



July 28, 2020

TO: Mayor Darrell Steinberg & Members of the City Council

FR: Nolice Edwards, Chair, Sacramento Women & Girls Advancement Coalition (SWAC)
Members: Wendy Hoyt, Rosanna Herber, Anya Woods, Megan Fidell, Tamika L'Ecluse,
Glenda Marsh, Rachelanne Vander Werf, and Kate Karpilow

RE: Proposed Charter Change: Sacramento Mayoral Accountability & Community Equity
Act of 2020

The Sacramento Women & Girls Advancement Coalition writes to express our opposition to the Sacramento Mayoral Accountability & Community Equity Act of 2020 based on the following:

Timeline Rushed

The critical and far-reaching issues related to city governance and the distribution of power and accountability among the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager deserve full public debate – which is not possible in the midst of a pandemic.

Individuals and families are focused on childcare needs, home schooling, how to pay rent and a host of other survival challenges during this unprecedented time. And many in our politically active community are volunteering in what is described as the “election of our lifetime.”

In the next two weeks, **there is not adequate time** for the public to fully review, absorb, and dialogue on proposals that would bring such momentous structural and political change to the City of Sacramento.

Without a guarantee of full public vetting and understanding of the substantial impacts on our diverse City, we believe it is a disservice to the community to move forward and place this Act on the November ballot.

Unbundle the Proposals

We see no reason for the two issues – social justice funding and strong mayor proposal – to be tied together. While we expect there will be strong support for directed equity funding, voters in the City rejected the strong mayor proposal not that long ago. As a result, linking the proposals is likely to force many voters, unfairly in our estimation, to choose one goal at the expense of another.

And, there is a risk that public opposition to the strong mayor proposal could result in a perceived (and undeserved) defeat for social justice funding.

Act on Equity Now

There is no reason that the Council could not act to significantly fund neighborhoods and social services – *now*. Without the proposed Act.

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As a part of this process, there needs to be outreach and full dialogue throughout the community, including a focus on the important intersections of race and gender.

More Transparency and Engagement

Finally, we are concerned that the Act was developed by a small group of leaders who have not fully invited input from a larger spectrum of neighborhood and community leaders.

We encourage you to not rush to enact the Act's profound changes to our City's administrative and political infrastructure – and that you take time to thoroughly engage in dialogue and debate to consider the many voices from our community.

