

13-1364

OCT 16 2013

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, during the 2013 municipal election cycle, voter turnout in the City of Los Angeles was 20.8 percent in the March primary election and 23.3 percent in the May general election respectively; this equates to approximately 10 to 11 percent of the population of the entire City of Los Angeles deciding who is the elected leadership of the City; and

WHEREAS, although the City has been working through an Alternative Voting Methods Task Force with City staff, community volunteers, and interested parties that will produce a report shortly, it is time for a more broad-based City engagement in revamping the Municipal Elections process that will use the Task Force's report as a starting point; and

WHEREAS, creating a citywide Commission to develop recommendations over a 6 month period to provide the public and the City's elected officials options that will enhance voter participation in municipal government, with an eye toward substantial participation increases as compared to the last 15 years of elections, is long overdue; and

WHEREAS, the specific purpose of such a Commission would be to consider comprehensive revisions to the City's Elections Code (2012), the City Charter (including Article IV Elections, and Sections 206, 241, 801, and 804); these proposed revisions should provide options to increase voter turnout and participation, including but not limited to exploring: changing the dates of the election cycle, methods to outreach to populations with historically low voter registration/turnout, same-day voter registration, locations and access to polling places, early voting, vote-by-mail only for Special elections, easier access to absentee ballots, efficiencies in vote counting, and utilizing technology for outreach and voting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this Resolution, a City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission is hereby established to determine the best manner in which to improve and enhance voter participation and civic engagement with respect to the City's electoral process; including the following specific features and tasks:

- 1) Undertake a comprehensive review of the City's Elections Code (2008), Los Angeles City Charter Article IV Elections, and Los Angeles City Charter Sections 206, 241, 801, and 804.
- 2) Provide a final report to the Mayor and City Council on May 14, 2014 proposing specific options and recommendations to increase voter turnout and participation, including but not limited to exploring: changing the dates of the election cycle, methods to outreach to populations with historically low voter registration/turnout, same-day voter registration, locations and access to polling places, early voting, vote-by-mail only for Special elections, easier access to absentee ballots, efficiencies in vote counting, and utilizing technology for outreach and voting.
- 3) The Commission shall be composed of:
  - (a) One member who serves as Chair jointly appointed by the Mayor and the President of the City Council.
  - (b) Four members appointed by the Mayor.



(c) Four members appointed by the President of the City Council.

- 4) Appointing authorities are generally encouraged to appoint individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas: elections, marketing, outreach, neighborhood council leadership, polling places, or persons with significant experience managing large one-day events.
- 5) Appointments to The City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission shall be made no later than 30 days after the passage of this resolution.
- 6) Appointments shall be directed to the City of Los Angeles City Clerk's office and do not require confirmation by the full City Council.
- 7) The Commission support staff will include the City Clerk, CLA, CAO, Mayor's Office, City Council President's Office, City Attorney's Office, and the City Ethics Commission.
- 8) Regular meetings of the Commission will be held in the John Ferraro Council Chambers at minimum every two weeks; 8 off-site special meetings in the evening or on the weekend (one Westside region, one Eastside region, one Harbor region, one Central region, one West Valley, one Northeast Valley, two in Van Nuys Council Chambers) shall also be held during the term of the Commission.
- 9) The City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission shall terminate its existence on May 16, 2014.

PRESENTED BY:



HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY:



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