



## CITY OF FORT BRAGG

*Incorporated August 5, 1889*

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April 13, 2009

Assembly Member Mike Davis (D-48)  
Capitol Office  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048

District Office  
Administrative Offices West  
700 State Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Dear Assembly Member Davis:

We, the City Council of Fort Bragg, are writing in support of AB 1121 which will allow up to 10 California general law local governments to use ranked voting, also known as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) or Ranked Choice Voting (the multi-winner version of IRV). We are aware that Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 1294, a previous attempt to allow general law governments the option of switching to ranked voting; saying in part he thought such a change would be too drastic. AB 1121 attempts to address the governor's concerns by creating a limited pilot program. The Secretary of State can authorize the first 10 local governments applying to use ranked voting.

As you may also be aware Ranked Voting is gaining in support nation wide. The League of Woman Voters, for instance, is uniting around this issue. The following is a quote from a League position from the state of South Carolina:

“.....Our present “winner-take-all” system in many instances fails to achieve a goal of fair representation of minorities and women. Most of the world’s major democracies use a form of proportional representation, and we endorse this opportunity for the following reasons:

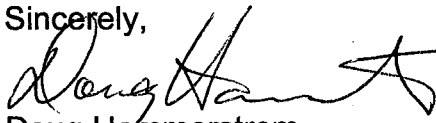
- a. To achieve better election and/or influence for minorities and women in proportion to their numbers in the population.
- b. To lessen election costs, in part by eliminating costly runoff elections.

- c. To eliminate redistricting and its frequent abuse through gerrymandering.
- d. To lessen the advantages now in place for incumbent candidates over new office-seekers.
- e. To lessen polarization among segments of the population.
- f. To increase voter turnout and decrease voter cynicism.
- g. To encourage election campaigns based on issues rather than personal attacks.
- h. To promote a greater opportunity for the voices of third party candidates.”

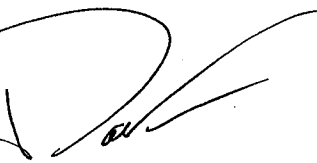
We support the passage of AB 1121 as an important step in beginning a necessary change in our voting system.

Thank you for introducing this Bill.

Sincerely,



Doug Hammerstrom  
Mayor




Dave Turner  
Vice Mayor



Meg Courtney  
Councilmember



Dan Gjerde  
Councilmember



Jere Melo  
Councilmember

Cc: Assembly Member Wes Chesbro