

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(1) Abstain(3) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 05/03/2018

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 05/19/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 15-1088-S1

Agenda Date: 05/03/2018

Item Number: 12

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore supports Council File 15-1088-S1 and urges the Los Angeles City Council to schedule an update of the City's Matching Funds System as recommended by the Ethics Commission for a full council vote as soon as possible

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.hiphlandparkcouncil.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT
200 N. Spring St. Ste 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

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Daniel Andalon FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Antonio Castillo SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Joan Potter TREASURER
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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

May 3, 2018

Mayor Eric Garcetti & the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CIS on CF 15-1088-S1 to increase matching funds for political campaigns

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. Many of us are concerned about the influence of money on our elections.

It is in the interests of all our citizens to incentivize candidates in Los Angeles to pursue donations from small donors. Political campaigns cost money, and therefore the natural inclination of candidates is to attempt to raise dollars from those donors who can give a maximum check amount. This leads to affluent individuals having a disproportionate influence on city politics.

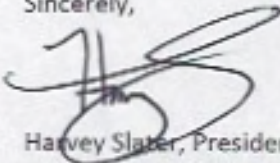
One system in place to reduce this imbalance is the City's Matching Funds System. Matching funds provide candidates with additional public funds to match small dollar donations in order to incentivize candidates to court these voices as well. This system is beneficial, but could be made better. As it currently stands, the match is set at 2:1 for primary elections and 4:1 for general elections, matching up to \$250.

HHPNC – support for increasing matching funds for political campaigns

The Ethics Commission in 2014 recommended those rates be changed to 6:1 in both elections. Further, reducing the amount to be matched to \$100 would allow a small dollar donor at \$100, matched 6:1 with \$600, to in effect contribute \$700 to a campaign, the same as a maximum donor can now. This change would help even the playing field so that candidates will be equally benefited by a donor who can contribute \$700 as they are from one who can contribute \$100, thus encouraging them to listen to both voices once elected.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore supports Council File 15-1088-S1 and urges the Los Angeles City Council to schedule this for a full council vote as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvey Slater', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Harvey Slater, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council