

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations of policies proposed to of 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; and

WHEREAS, State constitutional provisions disqualify a person from voting while serving a State or federal prison term for conviction of a felony; and

WHEREAS, there are over 93,000 incarcerated people in California as of April 2023, close to 80% of whom are Black or Latinx, and these provisions disenfranchise Black and Latino men at a rate ten times that of White men; and

WHEREAS, Black women are incarcerated at a rate five times that of White men, and there are approximately 3,900 total incarcerated women in California, many of whom are the parents of the roughly 195,000 predominantly Black and Brown children in the state who have an incarcerated parent, who would be empowered to participate in school board races and other local elections if their right to vote is restored; and


WHEREAS, over 7,000 veterans in California are also disproportionately impacted by these provisions as many return to civilian life suffering trauma, which can cause a higher possibility of becoming unhoused or arrested; and


WHEREAS, currently pending before the Assembly is ACA 4 (Bryan) that would repeal requirements that disqualify electors and create a more equitable electoral system that is inclusive of everyone; and

WHEREAS, ACA 4 would lift voting restrictions for people serving in State or federal prison and allow them to cast their vote despite their conviction, giving them a choice in our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, a democratic system fails to be whole when a multitude of citizens are prohibited from voting and restricts them from having input on policies, laws, and representatives that affect them as well the rest of their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles here by includes in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program support of ACA 4 (Bryan), which would repeal constitutional provisions that disqualify people convicted in State or federal prison from voting.

PRESENTED BY: 
NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

Seconded by: 

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