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VALLEY INDEPENDENCE CLAIMS VICTORY AT
SECESSION DEBATE

LOS ANGELES—Yes on F proponents led by Co-Chair of the San Fernando Valley Independence Committee, Laurette Healey and Assemblyman and Mayoral Candidate, Keith Richman scored a victory last night at the USC Town and Gown debate on Independence. Jack Weiss, Los Angeles City Council member, 5th district and John Mack, President, Los Angeles Urban League represented the opposition.

Throughout the debate, Healey refuted the false claims with the facts – specifically she countered the unsubstantiated belief that population and geographical size leads to more clout with Washington D.C. and Sacramento. “The downtown power brokers pretend a smaller L.A. will lead to less clout federally and in the state, when in fact a new city in LA and in the Valley will create regional clout that will be unstoppable” said Healey. A recent independent study of Los Angeles, conducted by the Rose Institute of Claremont McKenna College underscored this point concluding that LA is sixth out of seven major California cities in terms of statewide funding and fourth out of seven in terms of federal funding.

The arguments presented by Weiss and Mack were vague and their facts were unclear. During the debate, Jack Weiss even conceded that Los Angeles has too many problems that are in dire need of solutions. When Mack tried to contest that the independence movement is just a power grab by the people in the Valley, Keith Richman responded to the laughable statement by saying “this is not a power grab but an effort by the people to take control of their local government. L.A. is a bloated bureaucracy and Valley independence benefits everyone. It is not about splitting, it is about a new structure.”

There were roughly 80 people in attendance at the debate and the majority arrived as supporters of the opposition. However by the close of the debate it was evident that several of the audience members were skeptical of the vague speech given by the Hahn camp and changed their views in support of secession.

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