

To: Voters FIRST Act, Bureau of State Audits  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 13, 2010

From: Pam Nieberg  
Redacted

**Re: Letter of Recommendation for Stan Forbes for a position on the Citizens' Redistricting Commission 2010. Mr. Forbes' application identification number is 5926.**

My name is Pam Nieberg and I am writing this letter in support of Stan Forbes' application for the Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

I have been a citizen activist in Davis since the 1970s. In this capacity I have worked on various campaigns related to land use issues in Davis and Yolo County and have worked to support candidates for the City Council and Board of Supervisors. I have served for 16 years as president of the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Oversight Group, a non-profit founded to perform oversight work during clean-up at an EPA federal superfund site in Davis, CA. I have been chair of the local Sierra Club Yolano Group since 2003. I am also treasurer for and a director on the board of the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society, organized for education and outreach to protect, preserve and restore burrowing owl habitat in the state. I served as chair of the Davis Visioning Group in the late 90's and early 2000s, working with others on a long-term vision for our community. I have had active roles in developing city policy with regard to land use and water issues and have served on county committees and the local Ag Futures Alliance to develop agricultural policy in Yolo County.

I have known Stan Forbes for more than 20 years. We have worked together on many city and county issues. I have had especially close interactions with Stan since he was elected to the City Council here in Davis, CA in 1996. I was a supporter of Stan's when he ran for and successfully won that City Council seat. Stan has always been a strong supporter of smart planning and preservation of agricultural land in the county, and has been active in the Davis community for many years. Stan served for 10 years on the Davis School Board, 4 years on the City Council, and three years as President of the Davis Downtown Business Association. For many years, Stan owned a bookstore here in Davis, which I frequented often.

It has been my pleasure to work with Stan. He is, in my estimation, one of our leading citizens. It is my past and current working relationships with Stan and my knowledge of the work he has done for our community that leads me to strongly support Stan for a position on the Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

Stan is an incisive and creative thinker with an ability to analyze detail and draw conclusions others cannot see. For example, it had been a policy goal of the City of Davis to widen an historic under crossing into downtown Davis. Stan studied the Environmental Impact report for the project, realized the plan as drafted could not work, voted against the project when it came before the city council, and then acted as one of the leaders in a successful citizens' referendum to overturn the decision. I worked on that referendum also, and got to know Stan and his abilities as an organizer and political force well.

When Stan was on the City Council, his concerns were primarily on how he could make this community a better place for its citizens through thoughtful planning, transparent government, and an encouraging and open public process. Some examples of that concern for his community are his work on two important Davis City ordinances. In 1999-2000, working with the Davis Visioning Group, Stan played a leading role in developing an ordinance that gave the citizens of Davis the right to vote on any development project that would convert agricultural land or open space to urban uses, giving the public a final say in how their community grows. He also played a leading role in the development of another ordinance to preserve open space in and around the City of Davis.

As a farmer and concerned and informed community member, Stan has developed extensive knowledge of water issues in the state. He has written about state water issues, especially delta problems and our scarce water resources. He is currently participating in a discussion on a large water project proposed for the City of Davis, involving taking water from the Sacramento River to supplement Davis well water, and is studying its costs, benefits and impacts on the people of Davis and on the farmers who depend on increasingly scarce Sacramento River water.

Stan, in his work on the School Board and City Council, made efforts to recognize the diversity of our citizens and to accommodate that diversity. While on the School Board, Stan strongly supported and voted for the Spanish Immersion Program in our schools and encouraged diversity in hiring. He also studied demographic data to help determine where schools would afford the greatest ethnic and economic diversity. On the Council, his concern for economic diversity encouraged him to ensure that all were represented in the political process. He also worked on policies that ensured that 25% of our housing in all developments qualified as low income housing.

Stan is an excellent writer. Among his many other activities in our community, he was a columnist for the Davis Enterprise for several years. He wrote on various political and social issues in Davis that were of concern to our community. His column was always intelligent, insightful, well-researched, and very educational. Stan is able to distill complex issues into language that the ordinary citizen can understand.

Stan has always had the public interest at heart. He has served as an effective facilitator at meetings and in groups where there were very diverse opinions and ideas. Stan has the ability to not only listen to and respect the ideas and opinions of others, but also to encourage all participants in any discussion to listen to and respect opposing viewpoints. Stan is excellent at bringing diverse groups to consensus on complex and often emotional and contentious issues.

Stan is not afraid to question accepted norms if there is reason to. He often sees the big picture when others cannot. He is a very bright person with a very analytical mind. He is an insightful thinker and a very articulate spokes person. He is always civil and respectful; always inclusive and able to work with people of all points of view. He would be an excellent choice for inclusion on the Redistricting Commission. I am very pleased to strongly recommend Stan Forbes for a position on this Commission.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Nieberg