

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to providing free transit services on every federal and statewide election day.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Bonin – Blumenfield):

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to:

- a. Provide free rides on all DASH, Commuter Express, and Cityride services on Election Day 2018 (November 6, 2018).
- b. Report, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, on the feasibility of providing free transit services on every federal and statewide election day.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On October 19, 2018, Council considered Motion (Bonin – Blumenfield) relative to instructing LADOT to provide free transit services on federal and statewide election days. Motion states that voters cannot reach the polls without adequate means of transportation. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's 2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAЕ) found that approximately 30% of nonvoters across the country claimed that the lack of transportation to the polls was a factor in not voting. In California, that number is up to 51%. SPAЕ and similar studies showed that lack of access to transportation to polling places disproportionately affects minority, low-income, persons with disabilities, and youth voters.

To address this barrier and encourage voter turnout, transit operators across the country provide free public transportation on Election Day. Larger cities that provide this option to voters include Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Tampa, Kansas City, and Durham. In the state of Minnesota, public transportation agencies are required by law to provide free rides on Election Day. Motion movers believe that a lack of transportation should not prevent anyone from exercising their right to vote. This is particularly important inasmuch as the City's transit services currently provide critical mobility needs, particularly for low-income residents, students, and people of color that are all underrepresented in the voting booth.

Motion recommends that Council instruct LADOT to provide free rides on all DASH, Commuter Express, and Cityride services on Election Day 2018 (November 6, 2018), and to report on the feasibility of provide free rides on all federal and state election days. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held October 24, 2018, the Transportation Committee recommended that Council approve Motion's recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
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BONIN:	YES
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MARTINEZ:	YES
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KORETZ:	ABSENT
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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-