

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING REPAIR CALIFORNIA'S DUAL BALLOT MEASURES  
CONVENING A LIMITED STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, Repair California, a non-partisan, statewide coalition of individuals and organizations, which advocates for convening a limited Constitutional Convention to repair California's governance; and

WHEREAS, Repair California is submitting two ballot measures which will constitute the first systematic reform of the guiding document of our great state since 1879; and

WHEREAS, the first ballot measure will amend the state constitution to allow for the electorate to call a constitutional convention; and

WHEREAS, the second measure will call and convene a limited state constitutional convention focused on issues of governance; and

WHEREAS, the judicially-enforceable, limited Constitutional Convention will focus solely on issues of governance, defined as elections, the budget process, revenue distribution, and restoring the balance of power between the state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, direct tax or fee increases will be explicitly barred from consideration, as will social issues such as marriage, guns, abortion, and prayer-in-school, allowing the Convention to focus on critical governance reforms; and

WHEREAS, amended more than 500 times, the Constitution of the state of California is currently the third largest such document in the world, behind those only of Alabama and India, at over 75,000 words; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution has been described as "the perfect example of what a constitution ought *not* to be" [Wilson and Ebbert, California's Legislature]; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a functioning system of state governance – a system dictated by the Constitution – is a major factor in the legislative and budgetary gridlock affecting the government of our state; and

WHEREAS, the legislative and budgetary gridlock in our state greatly harms the ability of local governments to properly and effectively budget, finance and govern for the needs of the people; and

WHEREAS, the legislative and budgetary gridlock in our state and unfunded mandates dictated by the state's Constitution results in damaging borrowing or taking of funding from local government; and

WHEREAS, the legislative and budgetary gridlock in our state prevents needed action in policy areas beset by crisis, such as education, water, transportation, prisons, and the relationship between the state and local government; and

WHEREAS, some important measures in consideration for the November 2010 ballot would lock-in existing local funding in a broken system, but a Constitutional Convention could fix the system and restore the balance of power between the state and local government; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento has proven unable to reform itself, and hence local government and the people of the great state of California must bring reform to Sacramento;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, this City Council hereby supports Repair California's call for a limited State Constitutional Convention.