

STRONG MAYOR SYSTEM FAILS THE TEST

Here's Why You Should Vote NO on Strong Mayor/Prop D

NO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The City's Independent Budget Analyst reveals that the city has run out of budget gimmicks and patches. The SD Union-Tribune warns of a projected hole of \$25 million to \$35 million this year on top of the mammoth \$179 million deficit the city closed four months ago.

There is no public accountability. Here's the tip of the city's financial iceberg:

2007 Budget Deficit	\$ 26 million
2008 Budget Deficit	\$ 128 million
2009 Budget Deficit	\$ 83 million
2010 Budget Deficit	\$ 179 million
2011 Budget Deficit	\$ 212 million
2011 Pension Deficit	\$ 2.3 billion
2011 Capital Improvements Deficit	\$ 1.3 billion

Strong Mayor fails the responsibility and accountability test. Five Years of Delay. Deception. Denial

The Strong Mayor system costs taxpayers more than the previous Council-Manager system, forcing deeper cuts in fire, police, parks, libraries, and other neighborhood services. Combined budget of the Mayor and City Manager:

Before Strong Mayor	\$ 3.1 million
After 5 Years of Strong Mayor	\$ 8.4 million

- **Proposition D/Strong Mayor demands an additional \$1 million per year to pay for a 9th council district**, forcing even more deep cuts from fire, police, parks, and libraries
- Pension and retiree **payments consume 22% of annual budget** this year
- Billions in pension deficits are at the root of the **city's unmanageable structural budget deficits**
- The Mayor's **balanced budget is an illusion** done with smoke and mirrors
- Five years of Strong Mayor and **still no comprehensive plan to save our city from going broke!**

**DO YOU KNOW WHO SUPPORTS, INFLUENCES, AND BENEFITS FROM THE STRONG MAYOR SYSTEM?
DO YOU KNOW WHO IS PAYING FOR PROPOSITION D/STRONG MAYOR?**

CLICK [HERE](#) TO SEE WHO THE REAL BENEFICIARIES OF PROP D ARE

NO TRANSPARENCY TO PREVENT POLITICAL ABUSE

Strong Mayor works behind closed doors

Never participates in public hearings or meetings

No direct contact with constituents

No meetings or dialogs with communities

No public accountability except once every four years...on Election Day

Whistle-blowers and honest leaders fired from high-level positions

Pressure by Mayor's office to erase public records reported by Purchasing & Contracting Dept leaders Rick Reynolds and Lance Wade report. They do not comply. Both are fired

Excessive interference by Mayor's office reported by City Auditor John Torell. Cites pressure to change results of annual audit report. States, "It was an oppressive environment"

Mayor "has a problem with independent board members" says full-disclosure advocate on the board of city employees retirement system, Bill Scheffler. Removed from board by Mayor

Strong Mayor concentrates unprecedented power in the hands of an appointed official

Unelected official wields more power than elected city officials. Mayor's top aide takes over three top-level positions: Chief Operating Officer, City Auditor, and Chief Financial Officer

Strong Mayor withholds important information from taxpayers and City Council

- **False and misleading financial analysis** of Prop D/Strong Mayor on the June ballot given to voters. After intervention by judge, Mayor's office rewrites financial analysis for truth and accuracy
- **Honest ballot information reveals** that adding a 9th council district increases taxpayers expenses by \$939,500 - \$971,500 per year
- **City's internal controls are shut down** as City Auditor position stands vacant for 1 ½ years. Causes minimal contract monitoring and compliance, no performance audits, minimal fiscal oversight of city departments
- **Internal auditing staff reduced from 6 to zero** at same time, Mayor's public information staff grew by 6
- **City Council protests inadequate, delayed, misleading information** from Mayor's staff
- **Independent Budget Analyst** cannot get timely information from Mayor's office
- **Mayor's office delays release** to City Council of water reuse study
- **Mayor's office withholds financial facts** about downtown library project
- **Accounting information denied** to citizen committees in redevelopment areas (City Heights PAC)
- **Gag order** imposed on contact between city worker and the public

SUNROAD SCANDAL

Top city officials ignore federal aviation safety regulations on behalf of influential developer

- Mayor's appointees allow Sunroad construction to reach a height considered hazardous by regulators and a violation of federal aviation safety guidelines

Strong Mayor stretches the city's lobbying laws

- Former city official employed by Sunroad obtains city approvals that violate FAA regulations
- City staff members lobby regulators to withdraw objections to Sunroad height violation

Inaction by Mayor's office to enforce regulations

- Nine months of inaction by Mayor's office before order issued to reduce height of Sunroad tower -- only after issue was exposed to the public
- City warned that Sunroad project was a danger to pilots landing at Montgomery Field in bad weather
- City warned of unabated illegal construction

Mayor denies involvement, responsibility, accountability

- Mayor is quoted as saying: "I'm laying here on a beach in Hawaii and this is coming as a big surprise to me"

Mayor requests an in-house investigation

- Mayor instructs COO Ronne Froman to investigate events and decisions involving Sunroad

- Ronne Froman resigns before issuing her report
- Investigation reassigned to Jo Anne SawyerKnoll, deputy COO of Mayor's Office of Ethics & Integrity

Results of internal investigation of Sunroad events

- SawyerKnoll 's report concludes: No violations of the law and no corrupt practices
- Report criticized as garbled and failing to provide an accurate accounting of executive misconduct

San Diego Police Chief drawn into political fray

- Police Chief (who answers directly to Mayor) refuses to carry out search warrant in Sunroad investigation
- Mayor goes on TV flanked by a dozen high-ranking members of SD's legal and criminal justice system
- Mayor calls for a state investigation into City Attorney's letter to the SD U-T alleging misconduct, public deception, and corrupt course of action on part of Mayor

Top-level officials quietly resign

- Mayor's three top-level officials associated with Sunroad violations submit their resignations

Upshot

- **Sunroad ordered to lower building by 20 feet**
- **No one takes responsibility**
- **NO ONE IS HELD ACCOUNTABLE**

STRONG MAYOR SYSTEM PLAGUED BY HIGH RATE OF TURNOVER

Resignation – Ronne Froman, Mayor’s Chief Operating Officer (City Manager)

Mayor’s highest official resigns after receiving orders to issue an investigative report on Sunroad
Froman decides not to issue an investigative report on the Sunroad conflict
Froman leaves before developing a new management structure for the Strong Mayor system

Resignation – Jim Waring, COO Land Use & Economic Development

Key role in the Sunroad development project. Resigns on heels of Sunroad scandal
Despite that, Mayor appoints him to the Housing Commission Board

Resignation -- Marcela Escobar-Eck, Development Services Department Director

Chief planner for Sunroad. Resigns on heels of Sunroad scandal

Resignation – Jeff Bowman, Fire Chief

Resigns in protest over underfunding fire dept

Termination -- Rick Reynolds, assistant Chief Operating Officer

Brief tenure overseeing new Purchasing and Contracts Department in the Mayor’s office
Dispute between Reynolds and Mayor’s top aide

Termination – Lance Wade, Director of Purchasing and Contracting

Fired by Mayor’s COO. Reason given: “You’re just not political enough”

Resignation – John Torell, City Auditor

Resigns in protest over undue interference from Mayor’s office

Termination – Elmer Heap, deputy COO of Community Services

Signed unauthorized business deals between San Diego and an Indian solid waste company
Branded a “rogue” employee. No oversight of Heap’s activities involving city contracts

Resignation – Tom Fleming, Chief Executive San Diego Data Processing Corp

Chief of communications and technology services and recipient of “the most admired CEO award”
Mayor splits the agency and opens it up to private bids. Fleming resigns abruptly

Resignation – Fred Sainz, Mayor’s Communications Director

Formerly VP for public affairs at the San Diego Convention Center Corporation
Formerly director of convention planning for the 1996 Republican National Convention

STRONG MAYOR PRIORITIES – WHAT ARE THEY? WHO BENEFITS FROM THEM?

TOP OF THE LIST: Downtown Legacy Projects

AT THE BOTTOM: Communities and Neighborhoods

<p><u>Strong Mayor gives high-powered attention to:</u></p>	<p><u>Strong Mayor puts communities on the chopping block:</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Chargers Stadium with Retractable Dome. Solicits waiver from the California Environmental Quality Act • New downtown Civic Center/City Hall • Convention Center expansion at cost of \$753 million • Downtown Central Library • \$172 million bond to refinance Downtown Ballpark • Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge -- \$27 million from local, regional, state, federal agencies • Reinforcing trophy redevelopment. Artificial grounds for propping up the downtown redevelopment corporation • Promoting cruise ship interests over public interest s for San Diego Bay North Embarcadero • \$185 million controversial lease-leaseback bond using unrelated city property as collateral. Frees Qualcomm Stadium from list of collateralized city property • Creation of a Civic Leadership Team consisting of 51 top developers and lobbyists. Creation of a Legacy Committee to promote Priority Legacy Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep cuts to neighborhood fire stations, street maintenance, recreation centers, street lighting, libraries, police patrols, parks & beaches • Police responses decline. Crime investigations decrease • Eliminates Office of Neighborhood & Customer Services • Mayor withdraws city’s \$254,000 share for preserving the San Dieguito River Park, claiming “ San Diego has no money” • Hikes fees for neighborhood-sponsored events. Shuts down process for implementing neighborhood-sponsored improvements • Cuts neighborhood code violation investigations in half • Cuts children’s swim team in City Heights Rec. Center • Denies construction of community park in Pacific Highlands Ranch despite \$5.8 million in prepaid community assessments • Promotes Density Bonus Ordinance allowing developers additional units in excess of zoning limits. Curtails public review and hearing processes • Gives developers final say over communities: Weaken requirement for development review and public hearings. Promote “substantial conformance review. Promote reduction in parking requirements in Lo-Mod projects. Permit “self-certification” • Attempts to dilute the Mills Act, weakening local preservation efforts and unique neighborhoods • Mayor gets C+ on Water Quality Report Card and D- on San Diego Environmental Report Card

WHAT IS THE BUZZ WORD OF THE STRONG MAYOR CAMPAIGN? ACCOUNTABILITY?
NOW ASK YOURSELF: ACCOUNTABILITY TO WHOM?

Accountability to the special interests who are paying for Prop D

Who are the real beneficiaries of the Strong Mayor system?

Who stands to gain most under a Strong Mayor system?

To whom is the Strong Mayor accountable?

Click [HERE](#) for an eye-opening list of who is behind Prop D/Strong Mayor

More reasons why the Strong Mayor system gets high grades from developers and lobbyists but low grades from communities and environmentalists:

Strong Mayor system hedges on \$20.3 million Kroll Report recommendations to:

- Pay full pension bill every year
- Inform the public about what it will take to fund obligations
- Stop pushing financial burden onto our children
- Reject Pension Obligation Bonds to manage debt
- Mayor's office proposes \$674 million in Pension Obligation Bonds. Kroll Report clearly states this is a bad budgeting practice

Strong Mayor's office overrides city charter on budget authority

Mayor claims no need for City Council approval for up to \$4 million in budget changes. In Los Angeles \$50,000 is the limit

Mayor's office plays politics with downtown homeless services

Transfers contract to alternate provider but neglects to bring contract to City Council for approval

Decreases hours of operation and services. Showers and other improvements paid for with federal funds but not delivered

Mayor's power to privatize city services puts public at risk

Inadequate contract monitoring promotes abuse

Outsourcing proposal for city's computer support services reveals subcontracted help desk located in India

San Diego's clean water services are eyed for privatization. Director of Public Utilities Jim Barrett warns about San Diego "being taken to the cleaners" by profit-driven private companies

THE STRONG MAYOR SYSTEM FAILS THE TEST -- ACROSS THE BOARD

VOTE NO ON STRONG MAYOR/PROP D