



**CALIFORNIA  
ALLIANCE  
FOR JOBS**

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### **Little Support for Charter City Proposal Among Auburn Residents, According to Poll**

*Residents Say Current System of Government is Fine and Do Not View Changing Auburn's Form of Government as a Priority*

**Sacramento, Calif.**, August 5—A public opinion poll reveals that residents overwhelmingly oppose the City of Auburn becoming a charter city—three days before local leaders are to vote on whether to place the proposed charter on the June 2012 ballot. Commissioned by the California Alliance for Jobs (CAJ) and conducted by J. Moore Methods, the poll shows that 58 percent of residents think the city's current system of government is working fine and there is no immediate need to change it.

Conducted on August 2 and August 3 among a sample of 350 Auburn residents, the poll reveals that changing to a charter city ranks at the bottom of local concerns. Only 20 percent of local residents said becoming a charter city is a serious concern compared to 83 percent of residents who said that jobs and the economy and fire protection and emergency services are serious concerns. The quality of public schools came in second at 81 percent, followed by police protection at 79 percent, and maintaining local streets and roads and local government budget deficits at 73 percent and 71 percent, respectively. Preserving Auburn's historical character followed at 70 percent.

“The Auburn poll results are consistent with findings from a June poll in the City of Redding, which showed that residents do not view becoming a charter city as addressing real local concerns,” said Jim Earp, executive director of the California Alliance for Jobs. “Like other cities that are struggling with a bad economy, Auburn residents are most concerned about keeping their jobs, safeguarding their families, providing their children a quality education and maintaining roads and other essential infrastructure. These are the issues residents want addressed by their city council.”

The poll also showed that a majority of Auburn residents are not aware of the charter city issue and most do not understand what it means to be a charter city. When polled, 54 percent of residents said they had not heard about the charter city issue in Auburn, and 64 percent of residents said they were not aware of the differences between a “General law” and “Charter” city. Moreover, greater than two-thirds (69 percent) of residents said they think that Auburn is currently headed in the right direction.

“The poll results demonstrate a lack of transparency and no meaningful engagement of Auburn’s residents in the charter city process,” said Earp. “It is clear that residents are not aware of Auburn’s move to become a charter city or what that means to them in the future. By all indications, Auburn residents seem to be pleased with the current system of government and do not support becoming a charter city.”

### **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](http://www.rebuildca.org).

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