

**From:** Sesa Pabalan <smpabalan@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:53 PM

**To:** Council Members <councilmembers@brisbaneca.org>

**Subject:** Equitable opportunity and representation in Brisbane's leadership

Dear Brisbane City Council,

My name is Sesa Pabalan, and I have been a resident of Brisbane for about ten years. I love our community, its connection with nature, feeling safe, friendliness and being inclusive.

Equity is important to me. Though Brisbane's population is ethnically diverse, our leadership is not. I believe that the City Council does not reflect our diverse population due to the City's current at-large electoral system.

During the time I've lived in Brisbane, I've seen our town grow and change, but I don't see this being represented at the Council level. As a person of color, I would like to see people in leadership being represented from all classes, rather than appearing to be just one. I believe instituting by-district elections will provide Brisbane a greater opportunity to elect people from protected classes as identified by the California Voting Rights Act.

We have had a large Asian American population in Brisbane for decades, but we have never had an Asian American serve on the Council, though many have run for office. It is time to do the necessary public outreach and data gathering to implement by-district elections.

I hope that the City Council will embrace ethnic diversity in leadership and be proactive in enacting by-district elections, rather than ignoring the realities of our community and be forced to enact by-district elections because of the threat of litigation for being in violation of the California Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

Sesa Pabalan