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30 Years of Feminism From Marching in the Streets to a Seat at the Table

January 14, 2018

Cathy Murillo, Mayor
Jason Dominguez, Councilmember, District 1
Randy Rowse, Councilmember, District 2
Kirsten Sneddon, Councilmember, District 4
Eric Friedman, Councilmember, District 5
Gregg Hart, Councilmember, District 6
City Hall
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

Re: District 3 Vacancy – Support for Special Election

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The Santa Barbara Women's Political committee (SBWPC) urges you to hold a special election in June 2018 to fill the vacancy in District 3 created by the election of Cathy Murillo as Mayor.

As one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County representing over 400 members, SBWPC is dedicated to achieving a society based upon the feminist values of social, political, racial and economic gender equality. Access to the political process and an opportunity for everyone's voice to be heard are central to our vision.

The settlement agreement that was reached after a Voting Rights Act lawsuit states that "City Council members are required to be residents of their respective districts and to be nominated and elected by the residents of their respective electoral districts." Voting is a fundamental right to our democratic process. We believe strongly that the residents of District 3 should not be deprived of their right to select their representative on the City Council.

Thank you for reviewing our organization's position on this issue. Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at info@sbwpc.org or visit our website: www.sbwpc.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine J. Swysen

President