



RESOLUTION NO. 2009-185

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO
WELCOMING DISCUSSION AND SUPPORTING A PROPOSED
FRAMEWORK FOR A CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, both the growing influence of special interests and the California Legislature and Governor's passing of a budget that borrows needed funding from local jurisdictions has greatly impacted the ability of communities to adequately provide public services such as police, fire, schools, libraries, parks, health programs, senior care; and

WHEREAS, California, which was once a leader in highway projects and education as well as holding a triple A bond rating, has now fallen behind on infrastructure and highway improvements, was ranked 49th out of 50 states by the California Faculty Association in terms of adults finishing high school and now has a triple B bond rating; and

WHEREAS, to bridge this year's \$26.3 billion budget gap the California Legislature and Governor are proposing to take the following amounts from local governments and jurisdictions; \$8 million from parks, \$2.2 billion from health care and \$1.2 billion from the prisons; and

WHEREAS, numerous punitive articles shifting power and revenue away from local governments are permanently locked into the current State Constitution and have resulted in a state budget that seeks to use property tax revenues, siphon gas tax money and halt important capital projects by taking redevelopment funds; and

WHEREAS, the California Constitution was designed to offer certain protections to the people but is being largely ignored by the State government; and

WHEREAS, the California Constitution is one of the oldest and longest state constitutions still in use today. It is 8 times the length of the U.S. Constitution and was written when California's population was not yet 800,000. California's Constitution has been called "a perfect example of what a constitution ought not to be" and "more about legal technicalities than principles; an embarrassment for an otherwise cutting-edge state"; and

WHEREAS, the number of propositions needed to address these issues along with the cost of passing a proposition averaging \$20 million renders the initiative process an ineffective solution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fresno City Council supports a limited Constitutional Convention and the California Forward efforts to restore power to the local governments and the people of California.

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Adopted _____
Approved 8/20/09
Effective _____

2009-185



CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, California, at a regular meeting held on the 20th day of August, 2009.

REBECCA E. KLISCH, CMC
CLERK, CITY OF FRESNO

By: *Rebecca E. Klisch*

AYES : Borgeas, Brand, Dages, Perea, Xiong, Sterling
NOES : Westerlund
ABSENT : None
ABSTAIN : None