



JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
2ND DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the ballot measure before voters in Davis, California to recommend choice voting for the city's future elections.

I have long been a strong supporter of choice voting, both when used to elect our legislatures in multiple member districts and leaders in a single office. Its merits aren't just theoretical: in cities like San Francisco and Burlington (VT) voters of all races are turning out in higher numbers to use ranked choice voting effectively to express their choices and elect majority winners. Where choice voting has been adopted to replace at-large winner-take-all elections like those in Davis, it inevitably boosted fair representation of people of color and, indeed, all voters.

In 2001, I strongly endorsed ranked choice voting methods in **A More Perfect Union: Advancing New American Rights**. I have been pleased to see reformers' progress since then, both in winning voter approval in a growing number of American cities and gaining the national support of political leaders like 2004 presidential contender Howard Dean, Senators John McCain and Barack Obama and congressional colleagues like Barbara Lee. Below is an excerpt from my book **A More Perfect Union** about ranked choice voting:

"It would encourage a more diverse range of candidates to run and thereby help remedy a flaw in the current system: Many citizens feel left out by its limitations. This more inclusive process would give voters a greater reason to vote, with an increased chance of their vote counting toward a winner. By opening the field to more choices, which, according to polls, a majority of Americans would welcome, it could help to lift voter turnout in the United States."

Ranked choice voting methods represent the future of American elections. I look forward to Davis joining our cities and states advancing our democracy.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress