

LATE MATERIAL
MEETING DATE 5/20/14
ITEM # 7

**POSITION PAPER
WARD VOTING**

Historically Carson City has elected its local representatives at large, requiring them to live in the district that they represent. In 1992 the issue of going to ward voting was placed on the ballot. The questions failed on a tie vote of 8504 to 8504.

The first consideration is the number of signatures it would take to recall an elected official under each system. As an example, in Supervisor Ward 1, **4,523** signatures are required to start a recall under the present system, but under **Ward Voting** it would take only **1,437** signatures. Reducing the number of signatures by this amount would subject an elected official to great pressure from special interest groups. Such a group could then pressure an elected official to vote their way or be subject to a recall. The cost to a candidate to run a recall election could out way the \$9,369 average campaign cost. In addition the cost to the tax payers to put on a recall election would be about \$30,000.

The second issue to consider is that of the voter being challenged when they go to vote. Under our present system, i.e., voting at large, it is not as important where a voter lives. If they have moved within Carson, they still get to vote for all of the Supervisors, and School Board members. If we go to **Ward Voting** a voter can be challenged on the grounds of residency if they have moved out of a particular Ward or School District. This has a chilling effect on voter turnout.

Several other issues to be considered are that Carson is a very compact community, unlike many of the other counties in Nevada that are quite spread out. The need for district voting in Carson is not as critical. Also, human nature being what it is, elected representatives tend to protect the district that they represent. This parochial attitude tends to limit their desire to consider what is best for the whole community.

In conclusion it is our opinion based on cost, the potential for recall, and the geographical make up, that Carson should Not elect its representatives by ward or district but to continue the present system.

CARSON CITY CHARTER

Sec. 5.010 PRIMARY ELECTION.

2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

WARD 1

7236 Register to Vote 3884 Voted 54% Turnout

To win in the Primary Election you would need 1943 votes. That is 27% of the voters in the Ward or 16% of the voter in Carson City.

WARD 3

5393 Register to Vote 2427 Voted 45% Turnout

To win the Primary Election you would need 1215 votes. That is 23% of the voters in the Ward or 10% of the voters in Carson City.