

Resolution of the Champaign County NAACP

Supporting a NO Vote on the At-Large Ballot Question in Urbana this November

WHEREAS the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has long fought for the protection of voting rights for racial minorities;

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of the United States has found that “at-large voting schemes tend to minimize the voting strength of minority groups by permitting the political majority to elect all representatives of the district;”¹

WHEREAS major studies and researchers in the field have found the notion that at-large elections dilute minority representation to be “among the best verified empirical generalizations in political science;”²

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP supports the voting rights of all residents in Urbana and their entitlement to equal and equitable representation in government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP recognizes the likelihood that the addition of at-large seats to the Urbana City Council will dilute minority representation on that body, and will draw those seats into a contest decided by financial contributions instead of individual merit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will encourage the citizens of Urbana to vote “no” on the at-large ballot question.

¹ U.S. Supreme Court in *Rogers v. Lodge*, 458 U.S. 613 (1982)

² Engstrom, Richard and Michael McDonald. 1986. “The Effect of At-Large Versus District Elections on Racial Representation in U.S. Municipalities.” In *Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences*. Bernard Grofman and Arend Lijphart eds. New York: Agathon Press.