A June primary system in Oakland, according to the facts, negatively impacts local democracy. Statistics show that voter turnout is lower in June and that these elections negatively impact minority voters.

**June primaries mean fewer voters weigh in on who represents them.**

From 1992-2010, voter turnout in June was consistently lower than turnout in general elections. The average turnout in June was 76,475 and the average turnout in November was 125,637. Put simply, when elections are held in June, fewer voters are able to weigh in on critical matters.

As the statistics below show, most of the elections taking place in June did not go on to a November runoff. This leaves thousands of voters without any say in who represents them.

**Runoff Frequency: 1996-2008***

- Total Regular Elections: 63
- Total Runoffs: 14
- Percent Runoffs: 22.2%

**June primaries mean fewer voters have a say regarding candidates on November ballot.**

For the few elections that do require a November runoff, the field of candidates has been shaped by a significantly smaller electorate. By holding elections in June, thousands of voters are not able to choose from the longer slate of candidates. Instead, they are forced to choose from a narrower field, selected by a smaller pool of voters.

**June primaries impact voting rights.**

Not only is turnout lower in June elections, but it is disproportionately lower among racial minority voters. An analysis of the June 2004 primary in Oakland showed that turnout was between 47% and 54% less in census tracts predominantly made up of African Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders, and/or Latinos. The difference was only 32% less in predominantly white tracts.

When elections are decided in a June primary, minority communities have less of an impact on the city's elections. Important voting rights are at stake when elections take place in June.

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*Ranked choice voting was implemented following the 2008 election, no longer necessitating a traditional runoff.*