

Communication from Public

Name: Leny Freeman, Sunland Tujunga NC Region 1 elect

Date Submitted: 05/01/2021 01:45 PM

Council File No: 21-0407

Comments for Public Posting: I posed the question earlier, "Does ID requirement infringe on the 2nd Amendment?" One answer I got said, "YES, the right to bear arms shall not be infringed upon." That got me thinking. It does infringe but it's necessary. Obviously we can't let just anybody walk into a gun shop and buy a gun without putting public safety first. That would be a disaster. So it's a trade off and for the most part it works ie: the greatest good for the greatest number of people. On the subject of voter ID, perhaps that infringes on those without an ID. The alternative is just to leave it open to anybody. We have seen there are nefarious groups that will take advantage of that to change the outcome of the election. We can see that right now. So again, it's a trade off in the interest of fair honest elections. Monica Rodriguez has jumped on the "voter suppression" bandwagon citing the few who don't have an ID, in her motion to standardize the NC elections. Her argument does not hold water, "Obtaining identification is a significant burden for many groups as IDs can be costly and the travel required ..." That is unfortunate but we cannot expose the election system to fraud at the expense of the many to only aid the few. There are other things we can and should do to help the unfortunate who really want to vote. Compromising our election integrity is not one of them. One of the nefarious groups I spoke of is the Democratic Socials of America, whose aim is taking over the NC elections. This is the link for Los Angeles. <https://dsa-la.org/committees/elpol/nc2021>. Make no mistake about it, while they use pretty language in protecting the people against the greedy business owners, they are socialists with an agenda and they are well funded. This is a threat that our city faces, this is a threat that our country faces. Preserve the integrity and honesty of our voting system. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Cheryl Schmidt

Date Submitted: 05/01/2021 10:35 AM

Council File No: 21-0407

Comments for Public Posting: I think it is necessary to provide some sort of proof that someone is indeed a stakeholder in Sunland-Tujunga (that they live, work, own property, or own a business within our boundaries). My friend who lives in Van Nuys requested a ballot (using the online portal) and there was no need to show proof she is a stakeholder. Someone could make up 20 names living at an address and could receive 20 ballots. It is not voter suppression because everyone needs to have some sort of identification to fly on a plane, drive, file a police report, register for public school (utility bill with name), even check out books from the public library. I am completely against vote-by-Mail only. We need to return to in-person voting. In-person is safer because the voters show their ID or proof they are a stakeholder, but do not have to give someone a copy of it. In-person is also better because it would be more difficult for someone to vote more than once. Thank you and please use common sense.

Communication from Public

Name: Claire Gordon

Date Submitted: 05/01/2021 11:33 AM

Council File No: 21-0407

Comments for Public Posting: I am greatly encouraged by this motion to look critically at the current Neighborhood Council voter registration practices of the City of Los Angeles and of the STNC in particular. I served on the Elections Committee this election cycle and I can tell you that not only are the ID requirements onerous but there was also considerable push back against the efforts of myself and other members of the committee who wanted to prioritize accessibility (especially by offering election promotional materials in multiple languages). It took repeated requests to allow for lawn signs and banners to be made in both English and Spanish; arguments against them were couched as a) lack of funds b) concern about push back from residents who don't want other languages than English c) fear for residents/ residences that might display languages other than English d) questioning of the real NEED for other languages to be used. I also experienced what could only be described as duplicitous gas-lighting on the part of Board members who took charge of the mass mailer that was meant to be our biggest outreach effort. At the beginning of the process, when there would have been plenty of time to submit mail-in applications for ballots, Board members on the Elections Committee repeatedly, within the process of multiple meetings, refused to include a copy of the mail-in application (in ANY language) with mailers that would have gone out to 17,000 residents in ST. Arguments to justify this obstruction echoed those that I mentioned above with regards to multiple languages but mainly centered around the Committee Chair's assertion that the LA City Clerk did not WANT mail-in ballot applications and that we should only be promoting online applications. This same person, along with other members of her slate proceeded to focus on mail-in only applications in the last weeks of the election even with the fore-knowledge of information obtained directly from the City Clerk that all ballot application requests would take a minimum of 10 days to process AND in direct contradiction to what they had previously stated as part of their work on the Elections Committee. In my opinion, this demonstrates bad faith and direct efforts to enact voter suppression. In addition, there seems to be extreme confusion on the exact origin for the ID requirements but a consensus that the STNC has some of the most restrictive requirements allowed. I think the current state of voting

for the Neighborhood Council disenfranchises many and is truly convenient for none. I think there could be dramatic changes to the current practice that wouldn't put so much strain on individual communities, including better funding and automatic distribution of ballots to residents. While speaking with residents about the process, everyone I spoke to was outraged at the difficulty and many were not able to get a ballot because of a lack of resources (and also a general lack of information available in user-friendly formats). The city could do so much more for our residents if they really want to empower them to vote in local elections. We need uniformity in voter requirements across the city and greater investment by the city in our local elections.