

13-0006-S17

RESOLUTION **JAN 25 2013**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the hallmark of this nation's democracy is the ability for its citizens to vote for its representatives and to take part in elections by freely going to their polling places to cast their votes without any undue obstacles; and

WHEREAS, there have been many reports in different parts of the country of voters being discouraged or prohibited from voting in the most recent presidential election, including requiring that voters wait up to six or seven hours in line before they were able to cast their votes; and

WHEREAS, as President Obama stated in his Second Inaugural Address, "Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote;" and

WHEREAS, numerous members of the United States House and Senate, including Representative John Lewis and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, have reintroduced the Voter Empowerment Act, S. 123/HR 12, which, among other provisions, requires government agencies to automatically register consenting adults, allows citizens to register to vote and update their voter information on line, guarantees sufficient days of early voting and bans deceptive advertisements aimed at suppressing voter turn out; and

WHEREAS, Senator Chris Coons has introduced the Fair Accurate Secure and Timely (FAST) Act, S. 85, which provides financial support to states to conduct elections more efficiently and more fairly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that with the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of S. 123/HR 12, the Voter Empowerment Act, AND SUPPORT of the S. 85, the Fair Accurate Secure and Timely (FAST) Act to ensure that citizens can freely exercise their most fundamental right of voting.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Kretz  
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: E.G.

*EPR*

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**ORIGINAL**