

CITY OF LOS ANGELES		
<p>SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS Clint Lukens Renee Nahum CO-CHAIRS Charles Herman- Wurmfeld VICE-CHAIR Anthony Crump TREASURER Rusty Millar SECRETARY</p>	<p>CALIFORNIA</p>	<p>SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL Serving the Silver Lake Community Since 2003 TELEPHONE: (323) 413-SLNC (7562) FAX: (323) 661-7564 2658 Griffith Park Blvd #377 Los Angeles, CA 90039</p>

Community Impact Statement, adopted unanimously by the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council governing board, 2-7-13

We support the Line Act. News reports covering and following November’s 2012 federal elections described long lines and costly waits of many hours for countless voters across the nation hoping to vote. One analysis estimated that in Florida alone, at least 201,000 voters likely gave up in frustration due to lines lasting many hours. Barbara Boxer’s Line Act would set minimum standards at polling places to ensure that nobody has to wait in line for over an hour, and would require that places that experienced long lines implement remedial plans to fix their problems before the next federal election.

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REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM SEEKING APPROVAL OF FUNDING, PROGRAMS, OR EVENTS

Date January 29, 2013
Name/Committee Governmental Affairs

Text of Motion on the Agenda*: moves that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council adopt the following Community Impact Statement regarding Council File: 13-0002-S2 (Senator Boxers Line Act / Minimum Wait in Line / Polling Places) and furthermore, that all fellow neighborhood councils be requested to consider adopting the same or similar CIS:

We support the Line Act. News reports covering and following November's 2012 federal elections described long lines and costly waits of many hours for countless voters across the nation hoping to vote. One analysis estimated that in Florida alone, at least 201,000 voters likely gave up in frustration due to lines lasting many hours. Barbara Boxer's Line Act would set minimum standards at polling places to ensure that nobody has to wait in line for over an hour, and would require that places that experienced long lines implement remedial plans to fix their problems before the next federal election.

Describe the event/project in detail. Include as much supplemental information as possible (background information; supporting and opposing viewpoints, if available, etc.) Attach additional sheets as necessary
Lines of many hours were reported at numerous polling places in states across the country. Clearly, this is particularly harmful to working persons and their families, many of whom can ill-afford to risk loss of a day's wages – and such waits can also be extraordinarily detrimental to the health and well-being of the old, ill and infirmed, and are thought to be potentially discouraging to young voters and any groups often categorized as containing a sizable percentage of less than high propensity voters.

The good news is that in the November 2012 election, voters seemed to rise en masse in defiance and so the lines swelled and did not thin. Still, there is no doubt that many voters were dissuaded or otherwise were simply unable to stay the time necessary to exercise their right to vote.

As noted above, a study of Florida voters, done by Ohio State University professor Theodore Allen based on data compiled by the Orlando Sentinel, led to an estimate of at least 201,000 voters likely giving up in frustration on Nov. 6, based on research Allen has been doing on voter behavior. His preliminary conclusion was based on the Sentinel's analysis of voter patterns and precinct-closing times in Florida's 25 largest counties, home to 86 percent of the state's 11.9 million registered voters. He said that, "My gut is telling me that the real number [of voters] deterred is likely higher. You make people wait longer, they are less likely to vote."

The City of Los Angeles Resolution regarding the Line Act can be found at [HYPERLINK "http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0002-S2_RESO_12-13-12.pdf"](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0002-S2_RESO_12-13-12.pdf)
http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0002-S2_RESO_12-13-12.pdf.

What is the perceived/potential impact on the community if we adopt the motion (pro and con)?

Pro: Our federal elections are diminished and cheapened if the right to vote at a polling place is jeopardized or grossly hindered and inconvenienced, and so the Line Act, and any effort to offer City support for such legislation, is worthy of community support. Our community should stand in solidarity with all communities and the nation's citizenry in support of voting rights.

Con: It can be argued that neighborhood councils should only concern themselves with problems experienced on their own local streets, which may not involve waits of multiple hours at polling places.

What is the total budget for the project? How much is the SLNC asked to commit? Are there alternate funding sources? (Please attach itemized budget.) N/A

What is the timeline for the project? (Be sure to include deadline for Board action, major dates, etc.) If adopted, the Community Impact Statement will be filed with the City and will be shared with leadership of all other neighborhood councils and neighborhood council alliances, within one week's time.

From which budget line(s) are the funds to be drawn? N/A

How will this motion be implemented, and by whom? The motion will be implemented by the co-chair(s) of the Governmental Affairs committee.

*If motion is approved, please be sure to see the Treasurer to fill out a Demand Warrant so that payment may be issued promptly.

Press Release of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

For Immediate Release:
December 5, 2012

Contact:
Washington D.C. Office (202) 224-3553

Boxer Introduces Bill to Help Voters Avoid Long Lines on Election Day

The "LINE Act" Would Set National Standards and Require Action by States Where Voters Waited in Line for Hours

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) today introduced the LINE Act, election reform legislation designed to guarantee that all American voters can cast a ballot in federal elections without facing hours-long delays at their polling places.

Senator Boxer said, **"It is unacceptable that many Americans had to wait in line for five, six or seven hours to cast their ballots. The LINE Act will help ensure that every American has an equal chance to vote without enduring hours-long delays at their polling places."**

Voters in [HYPERLINK "http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics/july-dec12/election_11-08.html"](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics/july-dec12/election_11-08.html) [Florida](#), [HYPERLINK "http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/266281-virginia-voters-see-long-lines-as-pols-swoop-in"](http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/266281-virginia-voters-see-long-lines-as-pols-swoop-in) [Virginia](#), [HYPERLINK "http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/04/ohio-early-voting_n_2073287.html"](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/04/ohio-early-voting_n_2073287.html) [Ohio](#) and other states waited in line for up to seven hours to cast ballots. Some voters were still in line in the early hours of Wednesday morning, long after the polls had closed. During his election night speech, President Obama promised that fixing the problems that led to these delays would be a top priority.

The LINE Act (or the Lines Interfere with National Elections Act) would require the Attorney General, in consultation with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), to issue new national standards by January 1, 2014 regarding the minimum number of voting machines, election workers, and other election resources that are necessary to conduct Federal elections on Election Day and during early voting periods. The bill explicitly states that the goal of minimum standards is to prevent a waiting time of more than one hour at any polling place.

Senator Boxer's bill also would require states where voters endured long lines to implement remedial plans to fix the problems before the next federal election. Under the legislation, the Attorney General working with the EAC would identify states that had a substantial number of voters who waited more than 90 minutes to vote in the 2012 election. Those states would have to comply with a remedial plan to ensure voters would not face similar delays in the future.

In addition to the legislation, Senator Boxer sent a [HYPERLINK "http://boxer.senate.gov/en/press/releases/111912.cfm"](http://boxer.senate.gov/en/press/releases/111912.cfm) [letter](#) last month to Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) urging them to address the long lines and Election Day dysfunction faced by voters across the country by recommending nominees to the Election Assistance Commission.

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