

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS COMMITTEE REPORT
relative to online Neighborhood Council elections and election outreach funding.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present the appropriate Ordinances to change Neighborhood Council Elections conducted by the City Clerk to odd numbered years beginning in 2019 and include any necessary language for a one-time extension of terms (from 2018-to 2019).
2. INSTRUCT the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (EmpowerLA) to:
 - a. Provide stipulation sheets to all Neighborhood Councils with an option to hold selections in 2018 if the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so.
 - b. Convene a working group of interested Neighborhood Council members to provide recommendations for the 2019 elections including discussions of online voting efficacy, online voting security, online voting documentation, effective candidate recruitment outreach methods and tools, tailoring outreach to specific neighborhoods, timing of elections, outreach funding, voting ages, ballot types, stakeholder status definition, and other topics deemed to be crucial to running an effective 2019 election.
3. REQUEST the Neighborhood Councils to amend their bylaws, if necessary, to effectuate the change of Neighborhood Council Elections from 2018 to 2019.
4. INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report on the funding necessary to enable EmpowerLA to begin the Neighborhood Council Election outreach process in September 2017.
5. INSTRUCT the City Clerk and EmpowerLA, in consultation with the City Attorney, to develop guidelines for the processing and security of Neighborhood Council voter registration information.
6. INSTRUCT the City Clerk and EmpowerLA to review and modify the online voter registration and voting system for future online Neighborhood Council Elections.
7. AUTHORIZE the City Clerk to use up to \$250,000 in funds appropriated for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Neighborhood Council Elections for the online build out/set up of the remaining 46 Neighborhood Councils and any online voting related hardware/software if online elections are to be offered in FY 2018-19.
8. INSTRUCT the City Clerk to work with the CAO on transferring/reverting the remaining balance to the proper location.
9. AUTHORIZE the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to use finds appropriated for FY 2017-18 Neighborhood Council election funds for election outreach this FY in preparation for Neighborhood Council elections in FY 2018-19.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The City Clerk reports that no additional funding would be required this fiscal year for the recommendations contained in its August 17, 2017 report, attached to the Council file. Neighborhood Council Elections would need to be budgeted in FY 2018-19 at a level determined during annual budget negotiations.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council
Glassell Neighborhood Council
Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council
Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Harbor Gateway Neighborhood Council
Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council
Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council
Palms Neighborhood Council
Rampart Village Neighborhood Council
Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhood Council
Studio City Neighborhood Council
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Valley Village Neighborhood Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West Hills Neighborhood Council
West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
Westchester-Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On August 8, 2017, your Committee considered a August 2, 2017 and August 8, 2017 EmpowerLA reports relative to online Neighborhood Council elections and election outreach funding. According to EmpowerLA, it and the City Clerk have been funded to conduct the outreach and elections respectively for the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections without online voting. Because Neighborhood Council elections must be realigned to odd-numbered years and because the issue of online voting, stakeholder definition, voting age and board structures are still pending before Council, EmpowerLA recommends that the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections be pushed to the spring of 2019 instead and that the affected board member terms be extended accordingly.

If Neighborhood Council elections are to be held as scheduled in 2018, then EmpowerLA

requests additional funding in the amount of \$288,000 to conduct citywide Neighborhood Council election outreach. In addition, EmpowerLA requests that the option of online voting for the 2018 elections be offered to the 50 Neighborhood Councils, whose voting registration and online voting platforms have already been built, at the cost of \$3800 per Neighborhood Council plus \$58,950 for 24 Hour Helpdesk services. If the opt-in online voting option is provided to these Neighborhood Councils, then the City Clerk would require additional funding in the amount of \$200,000. The total requested is \$681,950. A potential source of funding could be the approximately \$570,000 in unused Neighborhood Council funds from Fiscal Year 2016-17. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter.

Subsequently, on August 22, 2017, the Committee considered August 17, 2017 City Clerk and EmpowerLA reports relative to online Neighborhood Council elections and election outreach funding. According to the City Clerk, in 2016, the EmpowerLA and, to a limited extent, the City Clerk, conducted 34 online Neighborhood Council Elections using a platform provided by Everyone Counts, Inc. In general, the pilot program was successful, but several issues did arise that need to be addressed if online voting is to continue for future 17, 2017 City Clerk and EmpowerLA reports relative to online Elections, in either 2018 or 2019. Some of these issues are detailed in the August 17, 2017 EmpowerLA report, attached to Council file.

According to EmpowerLA, it was funded \$106,200 in the current FY to conduct outreach for the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections. If the Neighborhood Council elections were delayed to 2019, EmpowerLA proposes to use these funds beginning in March 2018 to prepare for the 2019 elections by creating a simple outreach plan that would focus on Neighborhood Council system messaging. This messaging would rely heavily on existing EmpowerLA staff and Neighborhood Councils' participation in using prepared templates for local outreach. Any additional funding this FY would allow EmpowerLA to start creating the election outreach plan for 2019 starting in September 2017 in collaboration with the Neighborhood Councils, which would be launched by EmpowerLA Citywide by mid-2018. This more robust outreach would rely less on Neighborhood Councils' participation, but ideally, all Neighborhood Councils would participate in their local community election outreach as well.

While EmpowerLA has provided different election outreach plans for the various funding amounts requested if Neighborhood Council elections were held in 2018, the outreach would likely not benefit the Valley Neighborhood Councils as their elections start in December 2017 with candidate filing for Region 1. Therefore, EmpowerLA again recommends that the 2018 Neighborhood Council elections be pushed to 2019.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of Recommendations contained in the August 17, 2017 City Clerk report and detailed above in Recommendation Nos. 1-6. Additionally, the Committee recommended approval of Recommendation No. 2 contained in the August 17, 2017 EmpowerLA report and detailed above in Recommendation No. 9. Finally, the Committee made a series of additional recommendations which are detailed above in Recommendation Nos. 7 and 8. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

RYU: YES
CEDILLO: YES
WESSON: YES
ARL
8/22/17

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. R. B.', located to the right of the member vote list.

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-