

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

Name: Conrad Starr

Phone Number: (323) 539-4962

Email: [president@greaterwilshire.org](mailto:president@greaterwilshire.org)

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(1) Abstain(3) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/14/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 07/26/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0407

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) opposes the originating Motion and the Report of the Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhood Council Committee (Report) pertaining to NC election rules and systems. The GWNC is firmly opposed to voter suppression and requires only “acceptable documentation” for voters in its Bylaws. However, the State of California requires a driver’s license, passport, or Social Security card in order to register to vote (with the opportunity to be assigned a unique voter ID number by the County Clerk if none of these documents is available).

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/registering-vote>. NCs should not be criticized for voter suppression if they require only what the State, too, requires. And why should voters in NC elections be subject to less identification rigor than voters for all other elected officials? Based on our years of experience with the now-eliminated, so-called “Starbucks” NC stakeholders, we observe that, if NC voter identification is eliminated, the potential for NC take-over by unidentified, false stakeholders seems to be the likeliest outcome, not voter suppression. Of equal significance, Section 904, subparagraph (f) of the Charter of the City states that any NC regulations promulgated by DONE “shall not restrict the method by which the members of a neighborhood council are chosen, if the process otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Article.” The Motion and the Report seek to impose standardized regulations governing NC elections, despite the express prohibition on such restrictions, as set forth in the City Charter. Thank you for joining us in opposing the Motion and the Report.



July 26, 2021

Honorable City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, 5th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2601

Re: **Council File Number 21-0407**  
**OPPOSITION to the Removal of Neighborhood Council (NC) Voter**  
**Identification Requirements and to the Standardization of NC Election**  
**Rules**

Dear City Council President Martinez and Honorable City Council Members:

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) opposes the originating Motion and the Report of the Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhood Council Committee (Report) pertaining to NC election rules and systems, as voted by the GWNC Board at its July 14, 2021 General Board Meeting, with 12 in favor, one opposed, and three abstaining.

The Motion and the Report require:

1. An analysis from DONE on how the by-laws of different NCs vary on election issues, including, but not limited to: eligibility requirements for Board seats, governing board structure, stakeholder requirements, and stakeholder verification;
2. A report from the City Attorney on the City Council's authority to standardize election rules across NCs, and potential limits to this authority;
3. A report from the City Clerk on the costs associated with administering the existing non-standardized NC election systems, and provide recommendations for streamlining NC elections, and potential cost savings that could result from standardizing NC election rules; and
4. The Motion additionally specifies that the NC photo identification requirement imposed by the City Clerk for voters in the 2021 NC elections constitutes voter suppression.

The GWNC is firmly opposed to voter suppression and requires only “acceptable documentation” for voters in its Bylaws. However, the State of California requires a driver’s license, passport, or Social Security card in order to register to



vote (with the opportunity to be assigned a unique voter ID number by the County Clerk if none of these documents is available).

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/registering-vote>. NCs should not be criticized for voter suppression if they require only what the State, too, requires. And why should voters in NC elections be subject to less identification rigor than voters for all other elected officials? Based on our years of experience with the now-eliminated, so-called “Starbucks” NC stakeholders, we observe that, if NC voter identification is eliminated, the potential for NC take-over by unidentified, false stakeholders seems to be the likeliest outcome, not voter suppression.

Of equal significance, Section 904, subparagraph (f) of the Charter of the City states that any NC regulations promulgated by DONE “**shall not restrict** the method by which the members of a neighborhood council are chosen, if the process otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Article.” The Motion and the Report seek to impose standardized regulations governing NC elections, despite the express prohibition on such restrictions, as set forth in the City Charter.

Thank you for joining us in opposing the Motion and the Report.

Respectfully yours,



Conrad Starr  
President, Greater Wilshire Neighborhood  
Council

***GWNC Community Impact Statement Form Filed Concurrently***