

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Your **RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS** Committee

reports as follows:

RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to encouraging greater voter participation through alternative voting methods and the use of City facilities as polling places.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the City Clerk report dated January 9, 2013, relative to encouraging greater voter participation through alternative voting methods and the use of City facilities as polling places.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

At its regular meeting of January 18, 2013, the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee considered a City Clerk report relative to encouraging greater voter participation through alternative voting methods and the use of City facilities as polling places. The City Clerk states that the report, attached to the Council files, addresses two recently introduced motions regarding the administration of City elections. In response to a Perry-Parks motion (Council file no. 10-1649-S1) regarding alternative voting methods for municipal elections as a means of encouraging greater voter participation, the report provides details on early voting, voting centers, and alternative election days. This report also responds to a LaBonge-Buscaino motion (C.F. 12-1780) regarding the use of City facilities as polling places.

The City Clerk report concludes that at this time, the Clerk's Office is restrained by lack of a suitable certified electronic voting system that would enable the alternative voting methods discussed in this report. In addition, the Clerk faces the challenges of insufficient funding and resources dedicated to both implementation and voter outreach, meeting all technical and legal requirements, and sufficient advance preparation time. Given the significant work that has already occurred for the 2013 Municipal Election, it is not feasible to implement these alternatives at this time, nor has funding been provided to do so. However, the City Clerk states that it will be in a better position to conduct further research on these methods and the impact it may have on City elections and voter turnout after the 2013 Municipal Elections have concluded. The City Clerk further reports that the Clerk's Office will continue to work with voting advocacy organizations to increase participation and voting outreach.

During Committee consideration, the City Clerk and staff provided an overview of the report and responded to related questions from Committee members. The City Clerk restated that the Clerk's Office will be able to report back with an update after the 2013 Municipal Election cycle has concluded. After further consideration and allowing an opportunity for public comment, the

Committee recommended that Council note and file the City Clerk report. This matter is now forwarded to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WESSON:	YES
LABONGE:	YES
HUIZAR:	ABSENT

ep
[12-1780](#)_rpt_reir_1-18-13

- Not Official Until Council Acts -