

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(18) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/27/2019

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/03/2019

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 12-1269-S5

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Summary: The Encino Neighborhood Council supports Council File 12-1269-S5 to improve our Matching Funds Program's ability to achieve the goals of the program, including to: ● Improve the ability of grassroots candidates to run viable campaigns for office; ● Incentivize candidates to communicate with a broader set of constituents; ● Elect representatives who are responsive to the needs of all their residents; and to ● Help restore trust in our government and local institutions. We urge you to support the Ethics Commission February 19th recommendations to strengthen the program by lowering the aggregate qualifying threshold and requiring matching funds candidates to participate in a debate, or a town hall if other candidates do not agree to a debate. The Commission unanimously approved the thresholds proposed by Councilmember Bonin in his October 5th Motion. The program's current threshold of \$20,000 for City Council candidates could be unattainable, even for candidates that have significant levels of support in their home district. A lower aggregate qualifying threshold will allow candidates who demonstrate their viability to boost their campaigns with matching funds. A qualifying threshold equal to 100 times the maximum eligible contribution amount is a fair threshold for candidates to meet. We also agree that in order to receive matching funds, candidates should engage in a debate with his/her opponents. These debates will allow voters to better understand each candidate's positions and make a more informed decision about their vote. In the case where candidates do not agree to a debate, a town hall event that allows voters to ask questions of a candidate is a suitable substitute that will achieve a similar result. We urge Council to adopt the Ethics Commission's recommendations to strengthen our democracy with these improvements to the matching funds program