CITY OF ALBANY
CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
OF BALLOT MEASURE "____"
(Ranked Choice Voting)

Measure "____" was placed on the ballot by the Albany City Council and if approved by a majority of Albany voters, will amend the Albany Municipal Code to change the City's election system as well as the Albany Unified School District's election system from plurality at large to "Ranked Choice Voting" at large, beginning with the November 8, 2022 general election.

Under the current plurality at large system, voters have a number of votes equal to the number of open seats and each candidate may be selected only once. Ranked Choice Voting allows voters to rank candidates for elected office in order of preference, including write-in candidates. Voters may rank as few or as many candidates on the ballot as allowed by the equipment.

In a single-seat election, voting tabulation proceeds in rounds. Each ballot is counted for the highest ranked candidate. If there are only two candidates for an office, there is only one round and the candidate with more top-ranked votes is declared the winner. If there are three or more candidates for a single office, the candidate with the fewest top-ranked votes after the first round is defeated. His or her votes are then transferred to the highest ranked continuing candidate for that office. Then, a new round of tabulation starts and rounds continue until a candidate is declared the winner.

In a multiple-office election, each ballot is counted and if there is at least one candidate with more votes than the election threshold (the number of votes sufficient to be elected), each candidate above that threshold will be declared elected. The tabulation is complete if the number of elected candidates is equal to the number of available offices. Otherwise, the elected candidate with the most votes is deemed to have a number of votes equal to the election threshold in all subsequent rounds. Each ballot counted for that candidate is assigned a new transfer value, by multiplying the ballot's current transfer value by the surplus fraction for the elected candidate, rounded down to four decimal places. Tabulations and rounds continue until all seats are filled.

Measure "___" would require the City Clerk or his or her designee to tabulate the election results, certify them, and publish a summary report of the final tabulation. In addition, the City Clerk would be required to conduct a voter education and outreach program regarding the measure and the "Ranked Choice Voting" system.

A "yes" vote would establish a "Ranked Choice Voting" at large election system.

A "no" vote would not establish a Ranked Choice Voting" at large election system, leaving the plurality at large election system in place.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure "___". If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the City Clerk's office at (510) 528-5710 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

/s/ Malathy Subramanian, City Attorney