

# **GRASSROOTS CITIZENS' GROUPS** **STRONGLY IMPACT LOCAL ELECTIONS**

*SAN DIEGO STADIUM COALITION AND SAVE OUR BOLTS* BOYCOTT HOTELS AND ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES NOT BEHOLDEN TO SPECIAL INTERESTS

**SAN DIEGO, Calif. (June 10th, 2016)** - On May 16 (original press release below), fed-up with disrespect and duplicity by elected officials of the City of San Diego, Chargers Fan Groups launched an impromptu Boycott Protest against the Hotelier Cabal ([www.HotelierCabal.com](http://www.HotelierCabal.com)) and the politicians who represent them. Though media and political pundits initially marginalized the effort, the Fan Group movement quickly accelerated with significant consequence to local elections.

The Fan Group movement was launched too late to effect the June 7th Primary re-election of incumbents Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Councilman Scott Sherman - this was expected because San Diego is a city where incumbents are historically always re-elected. On the other hand, there was significant impact in the open races against anti-Chargers candidates Ray Ellis (District 1) and Anthony Bernal (District 3). Both were key favorites and significant funding recipients of the Hotelier Cabal, and both were soundly defeated.

The Ellis turnaround in District 1 warrants further explanation: Only a few months prior, it was widely believed Hotelier Cabal favorite Ray Ellis would win outright with well over 50% of the vote. Ellis campaigned heavily against Barbara Bry over her support of the Citizen's Plan, as well as Bry's stance that such a Plan would help the Chargers in ways other than public money for a stadium. Ellis's campaign spread misinformation about Bry's stance and said that the Citizens' Plan would give the Chargers public money even though it actually prohibits such. This strategy worked quite well until the Chargers Fan Groups joined the battle. The Fan Groups proceeded to successfully educate the public about the truth, and thus engineered a dramatic turnaround in this race. Though the final number is not yet known, Bry is at 50% and may have actually won outright herself...in a race with 5 candidates. The outcome was extraordinary indeed, and solid proof of the significant impact of the Fan Groups on election results.

In a mere three weeks' time, the Chargers Fan Groups have proven themselves to be a consequential and victorious force against the Hotelier Cabal and their political puppets in a unified front that was previously unimaginable. Numerous San Diego civic leaders have told Chargers Fan Groups that their movement was a critical factor in the decisive defeats of both Mr. Ellis and Mr. Bernal.

Now, with five months preparation time for the November 8th General Election, Chargers Fan Groups are even more confident of victory in Round #2 as they prepare to accelerate and expand their boycott efforts nationwide against the Hotelier Cabal's "12" hotels.

If the opposition is willing to negotiate in good faith and carry out the best interests of the citizens of San Diego, Fan Groups are willing to meet and listen. Until that time, the groups are accelerating the hotel boycott and with support from open government, performing arts and other civic groups throughout the United States.

For info on the political influence of San Diego Hoteliers, visit  
<http://www.HotelierCabal.com>

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## **CIVIC AND FAN GROUPS CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF SAN DIEGO HOTELS**

San Diego Stadium Coalition, Save Our Bolts and Other Groups Unite to Oppose Hoteliers Who Are Blocking Initiatives for Downtown Stadium / Convention Center

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.** (May 16, 2016) – The San Diego Stadium Coalition, Save Our Bolts and other civic and fan groups have come together in support of a national boycott against several San Diego hoteliers (known as the Hotelier Cabal) that are impeding efforts to build a downtown convention center / stadium. The hoteliers identified in the boycott are financially influencing local politicians who are collectively opposing the development of a downtown mixed-use facility.

The hotels identified in the boycott include:

### **Evans Hotels**

- Bahia
- Catamaran
- Lodge at Torrey Pines

### **Town and Country Hotel**

- Town and Country Hotel

### **Bartell Hotels**

- Pacific Terrace Hotel
- Humphrey's Half Moon Inn & Suites
- The Dana on Mission Bay
- Sheraton La Jolla

- Hilton Harbor Island
- Best Western Island Palms Hotel and Marina
- Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside
- Days inn San Diego Hotel Circle (near Sea World)

“Whether you feel strongly about the Chargers and their quest for a new stadium or not, the influence that the hotel industry wields over local officials has created a dysfunctional political ecosystem where voter and taxpayer interests are being mortgaged to the highest bidder.” said Jason Riggs, San Diego Stadium Coalition Founder and Chairman. He added, “In 2008 we started working with various civic groups to find a stadium solution in San Diego. During that time one roadblock has remained consistent and that’s the hotel industry’s opposition to a downtown multi-use facility. Until these hoteliers and the politicians that represent them come forth to transparently discuss and negotiate the Chargers’ downtown convention center/stadium solution, we are asking everyone not to patronize their hotels.”

David Agranoff, co-founder of Save Our Bolts said, “Despite a downtown plan that includes a significant investment from the Chargers and zero general fund dollars, we have been surprised at the lack of support from local politicians and out right characterizations in campaign materials. We fear that a group of powerful San Diego hoteliers are influencing local politicians and creating a united political front against the Chargers. Follow the trail of donations and it is shameful that these hotels are using politicians to pit neighborhoods against millions of Chargers fans. The reality is this plan doesn't hurt your neighborhood in any way. It is time to hold them accountable. And our national fan base is ready to make sure when friends and family come to visit they know where NOT to book a room.”

Save Our Bolts along with The San Diego Stadium Coalition and their combined 42,000 members have joined forces and received support from various NFL fan groups throughout the world to socialize and execute this hotel boycott.

Riggs added, “We know it’s going to take some real financial pressure on these hoteliers before they’ll negotiate in good faith to resolve our lingering convention center and stadium issues. We feel this is a good start.”

The boycott officially kicks off on Monday, May 16, 2016

**About The San Diego Stadium Coalition (<http://www.sdstadium.org>)**

Founded in 2008, the San Diego Stadium Coalition is an organization whose members are fully committed to working with municipal entities to facilitate the construction of a world-class stadium within San Diego County, which will serve as a home for the San Diego Chargers and potentially the SDSU Aztecs, College Bowl Games, and other events. The group's commitment is fueled by a passion for local sports, an acute understanding of the San Diego market and an unyielding desire to keep high profile events and the Chargers (the region's only NFL franchise) in the county. The SDSC strongly believes that this goal will be achieved by working transparently with key stakeholders including citizens, politicians, regional business leaders and other key parties.

**About The Save Our Bolts (<http://www.saveourbolts.org>)**

Save Our Bolts is a grassroots fan based organization of NFL fans committed to keeping the San Diego Chargers where they belong. As an organization and individuals we know that a new stadium that will provide a venue not only to the Chargers, but several other events (super bowls, concerts and Championship games) that will bring economic growth to the entire region. The current stadium is out of date and a drain of tax-payer money, a new multipurpose venue could house many events of which the Chargers would be a small percentage.

For info on the political influence of San Diego Hoteliers, visit <http://www.HotelierCabal.com>

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