

13-0002-52

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

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 first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the hallmark of this nation's democracy is the ability for its citizens to vote for its representatives and to take part in elections by freely going to their polling places to cast their votes without any undue obstacles; and

WHEREAS, on November 6th of this year, as the country came together as it does every four years to elect the next President of the United States, there were several reports of people in different parts of the country having to wait up to six or seven hours in line before they were able to cast their vote on a ballot; and

WHEREAS, there were additional reports of malfunctioning electronic poll books and voting machines, and many polling places reported that they lacked the staff and resources necessary to deal with the volume of voters that came to cast votes; and

WHEREAS, no person should have to wait in line for seven hours just to cast his or her vote in a presidential election, and extremely long lines can in some cases be tantamount to denying people the ability to vote in the first place; and

WHEREAS, California Senator Barbara Boxer has stated that she has introduced legislation, known as the Line Act, that would set minimum standards at polling places in the country to ensure that nobody has to wait in line for more than an hour, and additionally requires those places that experienced long lines during the November 6th election to implement remedial plans to fix their problems before the next federal election; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would ensure the ability of citizens to vote without needing to face undue hardships or hours of time just standing in line waiting to vote;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that with the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of Senator Boxer's Line Act, which would set minimum standards at polling places and ensure that nobody has to wait in line over an hour to cast a vote.

PRESENTED BY:


Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



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