

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kay Hartman

**Date Submitted:** 02/27/2026 01:14 PM

**Council File No:** 00-9999

**Comments for Public Posting:** It never occurred to LANCC that the City Clerk would decide to take \$917,000 out of the Neighborhood Councils to balance its budget, but that's what happened. They did this because they could. It was a lack of imagination that prevented LANCC from discussing this. The Charter provides a term of office for each elected officer and member of the Board of Education and provides Article IV for elections for the Officers of the City and Board of Education. There is nothing for the Neighborhood Council elections. This could be fixed by adding this statement to the Charter. "Terms of service are defined in each Neighborhood Council bylaws and elections/selections are held every two years. I ask that someone make a motion in support of this. Elections are, and must remain, sacred. In the middle of the Civil War, Lincoln's advisors pushed him to cancel the 1864 election. Lincoln's response was, "We can not have free government without elections." If Lincoln could not be persuaded to cancel an election at the time of a Civil War, the City also must not cancel an election because the budget is tight. We can protect grass roots democracy and Neighborhood Councils with this change.