

CharterReview - Public Contact

From: <klenox@earthlink.net>
To: <CharterReview@cityofsacramento.org>
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Subject: Public Contact

<h2>Public Contact</h2>	
Date	August 4, 2009
Contact Name	Kate Lenox
Phone Number	916-457-7149
Constituent E-mail	klenox@earthlink.net
Message	<p> I spoke at the meeting last night, but thought I would also put my comments in writing. As i said last night, mayors seem to like being strong mayors. My question is "What's in it for me?" I've always felt that the city's government was accessible and responsive to the city's neighborhoods. Our strong neighborhood groups have helped to keep the city livable even as we have grown. I'm wary of any change to the city charter that would make city government less responsive to the residents of the city. Concentrating the power in the executive may make government more efficient but often results in a loss of citizen involvement. I would be opposed to any charter change that reduces the power of our council members, who are our elected representatives, which I feel would reduce the power of the citizens. Checks and balances need to be in place. I would also be opposed to any change that would eliminate the mayor's attendance at council meetings. I believe that the mayor should be accessible to the electorate and listen to their viewpoints on issues before city government. You can't be sure that the mayor will voluntarily go out into the neighborhoods and listen to people. You can only assure that by making it part of his duties with the council. If a strong mayor form of governance is considered, I hope certain provisions would be included: terms limits for the mayor; limits on the number of political appointments by the mayor; clear delineation of the roles of the mayor and council with checks and balances; a transition period; no return to at large council elections which are inherently undemocratic for financial and demographic reasons. It costs more money to run an at-large campaign, for that reason certain neighborhoods are targeted while others are neglected. </p>
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