



COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OF LOS ANGELES

October 30, 2014

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson Jr.
Chair, Rules, Election and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support Proposal to Change City Election Dates

Dear Chairman Wesson,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), a regional organization that works to advance the rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles County and beyond, **I write in strong support of the proposal to change city election dates.**

According to the Public Policy Institute of California off-year municipal elections tend to have lower voter turn-out. In Los Angeles's last Mayoral Election, local voter turnout sunk to a historic low, only 23% of Angelinos casted their vote.

The Greenlining Institute in a brief dubbed *Odd-Year vs. Even-Year Consolidated Elections in California*, states that "lower [voter] turn-out results in less equitable racial and ethnic representation on city council and less success in the Mayor's race." This brief also states that odd-year elections result in substantially higher cost per voter and may result in voter fatigue. Whereas, even-year elections saves resources as it prevents having multiple elections, makes local elections seem more relevant as they are paired with federal and state elections. The City of San Diego holds its election on even-year, which in 2012 resulted in general voter turnout of 69%. In contrast, the City of Los Angeles holds its election on odd-year, which in 2013 resulted in general voter turnout of 23%. By changing the City's election dates, tax-payer dollars would be saved and voter turn-out would be greater.

For all the aforementioned reasons, CHIRLA strongly support this proposal and respectfully urge you also support it. If you have any questions, I can be reached at jvilella@chirla.org or contact Diana Colin at dcolin@chirla.org.

Sincerely,

Joseph Villela
Director of Policy & Advocacy

Cc: Members of Committee

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* Organizations have been
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