



District Elections for the Santa Rosa City Council—Measure Q

Measure Q asks the voters in Santa Rosa:

“Shall the Santa Rosa City Charter be amended to change the manner in which City Council members are elected from at large elections to each Council member being elected by and from districts created by the Council?”

The League of Women Voters supports representative government. All people have the basic right to be truly represented by a government that provides them with a reasonable opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice who can meaningfully understand their issues and concerns and work effectively to address them.

The Santa Rosa City Clerk’s Office advises that there has not been a resident of Southwest Santa Rosa on the City Council for at least the last 40 years and perhaps longer. Other sources have indicated that there has never been a council member from Southwest Santa Rosa.

It certainly appears that the current “At Large” election for the Santa Rosa City Council has not been providing all City residents with the equal representation they deserve.

Should the voters of Santa Rosa pass Measure Q it will be necessary for the City to establish a fair and equitable process for establishing the “New” district boundaries and changing them in the future. Good, solid and tested redistricting principles need to be put in place utilizing an independent body, clear ranking criteria and an open and transparent process will avoid the potential for the problems that plagued the California redistricting process for decades.

The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County urges **“Vote Yes on Measure Q”**