



May 6, 2014

Have you heard about this bill called "District-based Elections?"

It is a bill to mandate the way cities with populations over 100,000 people conduct their elections.

In the 48th Assembly District, this State-imposed law will affect West Covina and El Monte. It will require those cities and others throughout the state to change from an "at-large" election process to "district-wide" elections. If passed, cities will have to initially go through the costly effort to draw up districts.

In 2009, West Covina had an election on this very issue. It was Measure D. It was proposed to have District-wide elections. The measure was resoundingly defeated by the citizens of West Covina. They chose to keep "at-large" elections.

This Assembly Bill, 2715 was introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernandez, a former council member of West Covina and representative for this district.

The first question you have to ask is what business is it of the State to interfere with local elections? City residents have the right to decide how they are governed.

The second question is how much will this cost? These are tough economic times. Local city governments are struggling to provide essential services. This bill will inflict yet another financial burden on them.

The third question would be why Mr. Roger Hernandez would think this was a good idea. Isn't he supposed to represent local interests? What about local control?

How did this become a priority for Mr. Hernandez? Many in the 48th District and throughout the state are concerned about jobs and secure economic futures for themselves and their families. They want communities safe from crime. Why isn't Roger Hernandez focused on those issues?

One thing is clear. This is a reflection of someone out of touch with their constituents. We must replace Assembly Member Roger Hernandez.

Joe Gardner