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Submitted in HCEO Committee

Council File No: 13-6002-562

Item No.: 12

Communication from Councilmember Perry



City Council  
of the  
City of Los Angeles  
City Hall

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- EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS  
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MEMBER

JAN PERRY  
COUNCILWOMAN  
NINTH DISTRICT

May 17, 2013

Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Chair  
Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Member  
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Member  
Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Re: Item 12 Resolution (Perry -Parks), and CLA to report, relative to including in the City's 2013-14 State Legislative Program support for SB 360 (Padilla)

Dear Council President Wesson:


Voter participation in local elections continues to be a challenge we must tackle in the City. Part of the difficulty lies in the fact that we must go through an arduous process to certify our local voting system. With the passage of SB 360 (Padilla), the County would face far less barriers in the state certification process if and when it decided to create its own system. With this in mind, I urge you to support Item #12, a resolution in support of SB 360.

SB 360 allow counties to develop and own public voting system, and would allow the California Secretary of State approve a county developed system. This legislation calls for a state certification process where the Secretary of State is responsible for certification or conditional approval of voting systems used in the state.

No new voting systems have been approved in California since 2007. County voting systems in our state are aging rapidly and the process for approving voting systems is doing little to help approve new innovative systems or spur new approaches to voting system development. SB 360 would support our efforts to increase voter turnout as it would allow us to develop a voting system that fits the needs of Los Angeles' large and diverse electorate. Existing laws inhibit the development or approval of more transparent and auditable voting system. We need to change this, engage the electorate in the process, and, work to regain the public's trust in voting system and elections.

The Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) report recommends that the City support SB 360. The CLA, in conjunction with the City Clerk's office and community-based, voter outreach organizations, see this as a means of supporting voter participation. In fact, the County is currently developing its own voting system, and the use of such a publically owned and developed voting system would increase transparency in election. This legislation would streamline the process to get this system approved and adopted; as we rely on the County for voting equipment, this will be a step in the right direction to increase voter engagement, input and turnout.

It is time for us to replace our outdated voting system and support this and other voter engagement efforts. I urge you to support this resolution.

Sincerely, 

Jan Perry  
Councilwoman, Ninth District

