

10-1649-S1

## RULES, ELECTIONS &amp; INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

## MOTION

As the November 2012 elections quickly approach, it is important to encourage the people of Los Angeles to exercise their political efficacy by heading to the polls. This year, there are several initiatives on the ballot which will have a critical impact on the future of the City of Los Angeles. Given the importance of elections to our communities, we in local government have a responsibility to look at our voter turnout over the years and encourage members of our community to vote.

Throughout the years, voter participation in Los Angeles County has fluctuated, on average, between 20% and 25% of registered voters. Studies show that voter turnout usually increases during Presidential elections, as well as during elections in which there are a high number of ballot initiatives, especially those which are tax-related. However, the Secretary of State indicated in June of 2012, that Los Angeles County had one of the lowest voter turnouts in California during the previous Primary election, which yielded voter participation of only 21.8% of all registered voters. Other counties within the State produced as high as 59.2% voter participation.

As the second most populated city in the United States, it is important that the City of Los Angeles does more to promote higher voter turnout, given the importance of elections to local communities. While the City has done much to increase participation in elections, such as offering voter education sessions in 8 different languages, and employing bilingual poll workers, we must also look at issues related to increasing access in order to encourage greater turnout.

Whether evaluating best practices, or introducing new and innovative voting methods such as satellite voting and voting on weekends, it is imperative that we examine all options to increase access and provide alternative voting methods, which would ensure more voter participation and increased civic engagement, for all of the constituents of the City of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Clerk be instructed to report with recommendations for instituting alternative voting methods such as satellite voting, early voting, voting at City facilities such as libraries, voting on weekends, etc., for all municipal elections, in order to encourage greater voter participation.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

JAN C. PERRY  
Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

cc

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