

TERRY W. REILLY

September 20, 2009

City Clerk Merianne Nakagawa
333 W. Ocean Blvd. 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear City Clerk Nakagawa,

Instant Runoff Voting has been tested in several cities in the United States. The results are very mixed. The facts are many cities that invested heavily into IRV, are now returning to the traditional method of voting.

January '09 Pierce County Council passes a Charter Amendment to repeal RCV^{1 2}

The highlight of the Instant Runoff Repeal Ordinance Language:³

WHEREAS the cost of running the IRV portion of the 2008 General Election was \$1,692,963 and

WHEREAS the IRV portion of the ballot proved to be expensive, complicated and confusing and the results of the IRV elections were not available until weeks following the election date, and

WHEREAS 66 percent of the 90,738 voters responding to the Authority's survey indicated that they did not like IRV

Pierce County, Washington demographics (441,331 voters, 76% white, 5.5% Latino, 6.8% black, 4.9% Asian)

Long Beach has a larger number of minorities who potentially would be even more disenfranchised with IRV.

New America Foundation reports IRV being used "in a number of cities in North Carolina", when in fact it is being used in just ONE, Hendersonville (population 10,420)⁴

First used in Cary, NC it was the poster child for FairVote. After one attempt, they abandoned it after many problems^{5 6}.

Fayetteville, NC Their City Council decided not to use it.

Rocky Mount, NC chose not to bite on IRV

Aspen, CO had many problems, some still ongoing. In the last election, one of the major problems with IRV revealed itself, that ranking a candidate #1, does not always help him and can cause him to lose the election.

Aspen voted will now vote in November if they want to scrap the IRV method.⁷

¹ Pierce_Co_WA_2008_IRV_Recap.pdf

² Pierce County voter will decide fate of new voting system.pdf

³ Pierce_County_IRV_Repeal_Ordinance.pdf

⁴ Correcting New America Foundation Instant Runoff Voting Misinfo.pdf

⁵ Instant Run-off Needs Scrutiny.pdf

⁶ Cary NC Tries IRV, then says 'no more'.pdf

⁷ Aspen_revotes_on_IRV.pdf

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The movement to IRV is successful largely because there is no organized opposition to it and decision makers take the statements of advocates as facts. People hear the bullet points that it will cost less and improve elections and most think, "WOW wouldn't that be nice".

IRV Has been use in several cities and after spending a lot of time and money changing the voting system, and confusing voters, many of them have buyers remorse.

Voting to me is the heart of the democratic process. I really believe that voting and democracy are sacred.

You are smart to do more research and find out more information before moving ahead on such a major change in how the public elects its leaders. You will clearly see after doing some minimal research, IRV does not help democracy and inserts unnecessary confusion in the election process disenfranchising many voters.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry W. Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T" and "R".

Terry W. Reilly