

I'm the Mendocino County Coordinator for Californians for Electoral Reform, an all-volunteer, statewide organization working for voting reform. We're experts on alternate voting systems such as ranked-choice voting, instant-runoff voting, cumulative voting and limited voting.

I support the intent of item 4b on the consent calendar to delegate authority for the purchase of new voting equipment, paid for in part by state funds. In addition, I encourage the county to give preference to voting equipment that supports, or is upgradeable to, other voting systems.

You may know that over 100 CA cities, including Ft. Bragg, received letters claiming their plurality at-large voting system for electing city councils or school boards violates the CA Voting Rights Act. Most switched to district elections with a traditional two-round election. Some cities, including Ft. Bragg, are exploring other options but lack of support by county voting equipment is an obstacle to alternatives.

The limited voting options offered to general law jurisdictions by the state election code is another obstacle. SB212, currently moving through the state legislature, supports local control by expanding voting options for general law jurisdictions without imposing any requirements.

You have a handout with my contact information. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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