

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

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-