



**CALIFORNIA
ALLIANCE
FOR JOBS**

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Poll Shows Redding Residents Overwhelmingly Oppose Change to Charter City
Residents Want City Leaders to Focus on More Pressing City Issues

Sacramento, Calif., June 6—Just a day away from a possible decision by the City Council to move forward on making Redding a charter city, a public opinion poll reveals that residents oppose the change by a 58% to 23% margin. Commissioned by the California Alliance for Jobs (CAJ) and conducted by J. Moore Methods, the poll shows that residents agree by an overwhelming 65% to 13% that City officials should focus on “more important issues such as creating jobs, fixing roads, and providing police and fire services.”

Most cities in California are general law cities that rely on state guidelines to govern matters such as local elections, council pay and levying taxes. Charter cities, on the other hand, craft their own set of guidelines in the form of a charter, which must then be ratified by local voters.

Conducted on June 1-June 2 among a sample of 350 Redding residents, the poll shows that several other city concerns trump the charter city issue, reveals that residents oppose claims that a charter city conversion will save money, and affirms concerns that a new charter city government could enable councilmembers to increase their salaries beyond what they are entitled to under state law.

The poll found that residents are the least concerned about changing the city's form of government, compared to a broad list of other local concerns. Only 23% of residents said it was a serious concern compared to 83% of residents who said that jobs and the economy are a serious concern. Housing and foreclosures came in second at 71%, followed by local government budget deficits at 58%, and police protection and the quality of public schools at 46% and 45%, respectively.

"The poll is very revealing because it shows a broad consensus among Redding residents that simply changing the structure of the city's government is clearly not viewed as the solution to addressing very real local concerns," said Jim Earp, executive director of the California Alliance for Jobs. "Like many other cities that are struggling to weather the bad economy, residents are most concerned about keeping their jobs and homes, safeguarding their families, providing their children a quality education and maintaining roads and other essential infrastructure. These are the issues residents want their leadership to address."

Residents also overwhelmingly stated by a margin of more than 2-to-1 that a good reason to oppose adopting a new charter city is that it gives councilmembers the ability to pay themselves a higher salary than what they are presently entitled to under state law. Councilmembers are currently paid \$7,200 per year, a figure that could jump significantly if the council approves full-time positions for themselves with salary increases.

"A charter city conversion can be a costly process," said Earp. "An appointed charter commission and election could cost Redding in excess of \$100,000."

About California Alliance for Jobs

The Alliance is a non-profit organization that promotes responsible investment in public infrastructure to help build a secure future for all Californians. For more information on the Alliance, visit www.rebuildca.org.

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