



Final Report to the Davis City Council

by

The City of Davis Governance Task Force

March 29, 2005

Task Force Members

Gerald Adler (Vice Chair)

Val Dolcini

John Garamendi

Susan Geffer

Ted Lascher

Michael Levy (Chair)

Jon Li

Nick Mariano

Joan Poulos

Introduction

This report presents recommendations of the Governance Task Force regarding means of improving governance within the City of Davis. The document also summarizes the thinking that lies behind our proposals. The recommendations reflect extensive deliberation by Task Force Members about a wide variety of proposals from September 2004 through March 2005.

The Governance Task Force was established pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 04-197, passed on August 2, 2004 (a copy of the resolution is included as Appendix A). That resolution charged the Task Force with studying issues related to city governance with the aim of determining “the most appropriate democratic political processes to ensure fair representation and equality of access.” The Task Force was specifically directed to consider “district elections, the election of the mayor, municipal charter status, alternative methods of voting including choice voting, and the role of Commissions.” The group was authorized to consider additional topics as appropriate. Task Force Members were to be appointed by the City Council, and were to “build upon the work” of an earlier Governance Committee that met during the mid-1990s and provided its own set of recommendations. A final Task Force report was to be submitted within six months of selection of members.

From the beginning of its deliberations, the Task Force recognized the desirability of keeping an open mind about different proposals, obtaining as much input from the public as possible, and gathering relevant data and information. The group also recognized that several of the proposals were interrelated so that the appropriate recommendation in one area might depend on the recommendation in another. The Task Force took a number of steps aimed at preventing premature conclusions, including the following:

- ✓ Through February of 2005, the Task Force considered the implications of different proposals without taking “straw votes” on their desirability (except on a couple of matters on which unanimity was quickly evident and there was no disagreement from the public), and with an understanding that recommendations would be made only after issues had been fully aired.
- ✓ Once all issues had been discussed, tentative votes were taken with an understanding that proposals could be reconsidered once a full set of preliminary recommendations had been made.
- ✓ All task force members were given a final opportunity to debate specific proposals after reviewing the set of tentative recommendations.

The Task Force determined from the outset that changing the way in which Davis was governed just for the sake of change was not necessarily valuable, and that well-meaning structural changes sometimes bring undesirable consequences. Accordingly, the Task Force devoted considerable attention to

identifying specific problems that structural changes were intended to solve, and the likelihood that such changes would in fact do so.

The Task Force received extensive, valuable input from members of the public. Several of the group's final recommendations were strongly advocated by people attending Task Force meetings, and at least one recommendation was suggested by a member of the public. Without exaggeration, our final report would have looked quite different without the public input.

We integrated the 1996 Governance Committee report into our deliberations in a couple of ways. First, the task force explicitly reviewed all the recommendations of the earlier report to make sure each was considered. Second, arguments from the earlier report entered into the current debates.

The body of this report is divided into three parts. The first part reviews interrelated proposals about the structure of city government. The second part considers proposals aimed at improving the commission system used to obtain public input about city matters. The third part considers other governance proposals.

We hope that the City Council will give serious consideration to our recommendations. Beyond that, we hope that this document stimulates productive discussion about the future of municipal governance in our community.

Acknowledgments

The Task Force wishes to express gratitude to the many people who attended our deliberations. We are especially grateful to several UC Davis students and student government leaders who shared their observations about how "choice voting" works on campus and elsewhere. The Task Force particularly thanks Chris Jerdonek who helped demystify choice voting for us and provided valuable input on a number of matters.

Additionally, we wish to thank several guest speakers including Anne Brunette, Community Partnership Coordinator; Peter Detwiler, Chief Consultant to the State Senate Local Government Committee; and Freddie Oakley, Yolo County Clerk/Recorder, for enlightening the Task Force about such matters as neighborhood associations and issues, the differences between charter and general law cities, and administrative requirements for changing the election system.

We also wish to thank Davis city staff liaisons Zoe Mirabile, Bette Racki, and Kelly Stachowicz. In addition to providing us with timely agendas and minutes, one or more of them attended all our meetings. Staff members were also consistently helpful in answering our many questions about current city governance practices.

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1. Establish a “Choice Voting” System for City Council Elections.
(See Appendix B – A Simple Visual Aid for Understanding Choice Voting)

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that the city adopt a system of “choice voting” for city council elections, replacing the current “at-large” plurality election system. The Task Force also recommends that the city give consideration to existing choice systems such as those used for San Francisco municipal elections and ASUCD student elections.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Li, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Abstain: Mariano.

Background

Current Voting System. Currently Davis uses a plurality voting system for electing city council members, which is the default arrangement for council elections in California cities. Under that system, each voter may cast ballots for only as many candidates as there are vacancies on the council. There is no means of ranking those for whom one casts votes, nor is there a means of expressing preferences among those for whom one does not cast votes.

Definition of Choice Voting. “Choice voting”, also known as “preference voting” or “single transferable voting”, is generally seen as within the family of “proportional representation” systems. Because many people may not be familiar with the terminology, a definition is needed. The term refers to a system in which a voter may rank in numerical order (e.g., candidate Jones as first choice, candidate Smith as second choice, etc.) all the candidates in a race according to their “preference” of whom they would most like to see elected. If a voter’s first “choice” candidate wins sufficient first place votes to be elected, or if the voter’s first choice candidate receives so few votes that the candidate is eliminated, the vote may be “transferred” to his or her second choice. Different choice voting systems transfer votes in somewhat different manners. Yet all choice systems use rankings and provide for transfers of votes under certain circumstances.

Rationale for Recommendation

We believe that choice voting is the most important one of our recommendations. A majority of the Task Force voted to recommend choice voting because it was seen to have a number of attractive features, and the potential to address some representation problems without the ill effects of some other reform options

(notably the district election system, which we consider in more depth in the following pages).

More specifically, choice voting systems have the potential of addressing the following problems with the plurality voting system.

First, the present system allows a minority faction (e.g., 35% of the electorate) to elect multiple council members (and perhaps even a council majority) who have minimal support among the remainder of the electorate. By contrast, a choice voting system takes account of rankings, so voters that would have otherwise been disenfranchised when their first choice lost would have their vote count toward electing one of their next preferences.

Second, the present system may lead to the actual disenfranchisement or the perception of disenfranchisement on the part of relatively small and dispersed groups, which may have little ability to elect council members through first place votes alone. Choice voting may allow such groups to believe they have more influence on elections. If the election is to fill three council seats, for instance, more than 75% of the electorate will have cast a vote for at least one of the successful candidates. This issue may be especially important for college students. Notably, the choice voting option was strongly advocated from the outset of our deliberations by a few UCD students, and most of those students who addressed the Task Force backed a choice plan.

Third, the present system may encourage some people to vote strategically rather than reveal their true rankings of candidates. That is, people may engage in “bullet voting” (casting only a single vote for their top choice candidate even though multiple seats are open), even though they actually have other preferences as well. The choice system may discourage such strategic voting, because a voter’s second or third choices cannot hurt his or her higher ranked candidates.

Fourth, choice voting may encourage cooperation among candidates as they would want to appeal to other candidates’ supporters in hopes of garnering their second place support.

Finally, it is possible that choice voting will address a familiar concern about the costs of Davis municipal elections, although the evidence in this regard is not clear.

Counter-Arguments

1. Perhaps the most commonly expressed concern expressed about choice voting is the ability of the public to understand the system. Indeed, this was one of the arguments that the earlier Governance Committee offered in recommending against preferential voting, prior to adoption of the

system by the Davis student body and elsewhere. The Task Force acknowledges that choice voting is more complex than the current system, but the evidence we have seen suggests that it is possible to present the choice approach in a relatively simple manner, free of discussion of mathematical algorithms. Clearly a public education campaign will be necessary if choice voting is adopted, but we believe the city government is capable of leading such a campaign. We also note that public education campaigns in other jurisdictions adopting choice voting (notably, San Francisco) appear to have worked well.

2. Because of confusion over how choice voting works, some voters may not express their true preferences.
3. While there are some hints that particular groups are underrepresented in Davis, this evidence is open to question. Some may be skeptical about the need to change electoral systems without more definitive evidence of under-representation.
4. Some people may believe that only first place votes *should* matter during voting. A choice voting system is inconsistent with that view.
5. Some of the claims of choice voting advocates (e.g., that it will lead to higher turnout rates and lower costs of election) are as yet unproven.
6. A concern has been raised that choice voting may lead to more ideological candidates being elected to the city council, perhaps undermining council effectiveness.
7. It appears that adoption of choice voting would require that Davis adopt a city charter. The city will incur some costs in pursuing a charter, and it is not certain that voters would approve a charter.

2. Do Not Adopt District Elections

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that Davis not adopt a system of district elections for city council candidates.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

We find district elections, as the other major alternative to the current system, have notable and significant drawbacks. District elections create the potential for greater conflict within the council based on the geographical base of council members, increased “horse-trading” by council members to ensure that each district gets its share of a particular resource, less attention to city-wide problems, and a potential loss of talented candidates because they do not live in “the right district.” We also do not see in Davis the circumstances that most strongly justify district elections, i.e., a large overall population and/or substantial, geographically concentrated ethnic communities with a history of inability to influence council races. The Task Force further believes that, with some exceptions, the political interests of most Davis residents do not generally break along neighborhood or district lines.

Additionally, it appears that choice voting has the potential to address some of the concerns traditionally expressed by district voting advocates. For example, imagine that candidates from one geographic area tended to dominate council elections by receiving a plurality of votes under the current system. Under choice voting this is a less plausible scenario since “second choice” and “third choice” votes count in determining election winners.

3. Do Not Change the Executive/Legislative Powers of the Mayor

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that we retain the City Council/City Manager (weak mayor) form of government.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

As noted previously, the Task Force decided not to recommend structural changes for their own sake, in the absence of a link to an identified problem. We did not identify a problem that changing the mayor's powers would help to solve. Additionally, most of us believe that the "weak mayor" system works well for the City of Davis.

4. Change the System of Selecting the Mayor

Currently the mayor is selected by the city council, but an existing city ordinance creates a presumption that: 1) the incoming mayor will be the prior mayor pro tem; and 2) the mayor pro tem will be the council member who received the most votes in the prior city council election. There was consensus among the Task Force that the de facto current system for selecting the mayor is problematic (see the rationale following Proposal A). However, the Task Force was split about the best alternative for changing the system. Accordingly, we present two alternative proposals.

Proposal A: Council Selects the Mayor

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that: 1) the mayor continue to be selected by the city council from among present council members; 2) the city ordinance related to selection of the mayor be modified to remove the presumption that the person chosen as mayor be the council member who had been serving as mayor pro tempore in the prior term; and 3) the city ordinance be further modified to remove the presumption that the mayor pro tempore be the person who had won the most votes in the prior city council.

Ayes: Dolcini, Lascher, Levy, Li.

Noes: Adler Gefter, Mariano, Poulos.

Absent: Garamendi.

Rationale

- *Link with Identified Problems.* Two related problems with the present means of selecting the mayor have been widely noted: 1) the mayor chosen in the present manner may not be the person most skilled at running and organizing council meetings; and 2) the mayor may not have strong support among city council colleagues. The proposal to remove the presumption that the mayor be the person who won the most council votes specifically addresses the identified problems.
- *Consistency with Other Legislative Bodies.* It has been suggested that it is “undemocratic” to have the council elect the mayor. That suggestion does not take account of the fact that in the vast majority of legislative bodies in the United States (both houses of the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, county boards of supervisors, school boards) the chair/president is elected by the membership.

- *Maintenance of the “Weak Mayor” System.* The case for electing the mayor separately would be **much** stronger if Davis had a strong mayor system—i.e., a system in which the mayor himself/herself developed and presented the budget, made appointments to city agencies, had the power to veto proposed ordinances, etc. In a strong mayor system, being mayor may call for different skills and background. But Davis has a “weak mayor” system and no proposal to adopt a strong mayor system is being seriously considered. Given that the mayor is simply “another council member” with respect to governance powers (although not with respect to ceremonial duties) it makes less sense to elect that individual separately.
- *Added Complexity of the Process of Using Instant Runoff for Mayor Selection.* The Task Force has endorsed a plan for choice voting for council members, while recognizing that this will lead to some additional complexity for voters and need for additional public education. Such a process is much simpler if voters **only** face a new system for electing council members and **not** a new system for electing the mayor as well. Reasonable prudence would suggest giving the voters a chance to focus on using choice voting to select council members.

Proposal B: Voters Select the Mayor from Among the City Council Members

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that the public directly select the mayor from among the city council members through a system of instant runoff voting. The Task Force further recommends that there be separate lists of mayoral and council candidates on the ballot.

Ayes Adler, Gefter, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: Dolcini, Lascher, Levy, Li.

Absent: Garamendi.

Rationale

The increasingly important and visible role of mayor has made the issue of how the mayor is selected/elected a topic of considerable discussion. Public comment to the Task Force has been forceful on this topic. The current system is vastly misunderstood. The public believes that the council is bound to designate as mayor (initially as mayor pro tem) the candidate who received the most votes in the last election. Although the ordinance does not so compel, the city council has developed a practice of designating as the mayor/mayor pro tem the council candidate who received the most votes in the last election. There

could be a direct election of the mayor but the Task Force has not supported this. Instead the Task Force has recommended that the mayor be a member of the city council.

If choice voting is established there can be two lists on the ballot; one list is for council elections and one is for the mayor. The list for mayor will contain the names of all council candidates and present council members whose terms have not expired and who wish to be considered for the position of mayor. Candidates for council are listed on the ballot in one column. Those candidates for council and continuing council members that wish to be considered for mayor are listed on the ballot in a second column. Voters rank their preferences for council in one column and their preferences for mayor in the other column -- separately. To decide the new council members, a choice voting election is first conducted using the council rankings (as would be done anyway). Then, to select the mayor, an instant runoff election is conducted among those newly-elected and continuing council members that chose to be considered for mayor. The mayoral ballots would be tallied simply by skipping over any rankings of candidates that were not elected. The result is the council member with majority voter support.

5. Increase the Size of the City Council

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that the Davis City Council increase its elected membership from five to seven members.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: Li.

Rationale

The Task Force considered a variety of suggestions to further enhance the ability of the city council to effectively represent the residents of Davis. Ultimately, Task Force members concluded that expanding the council represented a more inclusive method of improving our form of elective representation. Adding two members to the council appropriately recognizes the many demographic changes that Davis has undergone since its incorporation nearly 90 years ago. Moreover, when taken in concert with other Task Force recommendations (e.g., streamlining city commissions), it has the potential effect of distributing the complicated and increasing workload on council members more evenly. Also, there may be less need to postpone considering agenda items when a single council member needs to miss a council meeting.

6. Streamline the Commission System

Recommendation and Vote

The Governance Task Force recommends that the Davis City Council: 1) review the current commission system with an eye toward reducing the number of commissions and reducing overlap among advisory agencies; and 2) adopt an ordinance establishing appropriate sunset dates for commissions that are not required by state law.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Geffer, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

Among task force members there is a predominant view that the current commission system is very valuable, but that the present number of commissions is unwieldy. The results include duplication, burdens on city staff, and inappropriate delays in making decisions. Furthermore, it presents a significant burden on persons seeking entitlements from the City of Davis, and on members of the public who wish to participate in the political process. We also recognize that it is common outside Davis for advisory groups to accumulate over time, eventually resulting in the need for reconsideration of whether all such groups are necessary. At the same time, we are not confident that we have the expertise, especially given the six month term of this Task Force, to determine whether any particular Davis commissions should be eliminated. Accordingly, we think it is appropriate for the city council to make that judgment. The addition of sunset provision language also would help ensure that the work of commissions would be reviewed periodically. Sunset language would encourage the council to make a determination as to whether a particular commission's input continued to be of value.

7. Obtain More Comprehensive Records of Commission Meetings

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that the Davis City Council require a more comprehensive record of commission meetings.

Ayes: Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefer, Lascher, Mariano, Levy, Li, Poulos.

Noes: Adler.

Rationale

While the staff report to the city council already provides some information, it does not necessarily provide the commission's stated rationale on important votes. A more comprehensive record (e.g. compact disc, audio or video tape recording, etc.) would also allow the city council to consider a commission's recommendations in the context of the previous hearing(s) without reinventing the wheel. The city council hearing could be construed as the "appeals" forum in the process of vetting an issue.

Public education on the role of advisory commissions and citizen participation at commission hearings should also be part of this effort.

8. Allow for More Public Input about Commission Appointments

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that deadlines be established for the application process and thereafter that the names of possible appointments be published on the City website and in all local newspapers at least two weeks before the appointments are made.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Li, Poulos.

Noes: Mariano.

Rationale

The increased importance of commissions in the governance of the City of Davis should be recognized, and the appointment of members to the various commissions and task forces should be made with more public input. The city council should have deadlines for the receipt of applications and, without exception, allow a comment period between the receipt of applications and the appointment of commissioners/task force members. To encourage public input, the names of the applicants must be made public and time be given for the receipt of comments.

Counter-Argument

The increased visibility of commission appointments might discourage some people from applying and possibly place focus on unrelated personal or character issues.

9. Change the Timing of Commission Appointments

Recommendation and Vote

The Governance Task Force recommends that appointments to commissions and task forces be made approximately three months after each council election (after the public comment period). Commissioners and task force members should begin their terms on a unified date, such as April 1, and serve for defined terms. Note that the three-month period is dependent in part on acceptance of the Task Force's next recommendation (i.e., moving council elections to November).

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Geffer, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

It has long been the concern of some Davis groups, such as students, that appointments are made during times of year when large groups of citizens are not in town. Since the Task Force is recommending that the city council utilize commissions increasingly for fact finding, and has spent considerable time addressing the issue of more public participation in government, the Task Force agreed that this timetable would accommodate the largest number of citizens available for appointment and for public comment upon prospective appointment.

If the recommendation to move elections to November is rejected, the recommendation regarding timing of commission appointments should be viewed as encouragement to appoint commissioners at a time other than during the summer.

10. Move City Council Elections to November

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that city council elections be held on the general election date in November.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: Li.

Rationale

The suggestion for changing council elections from the primary to the general election ballot was offered by a student member of the public who attended the Task Force deliberations. The majority of the Task Force was supportive of the proposal for a number of reasons. First, turnout tends to be higher in general elections so more people will tend to vote in council elections, enhancing their legitimacy. Second, the November electorate is more likely to be representative of the entire eligible adult population than the primary electorate. Third, moving the election to November is likely to assist some groups who traditionally have been underrepresented as voters in council elections, most notably college students. Finally, according to the county clerk a move to November elections would result in minor administrative savings.

11. Do Not Change Campaign Contribution Limits

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends against changing the current \$100 limit for individual contributions to city council campaigns.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Geffer, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

Consideration was given to lowering the contribution limit (e.g., to \$50), but concern was expressed that this might create burdens for candidates attempting to obtain sufficient funds to mount a credible campaign. Consideration was also given to raising the limit, but that option was rejected given the lack of evidence that operating with the \$100 limit prevented potential candidates from running or prevented actual candidates from mounting serious campaigns. In short, we found no compelling reason to change the status quo.

12. Assess the City's Campaign Finance Ordinance

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that the Davis City Council analyze the campaign finance Ordinance No. 2172 - Amending Chapter 12, Elections, of the Davis Municipal Code to Require Additional Disclosure on Independent Expenditure Communications, to Clarify Independent Expenditure Reporting Requirements, and to Make Clarifying and Technical Changes to Conform to State Law passed and adopted in 2004. This review would be aimed at determining the efficacy of the amended ordinance.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Geffer, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

Task Force members were divided as to whether the campaign finance ordinance enacted in 2004 needed additional amendments to enhance its effectiveness. Some felt that the just-passed ordinance should be allowed to take effect (i.e., be tested in a city-wide election) before amendments are considered, while other Task Force members felt that the ordinance needed additional modification in the areas of disclosure and possible penalties. The recommended language appropriately asks the city council to hold a public workshop to review the ordinance after the next citywide election to determine whether its provisions need modification in any area.

13. Do Not Establish Term Limits for City Council Members

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends against establishing term limits for Council Members.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

There was a strong consensus by the 1996 Governance Committee that term limits would not be helpful. Nobody challenged that conclusion during Task Force deliberations. Task Force members believe it is inappropriate to limit people's choice of candidates in the absence of a demonstration that entrenched incumbents are dominating the council. Consistent with that conclusion, we noted that several incumbents have lost bids for reelection in recent years.

14. Establish a City Charter as Necessary to Implement other Recommendations

Recommendation and Vote

The Task Force recommends that Davis shall remain a general law city unless adoption of a charter is necessary to implement these recommendations. If a charter is necessary, the Task Force recommends that a charter city election be scheduled for November 2005.

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Geffer, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos.

Noes: None.

Rationale

During its discussions, it was apparent to the Task Force that a number of our recommendations might conflict with general laws and could not be implemented (unless the laws are changed) without a charter. These included choice (preference) voting which appears to conflict with the ballot provisions of the Election Code; mayoral election by instant runoff voting which, in addition to the Election Code ballot provisions, appears to conflict with the direct mayoral election provisions of the Government Code; and an increase in the number of council members for a general law city with an elected mayor, which appears to conflict with a provision in the Government Code.

Because the Task Force sees these as legal issues beyond its expertise, and because the Task Force sees no reason otherwise to adopt a charter, it makes the above recommendation. Further, in order to implement our electoral recommendations in the November 2006 election, a charter consistent with our next recommendation should be placed on the November 2005 ballot.

15. Adopt a Broad Charter if One Is Needed

Recommendation and Vote

If Davis becomes a charter city, the Task Force recommends the drafting of a broad city charter which is not specific but which, consistent with the California Constitution, grants legislative authority over “municipal affairs.”

Ayes: Adler, Dolcini, Garamendi, Gefter, Lascher, Levy, Li, Mariano, Poulos

Noes: None.

Rationale

This recommendation is consistent with the 1996 recommendation of the Governance Committee, as follows:

“General language would allow the City of Davis to make and enforce all ordinances and regulations in respect to municipal affairs.... Because specifics in a charter act as limitations upon a charter city’s power, the adopted recommendation calls for a broad charter which mirrors the home rule provision of the California Constitution and which allows the greatest flexibility for full exercise over the municipal affairs of the city. This means the minimum amount of detail in the charter.”

RESOLUTION NO. 04-197

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DAVIS
CREATING A GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the City Council expressed interest in the issues surrounding governance of the City and governance at the Council level; and

WHEREAS, the Council has expressed a desire that the structure of the City's government allows for a fair political process while permitting progressive activity within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council wants to ensure that city government is as responsive to the citizenry as possible; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the Council appointed a Governance Committee to study many of the same issues of concern today.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAVIS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **CREATION OF TASK FORCE**

There is hereby created a City of Davis Governance Task Force.

2. **PURPOSE**

The Davis Governance Task Force shall build upon the work done by the 1994 Governance Committee and study issues related to governance, the structure of city government that best represents the citizenry and the most appropriate democratic political processes to ensure fair representation and equality of access. These issues should include district elections, the election of the mayor, municipal charter status, alternative methods of voting, including choice voting, and the role of Commissions. The Council may request that the Task Force study additional topics as appropriate.

3. **MEMBERSHIP**

The Governance Task Force shall consist of nine (9) members and one (1) alternate member. Members may represent one or more of the following entities, although all interested parties are encouraged to apply:

- Former City Council member
- Current or former City Commissioner
- Academic or professional expertise in local government
- Experience with a variety of employment and/or community involvement backgrounds
- UC Davis student
- Senior Citizen
- Representatives from each of the following geographic regions of Davis (North, East, West, South, Central)

All members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the City Council. All members should be residents of Davis. The City Council will make every effort to ensure that the Task Force represents a wide spectrum of local government perspectives, political opinions and/or minority viewpoints.

Council may appoint non-voting, ex officio members at their discretion.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

Members of the Task Force shall serve the full term of the Task Force, which is a temporary body.

5. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

Continued absences may be the basis of replacement of any member. Excused absences may be obtained by arrangement with the Chairperson or Staff Liaison prior to the meeting. Task Force members should not have more than three (3) absences per year.

Members of the Governance Task Force serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Council.

6. VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Task Force shall be filled for the duration of the existence of the Task Force.

7. OFFICERS OF THE TASK FORCE

At the first meeting of the Task Force, the voting members of the Task Force shall select one of its members as Chairperson and one of its members as Vice Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON of the Task Force shall call the meetings to order at the appointed time, shall appoint all committees, subject to the approval of the Task Force, shall have all powers and duties of the presiding officer as described in Robert's Rules of Order, and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Task Force.

The VICE CHAIRPERSON of the Task Force shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the Chairperson in the case of absence or inability of the Chairperson to act. The Vice Chairperson shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Task Force or the Chairperson.

8. MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE

The Governance Task Force shall establish a regular time and place for meetings and shall hold regular meetings. Special meetings of the Task Force may be called at any time by the Chairperson, or by any five (5) or more members of the Task Force.

The Task Force will be charged with seeking public input as part of their information-gathering process and with encouraging public participation throughout the Task Force's existence.

9. QUORUM

For the purpose of conducting business, a quorum of the Governance Task Force shall consist of five (5) of the nine (9) members. An alternate member shall be counted as a full voting member for purposes of attaining a quorum.

10. IMPLEMENTATION

The Governance Task Force is charged with presenting an interim report to Council within four months of appointment and a final report six months after appointment. Once a final report has been approved by the Council, the Council will either disband the Task Force or provide the Task Force with additional duties.


11. FUNDING

No City funds shall be obligated or expended by the Task Force unless specifically provided for by the City Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of August, 2004, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: GREENWALD, PUNTILLO, SAYLOR, SOUZA, ASMUNDSON.

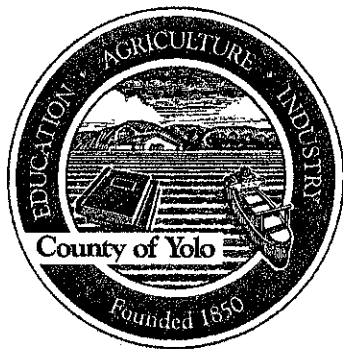
NOES: NONE.


RUTH UY ASMUNDSON
Mayor

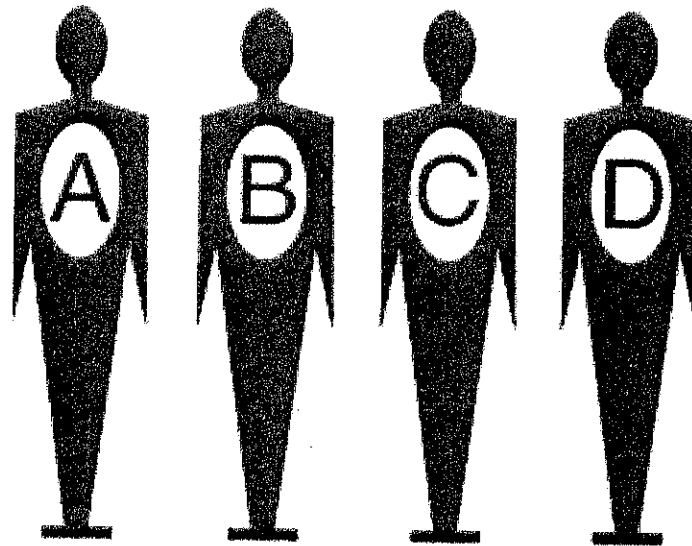
ATTEST:


BETTE E. RACKI
City Clerk

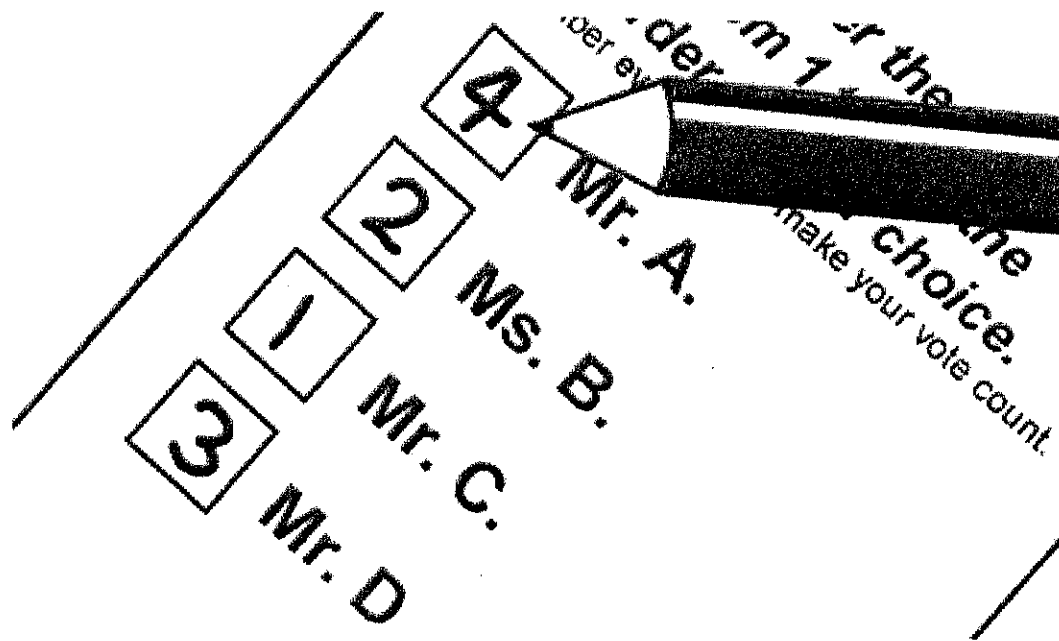
**A Simple Visual Aid for Understanding
Single Transferable Voting
("Choice" Voting, "Instant Runoff" Voting, "Preference" Voting)**



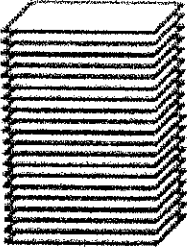
**Prepared by Freddie Oakley
Yolo County Clerk/Recorder**




1. Candidates are nominated and stand for election.



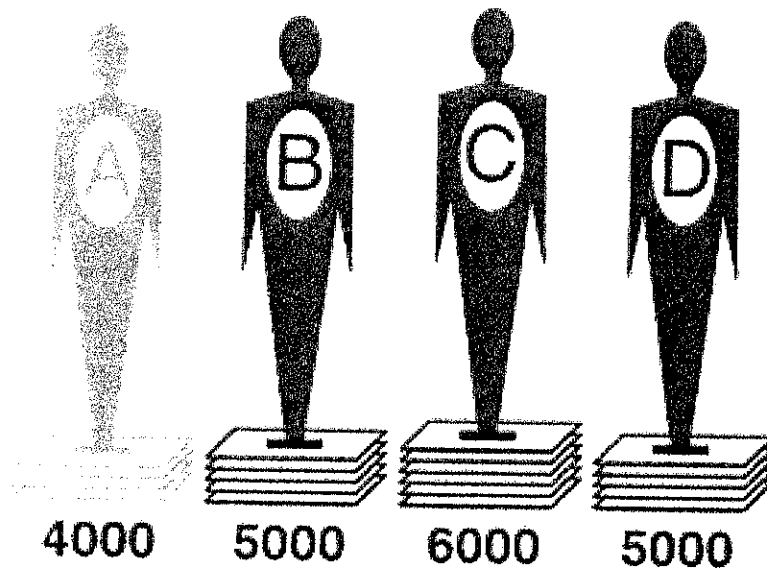
2. Voters vote for each candidate in order of preference.

20,000

TOTAL
VOTES

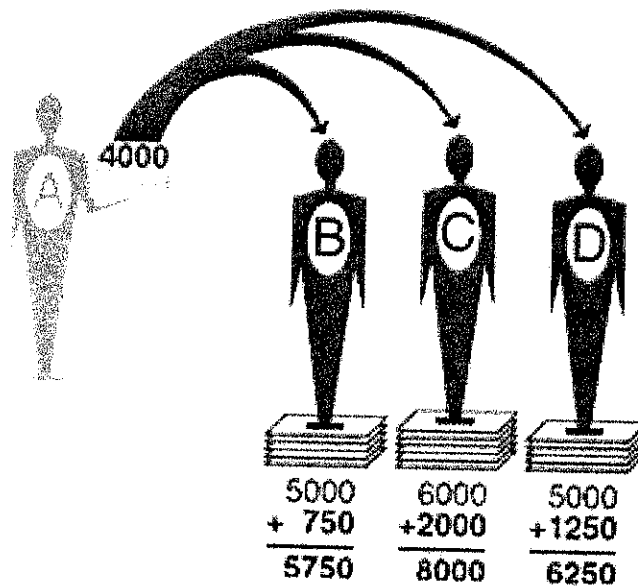
10,000* + 1

TO WIN

**50% of total votes*

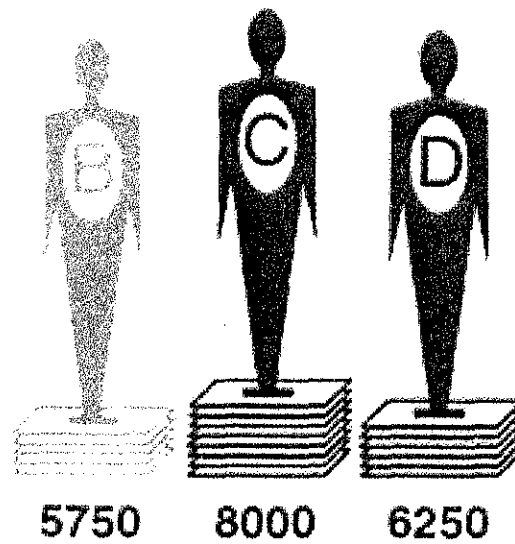
3. There are 20,000 votes cast. A candidate needs to gain an overall majority (i.e. 50% of the votes plus 1) to be elected.



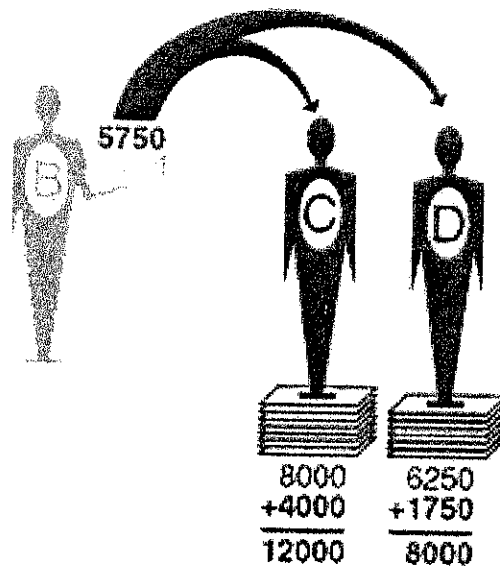
4. The votes are counted. None of the candidates has gained a majority. The candidate with the least number of votes, *Mr. A*, is dropped out.



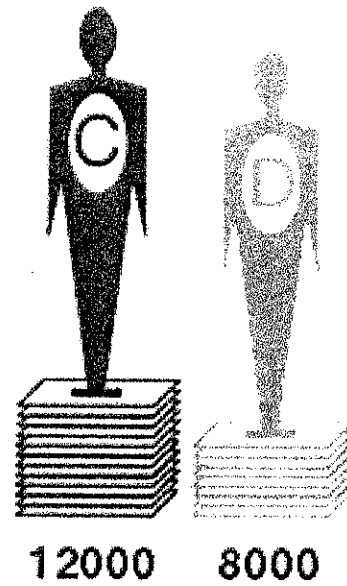
5. *Mr. A's* votes are transferred to the remaining three candidates according to which candidate was given second preference on each ballot paper.



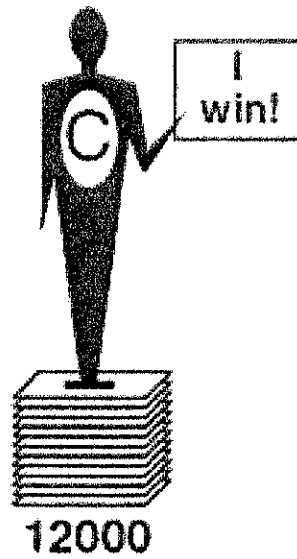
6. Once again, no candidate has gained a majority. *Ms. B*, with the least number of votes, is dropped out.



7. *Ms. B's* votes are distributed to the remaining two candidates according to the preference on each ballot paper.



8. *Mr. C* has more than half the total votes and thus has gained an absolute majority.



9. *Mr. C* is declared the elected candidate.