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The Daily News of Los Angeles

October 7, 2005 Friday
VALLEY EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. N20

LENGTH: 542 words

HEADLINE: PUBLIC FORUM

BODY:

A sharing mayor

Re `` Mayor's spending survey a lesson in sharing the blame'' (Mariel Garza column, Oct. 5):

It seems that the mayor is great at sharing blame, when it comes to increasing taxes and fees, and great at PR to improve his image in the city. He proved that in the way he ducked the Department of Water and Power pay issue.

Before raising taxes, he should find ways to improve city service by checking on the extent of idle labor on the city payroll or of overstaffing at all levels. Equipment breaks down every day, and you have a number of operators who do nothing or are underused, and they receive full pay.

- Art Camarillo

Los Angeles

Kudos to Pierce

Re `` Back to the farm'' (Oct. 4):

How refreshing to see the magnificent planning and development at Pierce College by Dr. Thomas W. Oliver. His great vision has brought nostalgia and promise to a once-forgotten great program. Instead of high-rise concrete structures, he has brought enthusiasm and foresight to Pierce College and all of us who live in the Valley.

I am so looking forward to visiting the animals and to taking advantage of all the fresh fruit and vegetables.

- Richard Detanna

Granada Hills

Defend this

Re `` Counsel: Cross wouldn't win'' (Oct. 4):

If the American Civil Liberties Union is truly the defender of the separation of church and state, why hasn't it taken on the state? After all, how many towns and counties - Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, San Diego, etc. - are named after Catholic saints or religious icons such as the angels of Los Angeles? Why must I, as a non-Catholic, be bombarded with these religious icons when reading a map of California? ACLU, defend and uphold the court's decision on the separation of church and state.

- Claire Magid

Reseda

MALDEF responds

Re `` Campaign deficiency" (Editorial, Sept. 29):

The Daily News, in criticizing opposition to Proposition 77 by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, is blind to recent redistricting history and unwarrantedly sees only a rosy redistricting future. The Daily News forgets that MALDEF sued over existing congressional district lines in San Fernando Valley and San Diego in 2002 because of their impact on Latino voters.

While we support real redistricting reform, Proposition 77 is a costly exercise that would worsen a bad situation. There is little reason to believe that Proposition 77 districts would look like **Rose Institute** predictions. Proposition 77 gives three retired judges little more than six weeks between Veterans Day and New Year's Day to draw up to 170 district lines, and it provides almost no access for communities across California to participate. We, and most Californians, are not fooled.

- John Trasvina

Senior vice president for law and policy

MALDEF

Verified vote

Our elected officials need to protect the integrity of our vote. In 2004, California passed a law requiring all voting machines to provide a voter- verifiable paper-audit trail. This summer, the Legislature overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 370 requiring that the paper-audit trail be actually used for election audits and recounts. This bill is on the governor's desk. It is opposed by special-interest groups that don't like recounts of votes. I urge the governor to sign the bill now.

- Samantha Lau

Pasadena

NOTES: Letters to the editor

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