

TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

On November 6, 2018, Los Angeles citizens will vote on national, statewide, regional, and local candidates and measures. In the June 2018 primary election, the Los Angeles County voter turnout was just 28%, which is the second lowest of the 47 California counties that reported. Additionally, studies have shown that minority, low-income, persons with disabilities, and youth voters have consistently lower turnout than average.

Voters cannot reach the polls without adequate means of transportation. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's 2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAЕ) found that approximately 30% of nonvoters across the country claimed that the lack of transportation to the polls was a factor in not voting. In California, that number is up to 51%. SPAЕ and similar studies showed that lack of access to transportation to polling places disproportionately affects minority, low-income, persons with disabilities, and youth voters.

A lack of transportation should not prevent anyone from exercising their right to vote. To address this barrier and encourage voter turnout, transit operators across the country provide free public transportation on Election Day. Larger cities that provide this option to voters include Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Tampa, Kansas City, and Durham. In the state of Minnesota, public transportation agencies are required by law to provide free rides on Election Day. It is time for the City of Los Angeles to join this trend. This is particularly important in light of the fact that the City's transit services currently provide critical mobility needs, particularly for low-income residents, students, and people of color that are all underrepresented in the voting booth.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to provide free rides on all DASH, Commuter Express, and Cityride services on Election Day 2018 (November 6, 2018).

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct LADOT to report, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, on the feasibility of providing free transit services on every federal and statewide election day.

PRESENTED BY: _____


MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: _____



ORIGINAL

OCT 19 2018

