Argument against Charter Amendment 1

Don't let City Council <u>bend the rules</u> so some members can <u>extend their terms</u>.

Charter Amendment 1 gives a free extra 18 months in office to incumbent councilmembers who voted to place it on the ballot. It restricts the ability of city residents to have our election debates focused on neighborhood and local school concerns. It is bad for Los Angeles' political future and lacks accountability and fairness. Even the proposal's supporters acknowledge changing the election date does not solve the problem of declining voting. It only addresses a symptom.

Charter Amendment 1 shifts the city election schedule to even years - buried at the bottom of a crowded ballot <u>after</u> federal, state and county races and propositions. Competing in California's frantic general election environment, local contests would necessarily become exceedingly more expensive in the costlier context of a Presidential or gubernatorial election year. The result: candidates would be even more dependent on special interests to give them money. This would tilt the playing field toward favor-seekers, a corrupting influence over city governance, and expose our precious nonpartisan city elections to the skewed influence of partisan electioneering. Finally, this proposal gives away control of our elections to county government, at an unknown cost.

Real election reform should focus on earlier and expanded civics education, easier and more modernized voting procedures, scheduling elections on a weekend or encouraging a citywide voting holiday, and campaign reform.

Charter Amendment 1 is fake reform. A larger turnout at an even-year Presidential election (even-year gubernatorial elections are notoriously low turnout) does not necessarily translate to increased engagement of city voters with L.A.'s office elections, school elections and local propositions.

Charter Amendment 1 ignores genuine strategies to enable and engage informed voting. It gives officeholders an additional year and a half term without their needing to run. <u>Vote NO on Charter Amendment 1</u>.

Order of Signers for: [   ] Argument in Favor
                           [X] Argument Against

New City Election Dates and Schedules; One-time Adjustment to Align Terms with New Election Dates by 2020

Name: Bernard C. Parks   Name: _____

Title: Councilmember, District 8   Title: _____

Organization: City of Los Angeles   Organization: _____

Name: Hans Johnson   Name: _____

Title: President   Title: _____

Organization: East Area Progressive   Organization: _____
               Democrats

Name: J. Michael Carey   Name: _____

Title: Retired City Clerk,   Title: _____

Organization: City of Los Angeles   Organization: _____

Name: Nancy Pearlman   Name: _____

Title: Trustee   Title: _____

Organization: Los Angeles Community College Organization: _____
           District

Name: _____   Name: _____

Title: _____   Title: _____

Organization: _____   Organization: _____

I certify that the above signers have agreed to appear on the ballot in favor/against the proposed measure as indicated above. If there are differences between their title or name as stated above and their individual signed agreements, I certify that I have made the above modifications with their agreement and hereby request that the signers' names and titles appear as listed above. Further, if I am submitting faxed copies of individual signed agreements, I certify that the signatures appearing on the fax copy were received from the individuals listed on that agreement.

_____
(Author's Signature)

_____
12/8/14
(Date)