


**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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DATE: March 1, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 19-0002-S29  
Assignment No: 19-02-0153

SUBJECT: Resolution (Wesson – Harris-Dawson) to SUPPORT ACA 4 (Mullin) which would authorize a U.S. citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the State, and will be 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Wesson – Harris-Dawson) to include in the City’s 2019-20 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for ACA 4 (Mullin) which would authorize a U.S. citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the State of California, will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.

SUMMARY: On February 13, 2019, Resolution (Wesson – Harris-Dawson) was introduced in support of ACA 4 (Mullin) which would authorize a U.S. citizen who is 17 years of ages to vote in any intervening primary or special election. The Resolution states that a notable portion of citizens who have the right to vote in the general election in November currently do not have a voice in determining who will be on that general election ballot. The Resolution further states that twenty-one states, including the District of Columbia, allow 17-year olds who will be the age of 18 by the time of the next general election are permitted to vote in that year’s congressional and presidential primaries.

Therefore, the Resolution seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support ACA 4 (Mullin) which would authorize a U.S. citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the State, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.

BACKGROUND: Per the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment adopted in 1971, no state, county, or city can allow people younger than 18 years of age to vote in federal general elections. However, State and local communities can set voting age rules for their own elections, including primaries for federal contests, as the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment does not preclude States and local jurisdictions from stipulating regulations for these elections. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, twenty-three states, including the District of Columbia allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections or caucuses.

In the past, the State Legislature has considered similar bills (ACA 2 [Mullin; 2015], ACA 7 [Mullin; 2013], and ACA 15 [Mullin; 2008]) concerning lowering the voting age to 17-years-old for intervening primary and special elections, which did not pass the legislature. If ACA 4 is approved by the State

Legislature and signed by the Governor, the constitutional amendment will be placed on the March 2020 ballot for consideration by the voters.

Support for ACA 4 (Mullin) would be consistent with past and current City support for State legislation that further expands voting rights.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None.

BILL STATUS

01/18/19 Introduced.



Steve Luu  
Analyst

SMT:sl

Attachments: 1. Resolution (Wesson – Harris-Dawson)  
2. ACA 4 (Mullin)

# RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, most young students have their first contact with politics in their high school civics or government class to educate them of the political processes from the local to the federal levels of government; and

WHEREAS, a notable portion of citizens who have the right to vote in the general election in November currently do not have a voice in determining who will be on that general election ballot; and

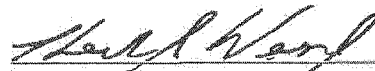
WHEREAS, ACA 4 (Mullin) would authorize a United States citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the State of California, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election; and

WHEREAS, granting voting rights in primary elections to 17-year-olds will increase their political engagement through participation in the civic process of elections; and

WHEREAS, in twenty-one states, including the District of Columbia, 17-year-olds who will be the age of 18 by the time of the next general election are permitted to vote in that year's congressional and presidential primaries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program support for ACA 4 (Mullin) which would authorize a United States citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the State of California, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.

PRESENTED BY:

  
HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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ORIGINAL

**ACA-4 Elections: voting age.** (2019-2020)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT****No. 4****Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin****January 18, 2019**

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Section 2 of Article II thereof, relating to elections.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACA 4, as introduced, Mullin. Elections: voting age.

The California Constitution authorizes any person who is a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the state to vote.

This measure, in addition, would authorize a United States citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the state, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its 2019–20 Regular Session commencing on the third day of December 2018, two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California that the Constitution of the State be amended as follows:

**That Section 2 of Article II thereof is amended to read:**

**SEC. 2. (a)** A United States citizen *who is at least 18 years of age and a resident in this State* may vote.

*(b) A United States citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident in this State, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election may vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.*