

# Vote "YES" on the Charter and Cut Your Taxes!

## ATTENTION TORRANCE VOTERS:-

*Heed A Word of Warning and Common Sense  
Before It Is Too Late!*

### Ask Yourself These Questions!...

#### THE SCHOOLS

Question: How will the adoption of the Charter affect my taxes?

Answer: It will reduce your school tax rate at least 38c, and reduce your city tax rate by 5c by cutting the promotion tax from 10c to 5c.

Q: Will we have to vote bonds to buy the schools?

A: No! We merely assume the balance due on Torrance schools.

Q: Will we increase or decrease our school bonds if the Charter passes?

A: We will DECREASE them by \$253,000.00. (See L. A. School District Audit, page 43.)

Q: How much revenue did the Los Angeles school district receive last year to operate Torrance schools?

A: \$384,426.03.

Q: What would it have cost Torrance to operate its own schools last year?

A: \$272,809.55. (See L. A. District Audit.)

Q: How much would have been saved last year by Torrance operating its own schools?

A: \$111,616.48.

Q: How much lower will the Torrance school tax rate be than the Los Angeles school tax rate?

A: 38c LOWER. Are we so rich that we can donate \$111,616.48 a year to the Los Angeles school board above what it costs to operate and maintain Torrance schools?

Q: Who will receive and disburse the school funds if the Charter is adopted?

A: County treasurer upon warrants of county auditor, as at present.

Q: Who owns the school property in Torrance?

A: The State is the beneficial owner of all school lands, buildings and equipment.

Q: What laws would control Torrance schools?

A: The State Laws prescribe the text books, the procedure, and the powers and duties of all persons in charge of all public schools.

Q: What other benefits would accrue by Torrance operating its own schools?

- A: 1. Give employment to local school bus drivers, carpenters, painters, plumbers, caretakers, and all other tradesmen necessary to the upkeep and operation of school lands, buildings and equipment.
- 2. Help fill up the vacant residences in Torrance by requiring all teachers to live here. This will fill up about 60 houses.

REMEMBER: The large group of Torrance citizens who are supporting the City Charter ALSO have children who attend school and they would not at any cost do anything that would jeopardize the education of their boys and girls. If they did not believe that Torrance can provide better schools at less cost they would not favor the adoption of the Charter.

#### OTHER QUESTIONS

Question: Will the people under the Charter have a more direct voice in the city government?

Answer: Yes. By voting directly for councilmen nominated from districts instead of from the city at large; and by nominating and electing directly the mayor and police judge.

Q: What are the principal differences between the present system and the city government under the Charter?

A: Under the present system, the City Council not only dictates the policies of the city, but appoints all the heads of departments including the city judge; thus indirectly controlling every branch of the city government. This is contrary to accepted principles of good government because it concentrates too much power in one body.

Under the Charter, the powers are divided between the Council, the Mayor, and the Police Judge, all of whom are responsible directly to the people. Their powers and duties are definitely fixed by the Charter. The mayor's authority is purely supervisory, and his authority does not begin until the policies have been dictated by the City Council. It is identically the same plan which prevails in the State and Federal governments.

Q: How are municipal affairs controlled at present and how will they be controlled under the Charter?

A: At present, they are controlled by the State Legislature which is unfamiliar with local conditions and local problems. The Charter will replace the present State Laws and enable the people of Torrance to run their city affairs to their own advantage. In other words, the people of Torrance have "written their own ticket and will continue to write their own ticket on purely municipal affairs."

Q: How does the Charter protect my property against confiscatory assessments?

A: The Charter explicitly provides that a 50 per cent protest will stop any assessment proceedings. This will prevent any such calamity such as occurred in the Los Angeles Shoestring Strip east of Torrance. The Charter prevents the unfair operation of the much-abused Mattoon Act. These protective measures cannot be changed without a vote of the people under the Charter; whereas at present the State Legislature may repeal or amend the law at any time.

Q: How will the Charter keep your taxes the second lowest in the county?

A: Certain provisions in the Charter tend to discourage the annexation of territory having low assessed valuation, which if annexed to Torrance would be a burden to us. Our low tax rate is due to the fact that we have a large industrial area. Let's keep it that way.

Q: Who drafted the proposed Charter?

A: A board of Freeholders elected by the people of Torrance, consisting of: Judge C. T. Rippy, chairman; R. J. Deininger, Mrs. Caroline Collins, Earl Conner, Dr. J. S. Lancaster, F. L. Parks, J. W. Post, George Peckham, City Engineer Frank Leonard, Scott Ludlow, Carl Hyde, Herbert Wood, Guy Mowry, C. M. Howard and W. Rufus Page. These people spent six months studying about 75 charters from other well-governed cities in California and elsewhere. The Torrance Charter embodies the best provisions of all of them, as interpreted by representative citizens from all walks of life.

- FOR LOWER TAXES .....
- FOR LOWER ASSESSMENTS .....
- FOR BETTER SCHOOLS .....
- FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT .....

## VOTE "YES" ON THE CHARTER MUNICIPAL ELECTION, APRIL 11, 1932

CONTRIBUTED BY CITIZENS' CHARTER COMMITTEE