

Urban Village by the Bay

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

26 February 2022

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Member of the Assembly
Capitol Office,
1021 O Street, Suite 4510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2808 – Ranked Choice Voting Prohibition – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell,

The Albany City Council has adopted an “oppose” position on AB 2808, which would prohibit the use of ranked choice voting (RCV) in state and local elections, including charter cities like Albany.

Unlike other cities in California and all but two in the country, Albany’s voters will be using RCV for its multi-seat citywide Council member and School Board trustee elections. This is in contrast to the wider use of RCV in single-seat by-district elections.

In response to community advocacy, the City Council unanimously placed a measure to transition Albany’s elections to citywide RCV on the 2020 general election ballot. In response, 73.3% of voters asked for this method by voting for Measure BB, an overwhelming majority.

This form of RCV provides representation in proportion to perspectives held by the electorate. As such it will advance our democracy toward a more perfect union by providing fair representation, as it has done in Cambridge, MA, since 1941. For this reason, it is supported by the California Democratic Party.

Albany opposes any attempt through state legislation to override its authority and that of other charter cities to adopt ranked choice voting in either its multi- or single-seat form or to prevent other local governments from considering this reform where it may serve the needs of their local electorates.

Sincerely,

Preston Jordan, Mayor
City of Albany

CC: Honorable Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Chair, Assembly Elections Committee