



an insider look at city hall

CITYWATCH

citywide edition

Special ELECTION Briefing-November 6, 2006

More than Ballot Measures Dependent on Your Vote

By Ken Draper

The first Neighborhood Council was certified five years ago next month. Their ability to provide voices for LA's neighborhoods and change the way the city does business continues to mature and grow. When councils figure out how to influence elections they will graduate from voices of some influence to a powerful force with major impact.



Tomorrow's election provides an opportunity for a first step toward that kind of empowerment. First, vote. Second, help mobilize the vote.

It doesn't matter how you ... or those you entice to the polls ... vote. It matters that you demonstrate that Neighborhood Councils, and other grassroots organizations, have the ability to mobilize voter turnout. That's a kind of power no elected official can ignore.

There's another even more critical issue at play here. Ours is a participatory democracy. It needs more than just protection to keep it alive. Like a muscle, it needs exercise. Use it or lose it. Exercise your right to vote or its value will continue to atrophy.

And finally, the inspiration for Neighborhood Councils was the realization that LA's citizens were getting impatient with a city that stopped listening to them. They wanted a voice ... real participation ... in the process that governed them. Your vote is your voice. Use it on Tuesday to exercise your entitlement. Or, your voice ... and the Neighborhood Council idea ... could once again become irrelevant. ?

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Democracy: Use it or Lose it!



Vote November 7

8 Reasons Why Voting No on Prop R is the Right Thing to Do

It isn't that extending term limits ... even no term limits at all ... is a bad idea. It's that Proposition R is a bad idea. We urge you to vote no on this deceptive and ill-conceived ballot measure. Here are eight reasons to do so.

1. This initiative has been a hustle from the beginning. It was whisked past the Ethics Commission and Neighborhood Councils so fast that even some of the City Council members had not read it.
2. By one of its sponsors own public admission, the only reason the measure contains any so-called ethics content is to mask the fact that it's really about extending term limits.
3. As the City's Attorney warned the City Council, Prop R may be unconstitutional.
4. Under Prop R, LA's City Council members could serve as many as 14 years.
5. It undermines the City Charter. Because it doesn't extend term limits for Mayor, it is a power grab by City Council.
6. It weakens ethics laws by redefining "lobbyist."
7. It creates loopholes for lobbyists and doesn't restrict special interest money.
8. Yes on Prop R is bankrolled by big money, lobbyists and special interests who want to extend the favorable relationships they have developed with LA's council members.

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Send a message. This is a bad and harmful initiative. We will not be left out the process any longer. The law of the Charter must be respected. Grassroots voices will not be silenced. Vote No on Prop R. -CW

Election Results & Analysis
For Neighborhood Councils
& Grassroots LA

Wednesday Morning
In CityWatch

CityWatch Media Trac

(This is a "scorecard" of local print and electronic media recommendations on ballot measures of particular importance to Neighborhood Councils and other grassroots organizations. It does not include all of the measures or any of the candidates running for office.)

Measure	CW	DN	LAT	DB	PT	CB
Prop H	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Yes
Prop J	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Prop R	No	No	No	No		No
1A	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
1B	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1C	No	No	No	No	No	No
1D	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
1E		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
83	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
84		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
85	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
86		No	Yes	No	No	No
87		Yes	No	No	No	Yes
88	No	No	No	No	No	No
89	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
90	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Guide to abbreviations and info listed above:

CW (CityWatch); DN (Daily News); LAT (LA Times); DB (Daily Breeze); PT (Press Telegram); CB (City Beat)

- Prop H—Bond issue for affordable housing programs
 - Prop J—Technical change on land requirements for regional fire stations
 - Prop R—Lengthening term limits and lobbying reform
 - 1A—Transportation investment fund
 - 1B—Bond: Highway safety, traffic reduction, air quality
 - 1C—Bond for housing and emergency shelter
 - 1D—Bond for schools to relieve overcrowding and to repair older buildings
 - 1E—Disaster preparedness and flood prevention
 - 83—Violent Sex offenders: punishment, residence, monitoring
 - 84—Bond for drinking water, parks and open space
 - 85—Parental notification on minor's abortion
 - 86—Cigarette tax to fund health programs
 - 87—Tax on oil drilling for research, alternative energy
 - 88—Education funding from real property tax
 - 89—Campaign finance. Calif clean money and fair elections
 - 90—Government acquisition, regulation of private property
- (More info on these measures: Consult your official California and City General Election Guides. More information on the views of the media organizations listed above: consult their websites.)**

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CityWatch Special Election Briefing

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No Vote!! No Voice!!



Vote November 7

When roughly 48,000 sleep on the streets of L.A. each night and only a privileged few can buy a median-priced home... **it's time to take action!**

VOTEYES! ON **PROP H**

Join our growing coalition of business, labor, and grassroots community leaders and housing advocates in supporting L.A.'s Affordable Housing Bond.

Go to www.homesforlafamilies.org to endorse Prop H, or call (310) 642-2061 for more information.

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Polling Place

1.800.815.2666
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