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2026 JUL 23 AM 11:30 Argument Against Measure ____

**"Ordinance Directing the Use of Ranked Choice Voting for City Council Member and
Mayoral Elections after January 1, 2028"**

Irvine is facing a serious budget crisis. The city is projecting a structural deficit that could reach **\$47 MILLION BY 2030**. Leaders are already cutting services, raiding reserve funds, and debating new fees on residents just to keep basic city operations running. Some council members are already talking about a tax increase to plug the gap.

A council majority put this experiment on the ballot with no idea what it will cost.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THIS WILL COST. The Orange County Registrar of Voters has confirmed he does not have a state-certified system capable of running a ranked-choice election. He cannot say what it would cost or how long. The city's estimates came not from the Registrar — but from ranked-choice voting advocacy groups. Those estimates already top \$750,000 — before voter education, before county system upgrades, before anything goes wrong.

OUR ELECTIONS AREN'T BROKEN. Cities that adopted ranked-choice voting did so to eliminate expensive runoff elections. **IRVINE DOES NOT HOLD RUNOFF ELECTIONS.** We don't have the problem this is supposed to solve.

NO OTHER CITY IN ORANGE COUNTY DOES THIS. Not one. Every first-adopter cost falls on Irvine taxpayers — at the worst possible moment. RCV is banned in 19 states. Why?

RESULTS COULD BE DELAYED FOR WEEKS. Ranked-choice voting adds multiple elimination rounds after ballots are counted. Irvine voters could wait weeks to learn who won their own city council race.

AND THE CANDIDATE WITH THE MOST VOTES CAN STILL LOSE — after later rounds reshuffle the outcome. That is not more democracy. That is more confusion.

When your city is talking about raising taxes to close a **\$47 MILLION** budget hole, this is not the time for a costly experiment nobody asked for.

VOTE NO ON CHANGING TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

The undersigned proponent(s) or author(s) of the Primary Argument against Ballot Measure ____ named "Ordinance Directing the Use of Ranked Choice Voting for City Council Member and Mayoral Elections after January 1, 2028" at the General Municipal Election for the City of Irvine to be held on November 3, 2026, hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Signed _____
James Mai
Vice Mayor

Date: 7-23-26