

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

GREGORY R. ALLISON
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

COUNCIL AND PUBLIC SERVICES
DIVISION
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
GENERAL INFORMATION - (213) 978-1133
FAX: (213) 978-1040

SHANNON HOPPE
DIVISION MANAGER

clerk.lacity.org

October 29, 2014

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council **REFERRED** Council file No. 13-1364 to the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, at its meeting held October 22, 2014.

City Clerk

wrq

OFFICE Mayor's Time Stamp
RECEIVED
2014 OCT 24 PM 12:00
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

City Clerk's Time Stamp
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2014 OCT 24 AM 11:57
CITY CLERK
BY _____
DEPUTY

SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR

COUNCIL FILE NO. 13-1364

COUNCIL DISTRICT _____

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE October 22, 2014

RE: ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S POSITION TO SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO CHANGE THE STATE ELECTIONS CODE ALLOWING CANDIDATES FOR CITY OFFICE AND SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AFTER CANDIDATES FOR STATE ASSEMBLY AND BEFORE CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE; AND SUPPORT FOR REQUESTING THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RESTORE CIVICS EDUCATION AS A SEPARATE COURSE AT SOME PERIOD BETWEEN THE 9TH AND 12TH GRADE LEVEL, AND TO COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES IN CONDUCTING HIGH SCHOOL CIVIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

LAST DAY FOR MAYOR TO ACT NOV 03 2014
[10 Day Charter requirement as per Charter Section 231(h)]

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR MAYOR USE ONLY

APPROVED

_____ ✓

*DISAPPROVED

*Transmit objections in writing pursuant to Charter Section 231(h)

DATE OF MAYOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL 10/28/14


MAYOR

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2014 OCT 28 PM 4:43
BY _____
CITY CLERK
DEPUTY

MOTION

I HEREBY MOVE that Council REFER Recommendation No. 21 of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Report back to the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for further consideration (Item No. 11, Council file No. 13-1364).

PRESENTED BY _____
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY _____
HERB WESSON
Councilmember, 10th District

October 22, 2014

CF 13-1364

ADOPTED
OCT 22 2014
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTIONS relative to the City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission Final Report on findings and recommendations regarding the best manner in which to improve and enhance voter participation and civic engagement with respect to the City's electoral process, and related matters; and, panel discussion on final report.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the Chair of Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, to prepare the necessary election ordinance and resolutions to place ballot measures before the voters at the March 3, 2015 primary nominating election that would amend the City Charter to change City and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) election dates to June and November of even-numbered years beginning in the year 2020, and that the ballot measures include the following elements:
 - a. Change the City's and LAUSD's primary nominating election to June of even-numbered years and the City's general municipal election to November of even-numbered years to enable consolidation of the City's elections with the State elections held on those same dates.
 - b. Begin the change in election dates in the year 2020 for even-numbered City Council districts and odd-numbered Board of Education districts, and in the year 2022 for Citywide offices, odd-numbered City Council districts and even-numbered Board of Education districts.
 - c. Transition to the new election dates by providing that City and LAUSD officials elected at the 2015 elections be elected to serve a term beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring in December of 2020, and that City and LAUSD officials elected at the 2017 elections be elected to serve term beginning on July 1, 2017 and expiring in December of 2022.
 - d. Provide that, beginning in 2020, terms of office for City and LAUSD elected officials start an appropriate day in December after the officials' election to office.
 - e. Adjust the schedules in the Charter for initiative, referendum, recall and vacancy elections to conform with the change in election dates such that these elections can occur either at the next City or next County election.
 - f. Adjust the redistricting schedule in the Charter such that redistricting is conducted six months earlier so as to conform with the change in election dates.
 - g. Provide the City Council and the Board of Education the option to temporarily appoint a person to serve in a vacant office pending the conduct of a vacancy election.

- h. Provide that proponents of an initiative may withdraw their petition before the City schedules an election on the measure.
 - i. Provide that the Clerk has 28 days to canvass ballots in elections conducted by the Clerk.
 - j. Prepare a ballot measure to amend City Charter provisions applicable to the LAUSD to present to LAUSD voters the same changes in election dates starting in 2020 as are proposed for City voters.
2. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to notify candidates and voters, including in ballot materials and voter information guides, that candidates elected to office in 2015 and 2017 may serve a longer term -- expiring in December of 2020 or December of 2022 respectively -- if voters approve the Charter amendments to change election dates at the March 2015 elections.
 3. INSTRUCT the City Clerk and CLA, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report with an implementation plan to require all Departments to place voter registration forms on the City's public counters, and request the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance, if necessary, to effectuate the plan.
 4. REQUEST the Department of Water and Power, with the assistance of the City Clerk and the Information Technology Agency (ITA), to report on an implementation plan to provide voter registration materials to residential customers when service is activated for water and/or power.
 5. INSTRUCT the ITA, with the assistance of the City Clerk, to report on an implementation plan to provide voter registration links and other messaging on the City's main website and mobile applications.
 6. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, CLA, and Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report with recommendations for requiring LADOT to not issue parking citations within 500 feet of a polling place on Election Day, and REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance, if necessary, to effectuate the recommendations.
 7. REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the City Clerk and CLA, to prepare an Elections Code change to allow acceptance of Vote-By-Mail ballots postmarked no later than Election Day and received within three days of Election Day.
 8. INSTRUCT the CLA, with the assistance of the City Clerk and City Administrative Officer (CAO), to report on an implementation plan and budget for a citywide street banner program to promote Election Day in the City of Los Angeles during the six weeks preceding the date of a municipal election. This report should also include implementing a similar street banner program for special elections.
 9. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to submit a budgetary request and implementation plan for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year to target voter registration efforts in neighborhoods with low voter registration rates.

10. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the CLA, to report with a policy and implementation plan to engage Neighborhood Councils in voter registration activities.
11. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CLA and CAO, to report with a policy and implementation plan to partner with civic and service organizations to register and educate voters in public locations.
12. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to submit a budgetary request for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year to partner with civic and service organizations to register and educate voters in public locations.
13. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to submit a budgetary request and implementation plan for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year to fund programs that enhance voter awareness of elections and promote the culture of voting.
14. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to submit a budgetary request and implementation plan for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year to expand the City Poll worker program to include Neighborhood Council board members, and to include raising Election Day awareness and voter participation.
15. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to submit a budgetary request and implementation plan for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year to develop voter outreach programs that include personalized messages and trusted messengers.
16. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to submit a budgetary request and implementation plan for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year to expand the use of video communications, in addition to Public Service Announcements to promote voting.
17. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CLA, to report with a Frequently Asked Questions sheet to address and dispel voting myths regarding negative consequences of registering and voting. This should include helping voters learn and understand the basics of the elections process.
18. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO, to report to the Budget and Finance Committee during the First Financial Status Report of the 2014-15 Fiscal Year with a request to fund pre-paid first class postage for Vote-By-Mail ballot envelopes for the 2015 Primary and General Elections.
19. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the County of Los Angeles, to report with a policy and implementation plan to implement a new inmate voting program in the County jails and Municipal detention centers.
20. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the Department of Disability, to report with a thorough review of election processes to support our mission of administering accessible elections.

21. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the City Attorney and CAO, to report with a budget and implementation plan for a pilot project voter drawing that may be utilized during the City's next special election.
22. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the CAO and CLA, to request funding in the 2022-23 Fiscal Year to procure an independent study of the effects of consolidating elections with the County of Los Angeles, emphasizing the 2020 and 2022 election cycles.
23. ADOPT the accompanying RESOLUTION to include in the City of Los Angeles 2015 and 2016 State Legislative Program support for or sponsorship of legislation to change the State Elections Code allowing candidates for City office and School District to be placed on the ballot after candidates for State Assembly and before candidates for County Committee.
24. ADOPT the accompanying RESOLUTION to include in the City of Los Angeles Legislative Program support for requesting that the LAUSD restore civics education as a separate course at some period between the 9th and 12th grade level.
25. ADOPT the accompanying RESOLUTION to include in the City of Los Angeles Legislative Program support for requesting that the LAUSD collaborate with the City of Los Angeles in conducting high school civic outreach activities.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes.

Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

South Robertson Neighborhood Council

Wilshire Center - Koreatown Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

At its regular meeting of October 17, 2014, the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee considered a City Ethics Commission report, several joint reports from the CLA and CAO, and Resolutions relative to the City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission's Final Report on findings and recommendations regarding the best manner in which to improve and enhance voter participation and civic engagement with respect to the City's electoral process. The reports and Resolutions are all attached to the Council file. The Committee has held several meetings on this matter and most recently, in October 2014, held two public hearings with the City Ethics Commission to discuss these recommendations with the community.

After much consideration and discussion, and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended that Council approve the recommendations detailed above. This matter is now transmitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

WESSON: YES

HUIZAR: YES

LABONGE: ABSENT

ep
13-1364_rpt_reir_10-17-14

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-

ADOPTED
** as amended*
OCT 22 2014
see attached Motion
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

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


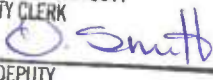
WHEREAS, high school students represent a large population of upcoming potential eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, providing civics education that discusses the importance of voting, and being involved and educated of the electoral process may help foster a deeper sense of civic engagement that recognizes the importance of voting; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this resolution would not require any changes to the City Charter or City codes; and

WHEREAS, the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning recently released a report urging a new approach to civics learning which it asserts should cultivate qualities that will enable all students to mature and participate in our democracy;

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 the City's 2015-16 Legislative Program support for requesting that the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education (Board) consider restoration of civics education requirements to all high school grade levels.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING
RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AT ITS MEETING OF OCT 22 2014
BY A MAJORITY OF ALL ITS MEMBERS.
 HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK
BY 
DEPUTY

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 City Clerk administers the STAR Student Poll Worker Program (STAR) which employs approximately 1,600 students from local high schools to participate as student poll workers; and

WHEREAS, STAR provides students with the opportunity to engage in the electoral process first hand while earning a stipend; and

WHEREAS, STAR is a collaborative program between the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Registrar's MyBallot Program is an example of another collaborative effort between municipalities and school districts which encourages civic engagement of high school students, which includes in-class presentations on the history of voting, creating ballots, and vote tabulation; and

WHEREAS, the participation of a student in a collaborative and innovative program such as the Orange County Registrar's MyBallot Program is critical to captivating the civic interests of high school students who wish to participate in our municipal election system; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage collaboration on programs such as STAR and MyBallot Program, between the City and LAUSD in the interest of civics learning which it asserts should cultivate qualities that will enable all students to mature and participate in our democracy;

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 the City's 2015-16 Legislative Program support for the LAUSD to collaborate with the City of Los Angeles in conducting high school civic outreach activities, such as the Orange County Registrar's MyBallot Program.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING
RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AT ITS MEETING OF OCT 22 2014
BY A MAJORITY OF ALL ITS MEMBERS.



HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

BY [Signature]
DEPUTY

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

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2013, the Los Angeles City Council adopted a Resolution that created the Municipal Election Reform Commission (Commission), which consisted of members with various elections-related expertise to study the reasons for the City's declining voter turnout for municipal elections and to recommend the best manner in which to improve and enhance participation in future elections; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2014, the Commission released its final report which included a principal recommendation to move the dates of the City's primary and general municipal elections from the current schedule of March and May of odd numbered years to June and November of even numbered years; and

WHEREAS, if the City adopts the Commission's main recommendation, then the City would be required to consolidate its elections with the state primary and general elections, conducted by the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Election law, ballot order is pre-designated such that City offices/measures appear after Presidential, Federal, State and County offices and measures that are listed on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, research reported by California Common Cause indicates that when recent city elections were consolidated with Presidential or statewide elections, there was some drop off, although the overall turnout still remained significantly higher than previously reported; and

WHEREAS, ballot order has not previously impacted the City of Los Angeles as the City administers its own elections, however, if the City consolidates its municipal elections with the County administered state elections, then the City's offices would appear after all Federal, State and County contests, which could result in voter drop off; and

WHEREAS, despite research which suggests that voter turnout would still be higher if the election dates were changed, the City should support any efforts to change state law to allow for higher placement of municipal contests on the California state ballot, which could further increase participation in municipal contests throughout California;

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 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for legislation which would amend the State Election Code to allow candidates for municipal offices and school districts to be placed on the State ballot after candidates for State Assembly, and before candidates for County Central Committee, and that any municipal ballot measures be placed immediately following State measures on the ballot.

cc

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING
RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AT ITS MEETING OF OCT 22 2014
BY A MAJORITY OF ALL ITS MEMBERS.



HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

BY [Signature]
DEPUTY