

September 19, 2014

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HARRIS/RAGAN MANAGEMENT GROUP



Hon. Herb Wesson
City Council President
Los Angeles City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PUBLIC POLICY CONSULTATION, MANAGEMENT
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13-1364

Los Angeles
Washington, DC

Dear Council Wesson:

The article in yesterday's LA Times about ways under consideration for improving voting turnout — including a shift of LA City elections to coincide with State and National election days in even numbered years — suggested that you would be conducting hearings on *other* ways that voter turnout might be increased.

I would very much like to be invited to testify as such hearings on the topic of mandatory voting requirements for citizens. One of the initiatives of this firm has been to create Internet-based Voter Issue Alliances and one of the VIA concerns has been compulsory voting, explained as follows:

The **COMPULSORY VOTING VIA** seeks to have the United States, as the oldest democratic republic in the history of world, take the lead in urging its states and territories to make voting a mandatory responsibility of every citizen:

1. Just as not appearing for jury duty, ignoring registration for the draft, failing to pay taxes, ignoring health care requirements, defying licensing rules, and skipping school are subject to fines, loss of privileges, community service or imprisonment, so failure to vote in an election for an elected office should trigger a major penalty.
2. Many countries such as Austria, Australia, Peru, Singapore, and Brazil require attendance at the polls while encouraging the casting of blank ballots for those who don't care or who have religious objections to voting.
3. Studies show that compulsory voting tends to get more attention to issues and increase citizen control of government.

We would urge that at a future election, a segment of the city be put under a mandatory voting requirement to test how citizens of that precinct or constituents of a particular office react compared to neighboring precincts or constituencies.

Sincerely,

Godfrey Harris
President

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