



Jugglers & Clowns

July 9, 2024

“Shall the City of Santa Ana City Charter be amended to allow ... noncitizen City residents, *including those who are taxpayers and parents*, to vote in all City of Santa Ana municipal elections?”

In November, this [question](#) about voting will be presented to voters.

It is true that noncitizens in the city include both “taxpayers and parents,” of course. Still, by this same logic, why not change the ballot language to read “including the childless and the destitute”? Those noncitizens would also get to vote.

Or get away from one’s tax status and childbirth proclivities altogether and change the wording to “including those who speak French and drink coffee.” Or maybe voters could be made aware that noncitizens will include “shopaholics and

known thespians.”

All these statements are the truth and nothing but the truth. How could anyone object?

But object they did. Opponents of the measure filed suit, asking a California court to strike the “taxpayers and parents” wording from the ballot—as prejudicial in favor of the change.

The court agreed, ordering the city to remove that language “[sugarcoating](#)” the proposition.

But the city [refuses](#) (I didn’t know cities could tell courts No!*) and is keeping its current biased language to push a Yes vote on the proposition.

Rule of law be damned.

My last suggestion to Santa Ana officials is to edit the wording after noncitizens to say, “including jugglers and clowns.” No, wait—that particular identification might be confusing, since it applies far less to noncitizens than to Santa Ana’s city council.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* Unusual, indeed, for a local government to ignore a court order. It likely means the proposition, even if passed, will ultimately be blocked in court as improperly enacted.