

November 17, 2022

Via E-mail CGJ@scscourt.org and First Class Mail

Honorable Beth McGowen
Presiding Judge, Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Response to the 2022 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report titled, **“If You Only Read the Ballot, You’re Being Duped”**

Dear Judge McGowen:

The Town of Los Altos Hills is providing its response to the to Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report titled, **“If You Only Read the Ballot, You’re Being Duped”**. According to the report, the Town is required to respond to Findings 1 and to Recommendations 1b, 1c, and 1e.

As directed by the Civil Grand Jury, responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05(a) and (b) of the California Penal Code. The responses are as follows:

Finding 1 – The Civil Grand Jury finds that in the current environment, which is unregulated at the local level, it is easy for the author of a ballot measure question to write the question in a way that is confusing or misleading to voters.

- Response: The Town of Los Altos Hills agrees with this Finding.

Recommendation 1b – Governing entities within Santa Clara County should voluntarily submit their ballot questions to the County Counsel for review prior to submission to the Registrar of Voters, unless and until Recommendation 1d is implemented.

- Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future should the County implement Recommendation 1d to create an independent, citizen-led oversight commission like the recommended Good Governance in Ballots Commission as described in the “Solutions” section of the Final Report

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Recommendation 1c – Governing entities within Santa Clara County should, by March 31, 2023, adopt their own resolution or ordinance to require submission of their ballot questions to the County Counsel for review prior to submission to the Registrar of Voters, unless and until Recommendations 1d and 1e are implemented.

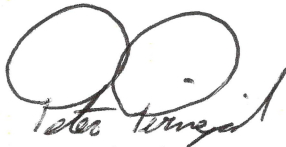
- Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be placed on a future City Council meeting agenda so long as Recommendation 1d is implemented by the County.

Recommendation 1e – Governing entities within Santa Clara County should submit their ballot questions for review by the Good Governance in Ballots Commission pursuant to Recommendation 1d.

- Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future should the County implement Recommendation 1d.

This concludes the Town's responses to the findings and recommendations in the Final Report. Please contact me at (650) 941-7222 if you have any questions or need any additional information related to this response.

Sincerely,



Peter Pirnejad

City Manager

ppirnejad@losaltoshills.ca.gov

cc: Los Altos Hills City Council
Cody Einfalt, Management Analyst II