Club

Ric Barreto, John F. Kennedy Democratic Club of Sacramento County

LeAnn Acosta, Folsom Area Democratic Club

Neil Pople, Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

Sue Saunders, Third Act Sacramento

Josh Rosa, Adjunct Professor of Collaborative Governance, Sacramento State University

Cynthia Otero-Niles, Folsom Area Democratic Club, Indivisible Sacramento

Michael Dack, Sacramento Area Congregations Together (Sacramento ACT), Indivisible Sacramento, American River Democrats

Steve Cohn, former City Council Member, City of Sacramento

Linda Hayward, Third Act Sacramento

Sandra Williams, Indivisible
Sacramento

Marbella Sala, President, Gardenland
Northgate Neighborhood Association

Carolyn Peth, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Earl Lagomarsino, President,
Sacramento Town and Country
Democratic Club

Gary Fitzgerald, Third Act
Sacramento

Rhonda Rios Kravitz, Sacramento
Voter Coalition, Sacramento
Immigration Coalition

Katherine Schuft, Colonial Heights
Neighborhood Coalition

Crystal Sanchez, Sacramento
Homeless Union

Rachel Iskow, Stonewall Democratic
Club of Greater Sacramento

Harrison Linder, Board Member of
South Natomas Improvement
Association, Sacramento Chapter
Lead of Forward Party of California

Brenda Main, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Shirley Toy, Sacramento Wellstone
Democratic Club, Democratic Party
of Sacramento County

Mark Tavianini, Third Act
Sacramento

Gregory Jefferson, President, Del
Paso Heights Community Association

Deborah Noah, Indivisible
Sacramento

Mary Barbara Falcon, Deerfield
Mesa Grande Neighborhood
Association, Indivisible Sacramento

Heidi McLean, Sierra Club, League
of Women Voters of Sacramento
County

Gabriel Morningstar, Sacramento
Community Land Trust

Linda Morgan, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Alice Bell, League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County

Muriel Brounstein Dooley, Jewish
Democratic Club of Greater
Sacramento, Folsom Area Democratic
Club

Ilsa Arana, Sacramento Chapter of
Forward Party of California

Martha Maskall, Democratic Party
of Sacramento County

Constance Van Horne, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Devin Lavelle, Cub Scout Den
Leader, PTA Treasurer

Michael Perry, Stonewall
Democratic Club of Greater
Sacramento

Laura Leonelli, Third Act
Sacramento

Maria Pinto, The Resilient Activist,
Population Connection

Laura Lund, Indivisible Sacramento,
Sister District

Nancy Castignetti, Women
Democrats of Sacramento County

Leslie Watts, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Margaret Gonazales, League of
Women Voters of Sacramento County

Ruth Anderson, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Laurel Hollis, National Council of
Jewish Women

Sue Murray, Third Act Sacramento

Charlene Jones, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Catherine O'Mordha, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Muriel Strand, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Taylor Kayatta, Trustee, Sacramento
City Unified School District Board

Rachel Miller Codar, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Tracy Keith, River Park
Neighborhood Association

Marjorie Patzer, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

David Betowski, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Louise Mehler, Indivisible
Sacramento

Margaret Park, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Myra Bennett, Indivisible
Sacramento

Francesca Reitano, Elmhurst
Neighborhood Association,
Trees4Sacramento

Cosmo Garvin, ProRep Coalition

Ruby Wolff, Sacramento Chapter of
Forward Party of California

Beverly Lamb, Sacramento Together,
Indivisible Sacramento

Ian Radloff, Sacramento Chapter of
Forward Party of California

Edgar Miller, Third Act Sacramento

Sally Regan, Indivisible Sacramento

Claudia Bonsignore, League of
Women Voters of Sacramento County

Dan Melzer, Indivisible Sacramento

Joan Normington, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Marie Bain, California Freethought
Day

Francesca Wander, Indivisible
Sacramento

Donna Paul, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Lee Miller, Democratic Party of
Sacramento County

Katherine Moose, Sacramento
Chapter of Forward Party of
California

Patricia Pavone, Third Act
Sacramento, League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County

Vicki Ibarra, Sacramento Indivisible:
Don't Go Gently

Francis Woods, Professional
Photographers of Sacramento Valley

Brenda Borge, California Democratic
Party Delegate

Shelly Amrhein, Folsom Area
Democratic Club

Jeffrey Horn, Better Ballot
Sacramento

Lexie Tesch, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Dana Schwartz, Heritage Park
Progressive Study Group

Patricia Johnson, Sacramento
Wellstone Progressive Democratic
Club

Kate Lenox, Democratic Party of
Sacramento County

Mary Anne Fenstermaker, Third
Act Sacramento

Anne Goodwin, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Patricia McKowen Kane, League of
Women Voters of Sacramento County

Jean Bonar, Indivisible Sacramento

Robert Bonar, Indivisible
Sacramento

Donald Nikkel, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Katherine Keeney, Third Act
Sacramento

Karen Benson, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Judith Hoefling, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Carol Elaine Ferreira-Pro, Gold
Country Fighting Oligarchy

Eric Wiesenthal, Women Democrats
of Sacramento County

Trudi Gardner, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Darlene Wilcox, Indivisible
Sacramento

Nafeesah Mufasa, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Eileen Heaser, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Darik Lobotzke, Sacramento Chapter
of Forward Party of California

Myra Bennett, Indivisible
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Marylin Mann, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

Nolice Edwards, League of Women
Voters of Sacramento County

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Voters of Sacramento County

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Forward Party of California

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Tonya Zuniga

Mario Galvan

Sandra Williams

Marie Heinz

Reina Ortega

Adrianna Lucero

Scott Wood

Sam Leonard

Jesse Leonard

Aron Macarow

Shelby McMichael

Mary Taylor

Rebecca Harting

Seth Samuels

Elyse Sharp

Kaitlin Walker

Michael Pham

Sophie Mosgrove

Gloria Diaz

Laurie Litman

Sue Murray

Sara Sutter

Emily Yang

Augustin Haffner

Jill Shallenberger

Kaitlin Walker

Sammi Thomas

Annette Faurote

Sally Kamal

Michael Minnick

Jody Silver

Molly Roy

Kathleen Sowers

Susie Hennessy

Mara Plazibat

Mario Galvan

Mark Drolette

Janet Sueoka

Ryn Ramirez

Earl Withycombe

Martin Ross

Sheryl Oliver

Peggie Wever

Mary Ann McDonald

Roslyn Mack Bell

Karen Lewis

Leila Deadmond

Sandra Williams

Devon L'Ecluse

Thomas Rusconi

Jacob Wever

Joann Solov

Daniel Scott

Jeremy Inman

Jill Peterson

Veronica Garcia

Melissa Shrout

Susan Cunningham

Mark Edmonds

Beverly Lamb

Jennifer Chawla

Nancy Yamada

Jeanette Griffin

Amy Hanna

Renee Sullaway

Vicki Ibarra

Darrel Sullaway

Charles Ritchie

Jennifer Grant

Zachariah Flowers

Vivian Grant

Carol Nyman

Wendy Weinland

Silvia Rodriguez

Nancy Yamada

James Ozanich

Justin Wang

Clayton Steacker

Stuart Matthews

Marla Lobotzke

Elizabeth Diebels

Giordano DeSantis

Patricia Preston

Robert Oldham

Deborah Noah

Daniel Elmatari

Nancy King

Francisco Sanchez

Sammi Thomas

Angie Vasquez

Michael Rosenberg

Kristin Riggs

Cheryl Davis

Suzanne Campbell

Daniel Kessenich

Mike Campbell

Sebastian Diaz

Jane Hagerty

Rowena Yeseta

Giezi Bermudez

Diego Diaz

Susie Hennessy

Edward Hennessy

James Tedford

Angela Browning

Patricia Gainer

Carla Blackwell-Bremby

Marie Bain

Cheryl Starch

Linda Morgan

Lisa Farquhar

Michael Benjamin II

Nancy Yamada

Nancy Green

Julia Eskew

Shari Nichelini

Ruth Le Blanc