Initiatives and Referenda: The Ultimate Local Control or a Weakened Tool?

Beverly Grossman Palmer
Home Rule: The Constitutional Status Quo
The Constitutionally Reserved Right of Initiative and Referendum
Initiative: The Power to Bind the Hands of Government
Referendum: The Other Side of the Legislative Coin
Recent State Legislative Incursions on Right to Initiative and Referendum

SB 330, Housing Crisis Act (2019)
Government Code section 66300

SB 10 (2020)
Government Code section 65913.5
Other Housing Development Streamlining Measures

Housing Accountability Act
Density Bonus Law
(Unintended?) Consequences and Impacts on Local Control

Initiatives still happening
Broad brush may complicate sprawl prevention
Referendums happen but consequences are harder to guess
The politicians are taking away our ability to speak out when developers damage and gentrify our neighborhoods.

A series of recently passed laws allow developers to build multi-story, multi-unit buildings right next door to single-family homes and deny our ability to fight back. We are a coalition of thousands of California neighborhood leaders organizing a 2024 ballot campaign to bring back our ability to speak out about what happens in our own neighborhoods.

Help Us Fight Back and WIN For Our Neighborhoods
Conclusion: A Tough Balancing Act
Questions?

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