# NBC11.com

# 'Little Saigon' Controversy Could Cost Political Clout

POSTED: 11:18 am PDT June 9, 2008
UPDATED: 11:38 am PDT June 9, 2008

Vietnamese-Americans are wondering if the fight over naming a San Jose shopping district that divided the community last year may have hurt their candidates' chances to win local office.

The controversy over whether to name a retail area "Little Saigon" -- the name preferred by many in the community -- or "Saigon Business District" -- the name preferred by many business leaders -- dragged out for much of last year.

**SLIDESHOWS: Senter Road Tour**
**Saigon Business District Protesters**

**More**

**SJ 'LITTLE SAIGON' SLIDESHOWS**

- Take A Tour Of 'Little Saigon' District In San Jose
- SJ Activist Goes On Hunger Strike Over 'Little Saigon'
- Saigon Protesters Voice Dissent At City Hall
- San Jose's 'Little Saigon' Issue Resolved

It led to vocal protests, and even a hunger strike.

On the June 3 elections, all four Vietnamese-American candidates to city council lost dismally.

That left many wondering if the dispute may have hurt their candidates' electability and Vietnamese political clout in the region.

San Jose Madison Nguyen has been dogged by protests since the Little Saigon controversy erupted over the naming of a one-mile stretch of Story Road.

People trying to push her out of office have four months to collect about 3,200 signatures to force a recall election.

If the recall makes it on the ballot in November, it will cost the city about $30,000.

If it ends up being a special election, it could cost up to $500,000.

**Related Articles:**
Find out more about Politics, Local Politics, Elections and Voting and Protests and Demonstrations.

- April 30, 2008: Nguyen 'Disappointed' With Recall Movement Against Her
- April 30, 2008: SJ Councilwoman Nguyen To Respond To Recall Effort
- April 25, 2008: SJ Councilwoman Nguyen Recall Effort Heads To Step 2
- March 26, 2008: 'Little Saigon' Compromise Passed Unanimously
- November 22, 2007: Wednesday's Updates

***Sign Up For Breaking News E-mail Alerts***

*Copyright 2008 by NBC11.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*