

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: This motion has only recently been introduced and has not had adequate outreach and discussion in communities across Los Angeles and should not be considered or moved forward at this time. It is a troubling motion as it appears to challenge the very foundation of neighborhood councils when first founded as being councils fashioned to represent their specific communities. Standardization across a city the size of Los Angeles with its many neighborhoods and levels of diversity is a grave mistake. It flies in the face of everything that was considered when neighborhood councils were first defined and adopted. Councils should and must have the ability to shape their bylaws, elections, definitions of seats, eligibility to vote. It is absolutely critical that neighborhood councils have the ability to determine that a voter is qualified to vote in the NC election. Otherwise, the councils could be overtaken by outsiders with special interests -- not the interest of the community in mind. To make such sweeping recommendations based upon a single election (where there was a robust total number of voters even given the challenges of the pandemic environment) is wrong. It is impossible for anyone to surmise why requested ballots were not returned. It is possible to state that had in-person voting been possible, that some, many or all of those voters would have participated. It is sad that neighborhood councils often do not get the respect that we deserve from the Council. The immense energy and amount of time that neighborhood council members invest in this process and in their / our communities should not be taken for granted. And, the Council should not endeavor to make our work harder or to compromise our election process. One-size-fits-all policies are a bad substitute for taking the time and trouble to address issues (should they exist) and work through them. Bylaws revisions are a deliberate process and highly monitored by DONE. Elections are overseen by the City Clerk and are open and fair. It is wrong to suggest improprieties. And, sadly, doing so is reminiscent of very unfortunate events on the national stage of not so long ago.