Kids and Schools

Much has been made of the fact that Valley Independence has nothing to do with the breakup of LAUSD. While breakup of LAUSD is not part of the Nov. 5th election, Valley leaders believe a new City’s power base and the widespread desire in the community for local control of the schools would eventually prevail.

While voters have approved numerous bond measures over many years to add new schools and improve the conditions of existing schools, the Valley has had only ONE school built in 31 years, while the population has doubled. In fact, in the entire city, only ONE high school has been built in the same period of time; Kennedy High in Granada Hills. The LAUSD, the nation’s second-largest district, with more than 700,000 students is simply too big to operate efficiently.

Public Safety

Under a new City of San Fernando Valley, police and fire safety will be a TOP priority. Presently you, as taxpayers, are paying for over 2,000 police officers, but the fact is we have only 1,400 stationed here. The Valley receives less police protection per capita than the rest of the City. This shortage has been going on for some time now. Ever wonder why our crime rates are higher than they should be? The new City WILL increase police to the level that its citizens expect, and more importantly, pay for. In fiscal year 2001, spending on police in the Valley was $170 person, compared to $288 in South LA, $232 in the Central area, and $225 in the Westside. More importantly, decisions about law enforcement will be made by the communities they serve.

On November 5th,
Elect a LEADER
Richard Perry
City Council-10th District

Remember the Valley 30 years ago and the Valley today, and envision the Valley 30 years from now with the present form of government. I believe NOW is the time for change. By streamlining the cost of government, we can begin the process of revitalizing a NEW City of San Fernando Valley. Listed below are areas of concern that when elected to represent the 10th District, I will start to implement immediately.

Transition:
The process for transition is already on paper. Please visit: www.visionstatement.org.

New City Charter: To be prepared for Voter approval by July 1, 2003, when the new City will officially take effect.

City Ordinances: As its first official act, your new City Council shall adopt all ordinances of the City of Los Angeles, and work to make them better.

Employees: The new City will honor existing employee contracts, accrued vacation time, and all other benefits, until new agreements are negotiated.

Rent Control: The vast majority of candidates running for the new offices have signed a pledge that will ensure that the provisions of rent control continue in the new City.

Business Incentives: The reduction of the Gross Receipts Tax and the offering of incentives to bring new high paying jobs into the Valley.

Assets: Most local assets such as police stations, libraries and parks in the Valley will transfer to the new City at no cost.

Budget: The new City will have revenues of $1.14 billion, expenditures of $1.05 billion, and a reserve of 5 percent. The new City would be entitled to 31.06 percent of the City of Los Angeles’ General Fund.

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For the past several years, while documenting the shortcomings and abuses of Los Angeles City Hall, the Daily News has carefully avoided taking a definitive position on San Fernando Valley cityhood.

Our criticisms of the status quo and our standing up for the right of the Valley to decide its political future caused many to question our neutrality. But when we said we were undecided, we meant it.

That's because for all of Los Angeles' manifold defects, breakup is a plan we were reluctant to back. There is no easy way to divide a city; it is a painful and complicated process, one that carries serious burdens and comes only with the hope -- not the guarantee -- of a better future.

For years, we have advocated every other imaginable reform for fixing what's wrong with Los Angeles, only to be rebuffed by a downtown power structure that refuses to reform itself.

We championed the aggressive efforts to seek out and eliminate the rampant incompetence and collective corruption of City Hall -- only to see audits go ignored, crimes go unpunished and bungling officials go undisciplined.

We called for charter reform and advocated creation of powerful neighborhood councils that would bring government closer to the people -- only to see City Hall gut neighborhood councils and render them impotent.

But through it all, city leaders have maintained a willful blindness toward the problems that beset Los Angeles: Mounting crime and a flagging police force, sub-par schools, crumbling streets and sidewalks, insufficient housing and poorly enforced housing code laws, a nonexistent growth plan, a bloated city bureaucracy and a civic culture dominated by special interests that loot the city treasury, leaving too little for adequate public services.

At the same time, City Hall has shown nothing but contempt for the values and concerns of the San Fernando Valley. It has placed its landfills in our neighborhoods and targeted our faucets for its toilet-to-tap plan. It has refused to give the Valley adequate police coverage, cultural resources or community investment.

Yes, it's true secession comes with uncertainties, but staying part of L.A.'s irreparable political culture carries certainties that are simply unacceptable: An outrageous business-tax structure that drives away jobs and opportunity; a City Hall rife with corruption, where well-connected special interests are spoon-fed taxpayer billions; perpetually failing, unsafe and overcrowded schools; an inadequate and hamstrung police force that sits by as gangs expand their reign of terror from neighborhood to neighborhood.

This is why you should vote yes for independence -- and proudly call our new city the San Fernando Valley.

In order to make an informed decision, visit the web sites listed below that have covered the issue of Valley Independence from its inception.

Valley Vote: www.valleyvote.org

Valley Independence: www.valleyindependence.org

City Hall Lies & Half Truths: What they say and the TRUTH http://www.cityhalllies.com/


Secession Watch http://www.americassuburb.com/secede.html

Los Angeles County Final LAFCO Report http://lalafco.org/Revised%20Final%20SFV%20Resolution(1).pdf

View your Official Sample Ballot Where do I Vote? http://polling2.co.la.ca.us/locator/

Vision Statement for the City of San Fernando Valley http://www.visionstatement.org/