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Ferndale officials embrace affirmative action

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 By Jennie Miller
 C & G Staff Writer

FERNDALE — Ferndale officials refuse to vote for a ban on affirmative action, which is being proposed in this fall's state ballot.

During a meeting of the Ferndale City Council July 24, members unanimously passed a resolution calling for voters to do the same.

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, Proposal 2 on the ballot this November, calls for an amendment to the state constitution to outlaw "state-sponsored discrimination," as the organization states on its Web site, www.michigan.civilrights.org.

"(It) would prohibit state and local government from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the areas of public employment, public contracting and public education," the Web site says.

~~But Ferndale City Councilman Scott Galloway thinks otherwise.~~

"They're trying to turn back the clock on many of the gains we've made in the past decade," he said. "It in no way furthers the civil rights of citizens in Michigan."

Ferndale's resolution was adopted using language borrowed from a similar resolution in Lathrup Village.

It reads, "The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative is certain to have broad and far-reaching negative consequences by irreparably harming the ability of all Michigan residents to enjoy a fair chance in education and employment.

"The campaign being waged to promote this amendment will, if successful, reverse many of the advancements that have been made in race, color, gender, ethnic and national origin equality to date."

Ferndale City Council members wish residents and registered voters will investigate the pros and cons of the proposal themselves.

"We want to encourage our citizens to become informed and educate themselves on this important issue," Galloway said.

You can reach Jennie Miller at jmiller@candgnews.com

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