



Mayor Mark Mallory  
Vice-Mayor David Crowley  
President Pro. Tem Laketa Cole  
Councilmember Jeff Berding  
Councilmember John Cranley  
Councilmember Cecil Thomas

September 20, 2008

Dear Cincinnati Democratic Committee Member:

As Democratic Party's elected officials for the City of Cincinnati, we are writing to urge you to take a formal position of OPPOSITION to both Cincinnati municipal issues on the November general election ballot.

Let us explain the reasons for our unanimous opposition to both ballot issues.

With respect to the Issue #9, the red light camera ban, we do not need a City Charter Amendment on this topic. While our caucus has differences of opinion on this issue, we are united in opposition to placing a legislative issue into the Charter, our City's "constitution" that traditionally has dealt only with the *structure* of government, not legislative *policies*.

We also do not need a Red Light Camera Charter Amendment because Council did not approve it, with a Mayoral veto at the ready. As far as the Mayor is concerned, this issue is no longer under consideration, and a Charter Amendment is overkill in an extraordinary manner. We hope that you will join us to vote **NO on Issue #9**, so that all Democratic voters will be aware of our party's opposition to this Chris Finney-led initiative.

Proportional Representation is the other ballot issue, **Issue #8**, and we again urge a **NO** vote for many reasons. Please see the attached flyer for a review of the proposal.

Be clear that the proposed PR system takes away 8 of your votes since voters will only have 1 vote counted in a Council election, rather than the current 9-vote option. This change will lead to Democrats competing for first-place votes against each other (similar to when we had the top vote-getter Mayoral election), and again, limit the opportunity for many of our slate of Democrats to be chosen on each ballot.

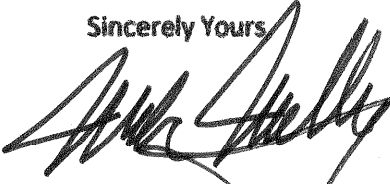
Proportional representation is very complicated. At a time when we are supposed to be making elections simpler, we are greatly concerned that this PR system, with its four pages of voter instructions, is confusing and could very well lead to lawsuits and voter disenfranchisement. This form of PR is only used in Cambridge, MA. Most voters are simply not familiar with ranked voting. We all know the recent history of voting litigation in Florida from 2000 and here in Ohio from the 2004 election. Given this history, it is premature to even contemplate moving to ranked voting tomorrow until we have resolved any issues with the machines needed for how we vote today.

Also keep in mind the great cost associated with a move to PR. The Board of Elections has estimates that the cost of buying the expensive new computer systems and getting them certified will be up to \$3 million. Since Cincinnati will be the only municipality using this system, we will bear the cost in its entirety. You are well aware of the City's budget challenges of late, with painful cuts to needed

services. Adopting PR will result in off-setting budget cuts that we cannot afford, or property tax increases that citizens, particularly seniors, cannot bear.

For the reasons stated above, we urge you to join us in having the Cincinnati Democratic Committee OPPOSE Issues 8 and 9 for the November 4 election. For the future of our City and Party, Vote NO.

Sincerely Yours



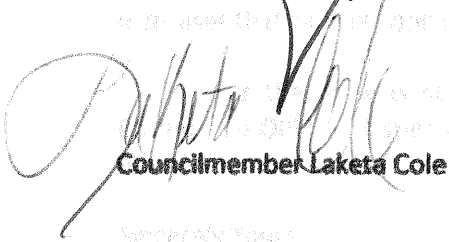
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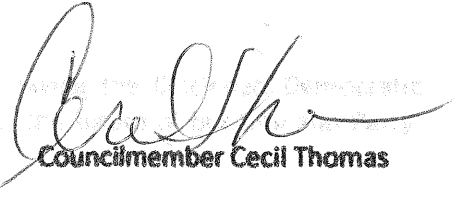
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