

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, the 1965 Voting Rights Act was enacted as the result of the courage, blood, sweat, and tears of the men, women and children who were the life blood of the Civil Rights Movement and who organized in the trenches to realize the promise of the right to vote, as exemplified in the unprovoked attack of peaceful marchers by armed state troopers in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965, on what is now called "Bloody Sunday;" and

WHEREAS, Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act was added in 1975 to require jurisdictions with large number of voters not yet fluent in English to provide translated election materials and language assistance to ensure that language minorities are not disenfranchised from the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, fifty years after the Voting Rights Act was signed, there has been an upsurge in voting barriers such as strict identification requirements, cuts to early voting, restrictions on voter registration, and barriers to voting by formerly incarcerated individuals that, on the surface may appear mundane, but, in fact, are meant to suppress voting, especially among voters of color and young voters; and some jurisdictions continue to refuse to convert from at-large to district based elections even where minority votes are diluted; and

WHEREAS, in June, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, a key provision that was designed to prevent discriminatory voting policies in jurisdictions with a history of disenfranchising minority voters, thereby significantly weakening the Voting Rights Act's fundamental protections; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental principle of "one person, one vote" also is under attack in the *Evenwel v. Abbott* case, whereby only eligible voters rather than the entire population would be counted in drawing legislative districts in the redistricting process, which would lead to millions of children and immigrants being politically disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, it is also critically important to uphold the United States Constitution's fundamental principle of "one person, one vote" that is at issue in the case of *Evenwel v. Abbott* in order not to deny children and immigrants equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is a bill, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, (HR 2867 / S. 1659) which would restore the Voting Rights Act to address modern-day voting discrimination and strengthen the VRA's transparency and protections for voters of color, voters who rely on languages other than English, and voters with disabilities;

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 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, (HR 2867 / S. 1659) which would restore the Voting Rights Act to address modern-day voting discrimination and strengthen the Voting Rights Act's transparency and protections for voters of color, voters who rely on languages other than English, and voters with disabilities.

ORIGINAL

PRESENTED BY:

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilman, 8th District

SECONDED BY:

[Signature]

JUL 29 2015