



STATEMENT
For Immediate Use

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Steve Francis Urges City Council to Support Postponement of Mayoral Veto Override

Independent-minded Candidate Points to "Shameless Power Grab" by Special Interests

San Diego --- At the City Council Chambers today, Mayoral Candidate Steve Francis urged the City Council to support the postponement of a Mayoral Veto Override which would dramatically alter the balance of power at City Hall:

"Today, I urge the San Diego City Council not to bow to bullying tactics by prematurely approving a Mayoral Veto Override. On January 14th, John Davies of the San Diegans for City Hall Reform threatened this body to approve numerous City Charter amendments, including the Mayoral Veto Override. In the interests of good government, of the preservation of checks and balances in San Diego, I ask that you stand strong against the desires to radically change the way law is passed in these chambers. Any amendments to Section 285 and 290 of the City Charter must come AFTER an increase in City Council seats in 2010.

"There are those who are aggressively seeking to change the balance of power in San Diego this year. However, the legislative process today is not broken – some mayoral vetoes have been sustained, others have been overturned. But a 75% Mayoral Veto Override would hand to the Mayor an executive power greater than President Bush. The public needs to know this. The cloaked effort to increase executive leverage over the elected voices of the people appears to many as nothing more than a baseless power grab that will shake the very foundation of our democratic city.

"I appeal to all city leaders to work through the challenges of our Strong Mayor form of government. Let us foster more open debate and more consensus-building here at City Hall. The ability to show restraint and work for the common good is the cornerstone of our government.

"I believe our Founding Fathers had it right when they established our government with a 2/3 requirement. San Diego city government should be no exception."

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