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AUG 17 2012

CITY OF BERKELEY  
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

Argument Against Ballot Issue: *R*

## Charter Amendment to allow City Council

### To adopt Decennial Redistricting Plan

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Twenty-six years ago Berkeley residents voted to abolish at large council seats. The people of Berkeley changed the city charter and enacted district elections. This occurred because I, along with many others, felt residents were not being heard or properly represented by our council members. I looked for a solution along with others to alleviate the problem; We decided the solution was to elect our council members by "Districts". I, and my team drew the district lines by talking to various people in the community and drawing from my experience as a lifelong Berkeley resident. From the time I entered elementary school until I completed my degree at the University of California, Berkeley, I've seen the power of the Berkeley electorate. I worked for the City of Berkeley and the Berkeley Unified School District; I attended St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church South Berkeley. I keenly understand how powerful the Berkeley community is when we work together. Empowered by this knowledge, we were able to know where to place the district lines allowing for true representation for all Berkeley constituents. The final product of both the district map and charter was presented to the public to vote on. Now the City Council is threatening to override the will of the electorate, proposing changes that will allow them to modify District lines anyway they want with or without our input.

Don't let them take our choices away.

Pamela Y. Sanford

Author of "Districts: A New Beginning" 1986

*Jacquelyn McCormick*

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