

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amanda Lindell  
**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 03:09 PM  
**Council File No:** 26-0489  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Ranked Choice Voting gives voters more choice, reduces negative campaigning, saves tax payer dollars, and leads to more representative outcomes. This is our chance to help bring that reform to Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jester Jersey

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 12:48 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I'm submitting my written public comment in regards to this Thursday's Election & Ethics meeting. Please find enclosed materials for consideration by the Rules Committee during its deliberation of this important topic for ballot consideration. Thank you for your work and service to the city of Los Angeles.  
Sincerely, Jester Jersey

## It is Time to Lower the Voting Age to 16 in Los Angeles

Dear Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

My name is Jester Jersey and I am the lead advocate for lowering the voting age to 16. I have spoken to the Committee during the opening series of these Charter Reform recommendation consideration meetings as well as being heavily involved during the Charter Reform Commission's deliberation in the last few months leading up to this current series of meetings. I am also the leading pioneer of the voting age movement on the west coast, bringing the movement to our coast long before any one advocate, politician or organization endorsed it on the west coast. I am writing this before you today to urgently implore you to add lowering the voting age to the Los Angeles November ballot.

My work in the last decade has been instrumental in lowering the voting age, even before cities outside the state of Maryland, started promoting the idea. For the last three years, I have spoken multiple times at the Frontiers of Democracy Conference, an annual gathering of great political minds from all over the country at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, in 2023, 2024 and last year, 2025, with me moderating multiple panels last year alone(1)(2)(3)(4). These last few years have also been a tumultuous period for Tufts, with free speech being potentially stifled from some of the youngest minds of our great learning institutions to interference earlier this year when studies are simply conducted to examine patterns of how people vote(5)(6).

In the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding, it seems democracy itself is under threat(7). The Rules Committee, and by extension, the Los Angeles City Council, can defend democracy by expanding the current electorate through lowering the voting age. If approved by voters this November, future young Angelenos can join other groups around the country to act as a bulwark against the threats against democracy. As Vote16USA executive Director, LaJuan Allen, whom I've worked extensively in the last year to promote efforts to lower the voting age in the state of California across various municipalities, said it best when he contributed an op-ed to USA Today titled "Want to save American Democracy? Let teens vote"(8).

Because of this, I have volunteered to administer the Vote16CAL account on Twitter to help promote the efforts across the state, supporting local efforts like here in Los Angeles, but also efforts in nearby Culver City as well as in other places across the state(9)(10)(11). We're doing our best to help fight on behalf of democracy for young people as well as the very core democracy itself, something that has been under threat even more so during this current presidential administration than perhaps any other previous national administration(12). We cannot depend on former officials or soon-to-leave officials to do all the work(13)(14) to promote lowering the voting age. We also have to do the work ourselves, with advocates, leaders and communities rallying in support of strengthening democracy.

Even when people simply exercise their constitutional rights to free speech or the right to vote, their rights are always being threatened, whether that be through detainment, censorship or intimidation, most notably the current SAVE Act(15). Now

is not the time to play it safe when you have an opportunity before you to expand the electorate, something that even the local school district, LAUSD, supports unanimously, in hopes that the problem will just go away(16). I can guarantee you as a long-time advocate, it will not. Nor can I guarantee that neither will our efforts go away. Problems don't go away when you hide from them- problems go away when you find solutions for them.

We're just getting started. We want a partner in giving voice to the under-served, the under-represented, and the underestimated- for too long, young people are not given the due credit they deserve. We should also not underestimate their ability to help save democracy itself. They need a champion to help amplify their voice. I think that partner can be the Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, who has the potential to uplift the concerns of young voters and democracy today.

If you can help uplift the voices of young voters today, they will surely thank you. If you can also help democracy as a whole in the process, even from our small, regional, but highly influential corner of the country, I believe you would also have democracy's eternal gratitude. If you help me, one of the few but slowly growing national advocates of this dedicated movement, then you would have my sincerest gratitude, but more importantly, the gratitude of local Angelenos and national democracy itself, before you.

Please help Angelenos and democracy by making lowering the voting age to 16 a ballot initiative for this year's election. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jester Jersey  
Vote16CAL Twitter Administrator

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** William Anderson

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 04:57 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Rules Committee of the Los Angeles City Council, My name is Billy Anderson and I am a supporter of lowering the voting age to 16. You may have heard from my close friend Jester and fellow advocate, either from written public comment or in-person comment. I have attached my public comment in support of lowering the voting age to 16.

## Make Lowering the Voting Age to 16 A November Ballot

Dear Rules Committee(REIR) of the Los Angeles City Council,

My name is William “Billy” Anderson. I am an advocate for lowering the voting age to 16, something that I heard is being considered for this November’s election via a ballot measure later this year only a few months ago, close to the end of the Charter Reform Commission’s meeting in March I want to throw in my support for lowering the voting age too.

For the last two years, I have helped Jester moderate a dialogue panel around lowering the voting age to 16 at the Frontiers of Democracy Conference in Tufts University, in Medford near Boston, where we joined other supporters from around the country to talk about why youth voting matters.

I joined Jester in his efforts to bring more awareness of the idea after other countries started doing it in recent years. I know it has been mentioned before in a prior written comment, so I won’t repeat them because I’ve only been advocating for it the last few years compared to Jester and other advocates around the country, but I think if you take a moment to consider all that Jester has shared in recent public comments and that of other supporters from different organizations, and even politicians in office, then it makes sense that Los Angeles, as one of the biggest cities in the country, should also move towards lowering the voting age to 16.

I have always been fascinated around the activism from climate change groups, and had noticed many young people wanted to make a difference by showing up to protests and making their voices heard. Yet they’re often not allowed to vote. I thought about having my first job at 16 and not being able to vote either. I did not think it was fair that I was being taxed for my hard-earned income, but I couldn’t choose what the people I paid taxes could do with it even though I worked to earn that money. Many of my peers in high school were like that too.

I want to help as many efforts around the country as possible so that young people can also have their voices heard like several other cities around the country that have lowered the voting age already. Places like Takoma Park and Hyattsville in Maryland, or cities in the Bay Area of California like Berkeley and Oakland that have school board voting but are planning to also expand to citywide voting like their neighbor, Albany, and the almost dozen other cities in the United States that also have lowered the voting age in the last ten years.

There’s not much else I can say that Jester or other supporters might have mentioned already, since we do use many similar talking points, but as one of the youngest members of advocating for lowering the voting age to 16, I think when you have as many students and young people as you have in Los Angeles, I think it is fair to lower the voting age to 16 so the city can be run in a fair manner that takes into account the hopes, dreams and wishes of young people because someday, they might lead the city too. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Billy Anderson

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Angelo Mike

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 03:43 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello Council, I'm asking that you support Ranked Choice Voting, as I believe our current voting system narrow restricts what choices voters have. Ranked choice voting would allow for more people powered candidates and less ruling class candidates that work for capital to get office. It would help candidates get their messages out more clearly (which corporate candidates very much don't want) and allow for candidates who can't run in our current system. It would also reduce the idea of spoiler candidates, thereby allowing voters to choose more according to their conscience who to vote for, rather than who's being touted as a viable candidate. Please support ranked choice voting. Thanks, Angelo Mike

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alex Fierro-Clarke

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 03:30 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please support the enactment of ranked choice voting (RCV) in elections. Ranked Choice Voting gives voters more choice, reduces negative campaigning, saves tax payer dollars, and leads to more representative outcomes.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robert Drummond  
**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 09:22 PM  
**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly support Ranked Choice Voting as it better reflects the true will of the people than single non-transferable votes. As things stand, voters often have to vote 'strategically' to avoid their least preferred candidate, rather than voting for the candidate they think best represents them, which would be a 'wasted vote'. For example, if two candidates from party A are polling at 30% and one candidate from party B is polling at 40%, then with single non-transferable vote, party B would win because the party A vote is split, even though 60% of voters are in favour of party A. This obviously does not reflect the interests of the people. Ranked choice voting, on the other hand, allows voters to choose their desired candidate without simultaneously giving an edge to their least preferred candidates. Please bring ranked choice voting to Los Angeles to enable a more democratic voting system.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrew

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 10:05 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge you to support and adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). RCV is crucial for getting representation that more accurately represents the voters. Time and again our basic voting system has given us representatives that don't accurately represent voters due to candidates splitting the vote. It's time to choose a better path forward. Please support Ranked Choice Voting.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** M Jody Whitehouse

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 05:39 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please vote in Rank Choice Voting. This is a much fairer way of voting. I am strongly opposed to the so called jungle primaries. I feel my vote does not count and the result potentially does not reflect the voters wishes.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Victoria F

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 06:12 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge the City Council to support reforming our election system to adopt rank choice voting. Rank choice voting is used in many cities in the U.S., including San Francisco. I support rank choice voting because it will make our local politics less polarized, and give voters the chance to choose elected officials that better represent our communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marcia Whitfield

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2026 07:55 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council members, it's a great time to endorse RCV (ranked choice voting)! The best people and the best ideas make this city work. Please endorse and pass it. Thank you!