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## NEWSLINES

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the panel he is a "blue-blooded Democrat" who "campaign hard against Sean Morgan," but the council should reconsider its vote so "everybody can have a fair shot to sit up there."

"This is wrong. This is putting party politics over the will of the voters," he said.

Morgan, wearing a "Make Northwest Chico Great Again" cap, started his comments by rehashing the panel's convoluted conversation from its last meeting to emphasize his point. It took him about 11 minutes.

"Boom, 12,000-plus voters without representation because four people on this dais believe they know what's best for them without their vote of consent," he said.

Ory challenged the assertion, saying that no matter what, three districts in Chico would have to wait it out this year and end up on the 2022 ballot. There will be councilmembers who continue to represent the entire city until the full shift to district elections is complete, he added.

Ultimately, Brown and Huber changed their votes, and Morgan's district will be up for election this year instead of Brown's. The vote passed 5-2, with Ory and Stone against. In addition, the city will have a meeting on Monday (Feb. 10) at 6 p.m. for the second reading of the ordinance to ensure it complies with the CVRA's deadline.

In explaining why he changed his mind, Huber pointed out that the council's original decision would have put it in a position where it could have had to appoint someone to fill Brown's vacant seat, as her current term runs through 2022.

Huber said the council shouldn't be making that call.

"This scenario avoids the possibility that councilors rather than the voters will decide on a future council seat," he said. The councilmembers of the three districts whose terms are up in 2020 should logically be included in the election this year, he added, and "whether or not [an] incumbent decides to run is besides the point."

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA  
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