



League of United Latin American Citizens Concilio Zapatista 4383

VOTE YES Prop A – November 6, 2018 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 20,000 Signatures in 180 Days and Expanding Powers for Referendum Elections

WHEREAS, since its inception on February 17, 1929 in Corpus Christi, Texas, LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the largest, oldest and most successful Hispanic civil rights and service organization in the United States, has championed the cause of Hispanic Americans in education, employment, economic development and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, ‘representative democracy,’ while inherently flawed, is the most practical form of democratic government at all levels, (federal, state, and local) and

WHEREAS, ‘direct democracy’ mechanisms, such as initiative, referendum, and recall elections, are long accepted improvements to ‘representative democracy’ that enable citizens to redress grievances with their government, a right guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution in the Bill of Rights, and

WHEREAS, San Antonio, TX, is a Home Rule city with these ‘direct democracy’ mechanisms allowed by Charter (initiative, referendum and recall elections), and

WHEREAS, the city of San Antonio owns and operates electric, gas, and water utilities, which are run by hand-picked, unaccountable, unelected members (other than the mayor who is an ex-officio member). These appointed members make monumental decisions with little or no citizen input (CPS Energy does not allow citizens to speak at Board meetings) that are then routinely “rubber stamped” by City Council, and

WHEREAS, utility ‘profits’ constitute a ‘stealth tax’ that flows into the General Fund to pay for an increasing number of ‘pet projects’ which disincentivizes City Council members from voting against utility rate increases, and

WHEREAS, the current Charter disallows approving or rejecting at the polls any ordinance passed (‘rubber-stamped’) by the council that appropriates money, levying taxes, or fixing public utility rates, which, we believe, essentially violates the First Amendment rights to redress grievances with their government, and

WHEREAS, public officials like to say the public can ‘vote out’ an elected official, however, that option is NOT an effective redress of grievance, since it cannot stop an offensive official action from being taken. Essentially, the only true ‘redress’ comes in the form of a referendum election and that is also NOT an option, when the number of signatures and limitation on time allowed is onerous, and

WHEREAS, a successful petition drive is followed by a referendum election, a VOTE of the People. We say, **Let the People Decide !**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **League of United Latin American Citizens Concilio Zapatista 4383** reveres the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guarantees redress of grievances with government, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our organization supports lowering the number of required signatures for referendum petitions to 20,000 and increasing the time allowed to 180 days to match requirements in Texas Local Government Code 9.004 for home rule charter changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support assuring the people their right to redress grievances over taxes and public utility rates by referendum because we are all profoundly affected by their passage, we have no voice in these matters and we believe the Constitution guarantees it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we wish to join other organizations in asking the public to **VOTE YES on Prop A** in the November 2018 election.

Respectfully Submitted by Concilio Zapatista 4383, this 6th Day of October 2018

Linda Alfaro, President

Henry Rodriguez, Executive Director

Cindy Gustamante, Vice President

George Alejos, Director