

RESOLUTION

SUBSTITUTE 65

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, rising costs of political campaigns can force candidates for public office to rely on large contributions from wealthy donors and special interests, which undermines the public's trust in the integrity of the electoral process and can give those wealthy donors and special interests disproportionate influence over government decisions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court found in *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976), that citizen-funded election programs "facilitate and enlarge public discussion and participation in the electoral process, goals vital to a self-governing people," and can be "a means of eliminating the improper influence of large private contributions;" and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1107 (Allen) would amend language of the Political Reform Act of 1974 and would thereby permit California and local governments to enact voluntary citizen-funded election programs, if they chose to do so, and would establish restrictions on officeholders convicted of a felony relative to the use of their campaign funds; and

WHEREAS, citizen-funded election programs, such as the City's Public Matching Campaign Fund, allow qualified candidates to receive public funds for the purpose of communicating with voters, in a manner which reduces or limits reliance on wealthy donors and special interests, and could increase public trust; and

WHEREAS, currently, general-law cities are unable to legally implement such programs, unlike Charter cities such as Los Angeles, and it is important as the City transitions to County administered elections, that the City send a message by supporting legislative matters which inhibit improper political practices, protect against corruption and the appearance of corruption, and protect the political integrity for our regional governmental institutions;

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 SUPPORT of SB 1107 IF AMENDED to make the following changes to the provisions on campaign funds/debts of officeholders convicted of a felony: 1) broaden the language to include all candidates for public office, as opposed to strictly officeholders; 2) extend the timeline for retiring campaign debt to up to 12 months; and 3) allow public matching funds to revert back to the municipality's public matching fund instead of the State General Fund.

PRESENTED BY:  
DAVID RYU MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 4th District Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 

cc 
AUG 17 2016

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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