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Date: Fri, Jan 18, 2013 at 1:45 AM

Subject: Report & Communication from Clerk re Elections on Today's Agendas

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January 18, 2013

City Council staff have asked me to comment in person today before a committee and in Council on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWVLA) regarding a report transmitted by the City Clerk on Election Division stationery about possible improvements in the conduct of municipal elections. The Clerk prepared the report in response to motions in Council Files [10-1649-S1](#) and 12-1780 (although the Council apparently has not acted on the motion in the latter file). The report is Item 1 on the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee agenda today, and communication from the Clerk on the subject is Item 6 on today's City Council agenda.

Rather than appear in person, I would like to respectfully transmit, on behalf of LWVLA, the following thoughts:

An active election period, especially when movers or seconders of the motions involved are candidates in the election, is not the time to be saddling the Clerk or her staff with the burden of preparing or presenting such a report.

The Clerk's Election Division has limited resources. At this time, the Clerk and her Election Division staff should be dedicated to conducting the current election. To distract them from that mission with Council-compelled (candidate-initiated!) discussion of possible changes in election procedure could appear, rightly or wrongly, to be form of meddling in the current election.

THEREFORE, the Committee and the City Council should postpone or table the agenda items referenced above until after the 2013 municipal elections.