



December 7, 2021

Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis and City Council Members
1243 National City Boulevard
National City, CA 91950

Re: Request to Implement District Voting under the California Voting Rights Act

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to ask your support in transitioning National City City Council elections from at-large to district-based elections in a timeline that will allow for districted elections in election year 2022.

The City's at-large elections have resulted in vote-dilution and political disempowerment for communities of interest as well as neighborhoods throughout National City that share not only a geography but common needs and concerns. Without districted elections, representation on the City's five-member council can be very skewed and not reflective of National City's broader diversity. Running for at-large elected office can discourage participation in our civic processes, especially for first time candidates as well as low-income community members, due to the need for greater resources that can be required for communication with voters across the entire city. At-large elections tend to exacerbate inequity in government representation, and we believe that equity is a key concern and value of this elected council.

The disempowerment of minority voters and communities of interests is the reason why 13 out of 18 cities in the County have already transitioned to districted voting. This includes cities as large as the City of San Diego as well as cities that are smaller and less racially diverse than National City.

We urge you to please act to bring National City in compliance with the California Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

Carol Kim
Business Manager & CEO
San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council
San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council Family Housing Corporation