

## RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2013, the Los Angeles City Council adopted a Resolution that created the Municipal Election Reform Commission (Commission), which consisted of members with various elections-related expertise to study the reasons for the City's declining voter turnout for municipal elections and to recommend the best manner in which to improve and enhance participation in future elections; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2014, the Commission released its final report which included a principal recommendation to move the dates of the City's primary and general municipal elections from the current schedule of March and May of odd numbered years to June and November of even numbered years; and

WHEREAS, if the City adopts the Commission's main recommendation, then the City would be required to consolidate its elections with the state primary and general elections, conducted by the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Election law, ballot order is pre-designated such that City offices/measures appear after Presidential, Federal, State and County offices and measures that are listed on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, research reported by California Common Cause indicates that when recent city elections were consolidated with Presidential or statewide elections, there was some drop off, although the overall turnout still remained significantly higher than previously reported; and

WHEREAS, ballot order has not previously impacted the City of Los Angeles as the City administers its own elections, however, if the City consolidates its municipal elections with the County administered state elections, then the City's offices would appear after all Federal, State and County contests, which could result in voter drop off; and

WHEREAS, despite research which suggests that voter turnout would still be higher if the election dates were changed, the City should support any efforts to change state law to allow for higher placement of municipal contests on the California state ballot, which could further increase participation in municipal contests throughout California;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for legislation which would amend the State Election Code to allow candidates for municipal offices and school districts to be placed on the State ballot after candidates for State Assembly, and before candidates for County Central Committee, and that any municipal ballot measures be placed immediately following State measures on the ballot.

## **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, high school students represent a large population of upcoming potential eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, providing civics education that discusses the importance of voting, and being involved and educated of the electoral process may help foster a deeper sense of civic engagement that recognizes the importance of voting; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this resolution would not require any changes to the City Charter or City codes; and

WHEREAS, the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning recently released a report urging a new approach to civics learning which it asserts should cultivate qualities that will enable all students to mature and participate in our democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in the City's 2015-16 Legislative Program support for requesting that the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education (Board) consider restoration of civics education requirements to all high school grade levels.

## **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk administers the STAR Student Poll Worker Program (STAR) which employs approximately 1,600 students from local high schools to participate as student poll workers; and

WHEREAS, STAR provides students with the opportunity to engage in the electoral process first hand while earning a stipend; and

WHEREAS, STAR is a collaborative program between the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Registrar's MyBallot Program is an example of another collaborative effort between municipalities and school districts which encourages civic engagement of high school students, which includes in-class presentations on the history of voting, creating ballots, and vote tabulation; and

WHEREAS, the participation of a student in a collaborative and innovative program such as the Orange County Registrar's MyBallot Program is critical to captivating the civic interests of high school students who wish to participate in our municipal election system; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage collaboration on programs such as STAR and MyBallot Program, between the City and LAUSD in the interest of civics learning which it asserts should cultivate qualities that will enable all students to mature and participate in our democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in the City's 2015-16 Legislative Program support for the LAUSD to collaborate with the City of Los Angeles in conducting high school civic outreach activities, such as the Orange County Registrar's MyBallot Program.