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# Local News



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**SANTA CLARA**

# Judge: City's voting system isn't fair

**Group of Asian Americans claimed at-large election system dilutes their votes**

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In a declaration that forces Santa Clara to deal with long-standing complaints about equal representation on the City Council, a judge on Tuesday said the city's current election system isn't

fair to minority voters.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Kuhnle leaned in favor of the group of Asian Americans who sued Santa Clara last year claiming the city's at-large election system discriminates against Asian Americans by diluting their vote.

"Based on the evidence presented at trial, the court finds that plaintiffs have proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the at-large method of election used by the city impairs the ability of Asians to elect candi-

dates as a result of the dilution and abridgment of their rights as voters," wrote Kuhnle in a proposed statement of decision Tuesday. "Having found the City liable for violating the , this action will now proceed to the remedies phase."

The decision is not final, meaning both sides can try to convince him to change his mind.

Since the city charter was adopted in 1951, not a single Asian American candidate has won a

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**"We believe that Measure A is the best solution for Santa Clara to ensure fair elections, give voters better choices, and protect voting rights."**

— Rob Jerdonek, Measure A campaign committee chair

**"A neighborhood plan would reduce election costs, empower grassroots campaigns, and result in more transparent government that reflects the city's diversity."**

— Statement by opponents to Measure A