



VOTE NO AT-LARGE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 September 2004

For more information:

Ben Grosser, 384-5289

grosser@benjamingrosser.com

Residents Oppose At-Large, Press Conference Planned

(Urbana)// - On Wednesday, September 22 at 2PM, a group of Urbana residents united to oppose the addition of at-large seats to the Urbana city council will gather to announce the formation of a grassroots group called **Vote No At Large**. The press conference will be held at the home of one of the group's organizers, Ben Grosser, at 2106 S. Race St, in southeast Urbana.

Grosser will be joined by a growing group of citizens in Urbana who are speaking out against the at-large scheme that will appear as a ballot question in November. They are opposing the at-large question because it is undemocratic, historically regressive, bad for students and minorities, and bad for Urbana.

“The addition of at-large seats to local government would push Urbana in the wrong direction. Across the U.S., cities have been *removing* at-large seats from their city councils, not adding them,” commented Grosser, one of the lead organizers of the group. “In recent years, over 250 cities eliminated at-large seats from their councils, making this one of the most commonly proposed and approved changes to local government nationwide.” Grosser continued: “This question was rushed onto the ballot in the 11th hour. There was no formal study. There was no public hearing. We shouldn't change the structure of government on a whim.”

Vote No At Large plans to campaign heavily between now and the November election against the proposal. Forums, door-to-door campaigning, and voter education are all planned to ask residents to vote NO this November on the ballot question.

“At-large seats will not be an improvement for Urbana because they increase the representation for some at the expense of others. At-large systems dilute the minority vote. This has been proven time and again in study after study, making it one of the most verified generalizations in the field of political science,” said Grosser.

Vote No At Large is an organization rooted in the facts, and committed to the well-being of the city of Urbana. More information on the Vote No At Large campaign can be found at www.NOatlarge.org.

###