



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOS ANGELES



Easy Voter Guide

LOS ANGELES GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013

Polls open 7 AM - 8 PM

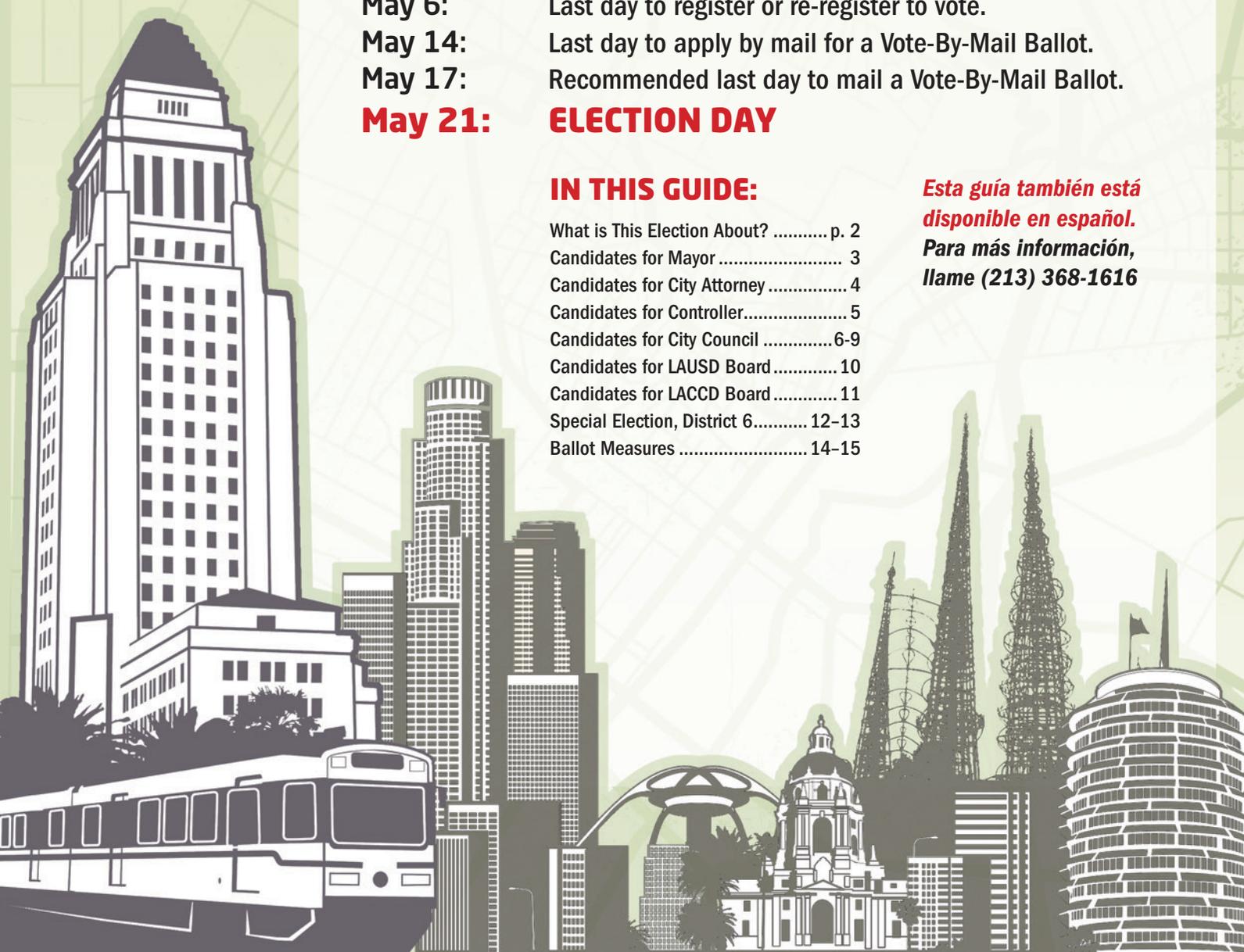
IMPORTANT DATES:

- April 22: 1st day to request a Vote-By-Mail Ballot.
- May 6: Last day to register or re-register to vote.
- May 14: Last day to apply by mail for a Vote-By-Mail Ballot.
- May 17: Recommended last day to mail a Vote-By-Mail Ballot.
- May 21: ELECTION DAY**

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Esta guía también está disponible en español. Para más información, llame (213) 368-1616



WHAT IS THIS ELECTION ABOUT?

Voters will be voting:

- ☑ For MAYOR, CITY ATTORNEY, CONTROLLER, and Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees Office 6
- ☑ FOR or AGAINST three different measures on regulating medical marijuana businesses and FOR or AGAINST a resolution on campaign finance
- ☑ Some voters will also vote for a City Council candidate and/or a Member of the Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

For more information about candidates and issues, go to: www.smartvoter.org

About the **Easy Voter Guide**

The **Easy Voter Guide** is provided by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles Education Fund, with funding from the Southern California Gas Company. The Education Fund encourages active and informed participation in government, and increased understanding of public policy through education.



About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization of women and men that encourages informed and active participation in government. To learn more, visit www.lwvlosangeles.org or www.facebook.com/lwvla.

REGISTER ONLINE!

<https://rtv.sos.ca.gov/elections/register-to-vote>

Not sure if you're registered to vote?

Check your voter registration status at www.lavote.net. Click on "Voting and Elections," and then "Voter Registration Status."

Any other registration questions?
Call **1-800-815-2666**

The sample ballot you received in the mail tells you where you vote.

Or, find out by calling:
(213) 978-0444

or go online at:
<http://clerk.lacity.org/Elections/index.htm>

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Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) applauds those who give back positive energy to Southern California. For more than 140 years, we've been proud to partner with the communities where we live and work, providing a clean, abundant, affordable and domestic energy source to enhance the quality of life for us all.



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Mayor

Chief Executive of the City of Los Angeles



Eric M. Garcetti

OCCUPATION:

Los Angeles City Councilmember

WEBSITE:

www.ericgarcetti.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Los Angeles City Council President, 2006-2012
- ◆ Lieutenant, United States Navy Reserve, 2005-present
- ◆ Assistant Professor, Occidental College, 1998-2001
- ◆ Visiting Professor, University of Southern California, 1997-1999
- ◆ Chair, Democratic Municipal Officials, 2008-present
- ◆ Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.



Wendy J. Greuel

OCCUPATION:

Los Angeles City Controller

WEBSITE:

www.wendygreuel.org

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Graduate of LAUSD's Kennedy High School
- ◆ UCLA Graduate
- ◆ Former Aide to Mayor Tom Bradley
- ◆ Former So. California Field Operations Officer, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development under President Clinton
- ◆ Former Executive, DreamWorks Studios
- ◆ Former Los Angeles City Councilmember, 2nd District

QUESTION 1: *What is the single most important issue facing the City of Los Angeles today? As Mayor, what would you do to deal with it?*

Garcetti: I will ensure city government is focused on creating jobs and solving problems for L.A. residents. We must get back to basics + cleaning the streets, fixing the streets, keeping our streets safe. As Mayor, I will require every department head to reapply for their job, will reform our job training system and ensure children are prepared for careers or college.

Greuel: Los Angeles is facing an economic crisis. As Mayor, I will get our economy back on track by creating jobs and getting our fiscal house in order. I have a unique perspective on job creation because I've worked in the public and private sectors. I won't hire a job czar for Los Angeles, I will be the job czar...*

QUESTION 2: *When Angelenos hit a pothole, they curse City Hall. What is your plan to fix, upgrade, and maintain the streets of Los Angeles and how will the City pay for it?*

Garcetti: As Mayor, I will accelerate street paving projects funded under Measure R. I am a practical problem solver who will implement innovative solutions to problems. I am proud to have deployed the city's first constituent services smartphone app, so that people can report problems like potholes and get them fixed anytime, anywhere, from the palms of their hands.

Greuel: As a City Councilmember, I delivered infrastructure investments for my constituents by filling 164,345 potholes, repaving 120 miles of street, and repairing over 35 miles of sidewalks. I also helped initiate the 50-50 sidewalk program to expedient sidewalk repairs and advocated for state grant funding for street repaving. As Mayor, I will continue to focus on rebuilding our infrastructure...*

QUESTION 3: *85% of the City's General Fund Budget is for personnel costs. If forced to cut costs to balance the budget, would you favor reducing the number of employees or asking existing employees to accept lower wages and/or reduced benefits?*

Garcetti: I have a proven record of making tough and independent decisions to balance the budget. I'm the candidate who has personally negotiated pension reforms to save hundreds of millions of dollars. As Mayor, I will balance the budget by tackling personnel costs and through economic growth. It's economic revenues that put cops on the street and parks in our neighborhoods.

Greuel: There are tremendous opportunities for efficiencies throughout the City, and those need to be acted upon before we reduce City service levels any further. We need to address our pension system by making common-sense reforms, like banning double dipping pension spiking, and capping the salary used to calculate benefits. I will work with our City employees to make structural changes...*

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/garcetti_e/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/greuel_w/

City Attorney

The City Attorney provides legal advice to the city and represents it in lawsuits and transactions, and oversees the prosecution of criminal misdemeanors.



Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich

OCCUPATION:
Los Angeles City Attorney

WEBSITE:
www.nuch13.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Backs alternative sentencing to reform youthful offenders
- ◆ Advocates for city's vulnerable: abused kids/women/the homeless/immigrants
- ◆ Successfully protected city from \$284 million in lawsuits
- ◆ Honored: Innovations in Criminal Justice Award
- ◆ Family of 4 kids: 2 teachers, 2 prosecutors



Mike Feuer

OCCUPATION:
Assembly Member/
Attorney

WEBSITE:
<http://votemikefeuer.com>

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Mike Feuer is one of California's leading lawmakers and attorneys;
- ◆ Mike has written some of California's most important public safety, children's health, consumer protection and environmental laws;
- ◆ Mike has directed one of the nation's leading public interest law firms, Bet Tzedek

QUESTION 1: Describe your specific goals and the steps you would take to reach these goals if you are elected City Attorney.

Trutanich: As our office revenues improve, my priorities will be to expand litigation efforts to protect our most vulnerable populations (e.g. women, children, the residents of Skid-Row and low-income neighborhoods), to provide new education/training options—as an alternative to jail-time—for low-level offenders and to enhance our anti-gun violence efforts. Our strong record in these areas can be improved with extra resources.

Feuer: My priorities will be protecting neighborhoods and connecting communities with law enforcement by revitalizing the Neighborhood Prosecutor program, combating gun violence (I've issued a detailed plan) and collaborating with educators, parents, law enforcement and community leaders to help assure that schools and the neighborhoods in which they're located are safe. I will bring energy, vision and integrity to the job.

QUESTION 2: What steps would you recommend the City take to reduce the number of lawsuits filed against it?

Trutanich: I have proposed a budgetary risk management plan to incentivize departments to reduce risk by requiring them to foot their litigation losses out of their own budgets when they exceed a certain level. Litigation is inevitable. Losing is not. My office has saved taxpayers \$285 million by winning favorable verdicts at trial in 137 of 149 cases. Our victories discourage litigation.

Feuer: I will lead a robust risk management program in City Hall, working closely with city departments to reduce lawsuits arising from practices or policies that ought to change. Reducing outside counsel expenses, improving risk management and decreasing liability payments will be key priorities for me, so we can redirect funds to improving public safety and other basic city services.

QUESTION 3: What are the main areas in which you would proactively seek to enforce existing ordinances?

Trutanich: One of our crime prevention programs warns new gun-buyers that it is illegal to transfer their weapons to others without notifying authorities. Another targets at-risk youths and struggling military veterans arrested on minor offenses. We steer them into counseling and education opportunities that are an alternative to jail-time. We cannot arrest and jail our way out of crime.

Feuer: I will focus on enforcing all ordinances with an emphasis on public safety, reducing gun violence and keeping our neighborhoods safe. I will strive to make our streets safe, protect consumers and seniors, preserve our environment, improve our business climate, help create jobs, and stand up for working families.

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/trutanich_c/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/feuer_m/

Controller

The City Controller serves as chief accountant and auditor for the city's finances.



Ron Galperin

OCCUPATION:
Efficiency Commissioner/
Businessman

WEBSITE:
www.ronforla.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ President, City of LA Quality and Productivity Commission
- ◆ Chair, City of LA Commission on Revenue Efficiency
- ◆ Commissioner, County of LA Quality & Productivity Commission
- ◆ Task Force Member, Home For Good: United Way/LA Area Chamber of Commerce Homelessness Task Force



Dennis P. Zine

OCCUPATION:
Los Angeles
City Councilman

WEBSITE:
www.zineforcontroller.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Chair, City Council's Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee
- ◆ Former Los Angeles Police Department Officer
- ◆ LAPD Reserve Officer

QUESTION 1: Describe your specific goals and the steps you would take to reach these goals if you are elected Controller.

Galperin: Fixing L.A. broken finances is key to fixing our broken streets and sidewalks—and to providing quality City services. I have a specific Dollars & Sense plan to improve collections, use City assets wisely, promote local businesses, rein in City contracts, eliminate wasteful spending and see audit recommendations implemented. Importantly, I will be independent and innovative.

Zine: One of my top priorities will be to seriously beef up the controller's fraud and abuse unit which now has only one full-time employee. I will also assure the public that favoritism and politics will not play a role in my office's use of its financial and management audit tools. These are powerful tools for good and must be used responsibly.

QUESTION 2: What special qualifications or financial management or auditing experience do you have to carry out the responsibilities of Controller?

Galperin: I bring experience as an attorney and business person, and as head of two expert City commissions to this job. My Commission on Revenue Efficiency specifically identified more than \$450 million in savings, efficiencies and revenues the City can achieve. And, as President of the Quality & Productivity Commission, I have been working to improve performance and service delivery.

Zine: As the city's Audit and Government Efficiency Committee chairman I have had the unique opportunity to see first-hand how the controller's office operates and ensure that its audits are fair and that their recommendations are implemented. I also have practiced financial responsibility by saving over a \$1 million from my office budget and re-investing that money in public improvements in my council district.

QUESTION 3: The Controller serves an important audit function. What departments or programs would you prioritize for auditing?

Galperin: Personnel costs constitute the largest share of City spending, while dollars from other government sources constitute our biggest revenues. These are essential to audit, along with City purchasing of goods and services—much of which are currently bought from non-L.A. businesses. My focus will be on both performance and financial audits—and, most crucially, effecting much-needed change.

Zine: My top priority will be to target those city agencies with the largest budgets, like the police, fire and proprietary departments, for financial and management audits. The police and fire budgets account for 70 percent of the city's general fund budget. These agencies deserve the most audit scrutiny because they are where the most tax dollars are at risk.

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/galperin_r/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/zine_d/

Los Angeles City Council

The Los Angeles City Council is the governing body of the City of Los Angeles. It is composed of 15 members from 15 separate districts who are elected to four-year terms. City Council members decide on city services, budget, and local laws.

Council Districts 1, 9, and 13 are conducting run-off elections for council members this May. If you live in one of these districts, your district's run-off candidates' names will appear on your ballot.

In addition, a **special election** will be conducted to fill the vacancy in **Council District 6** resulting from the election of Councilmember Tony Cardenas to the 29th Congressional District. If you live in District 6, your district's candidates' names will appear on your ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for this office, there will be a runoff election between the top two candidates on July 23, 2013.

District 1 includes:

Glassell Park, Cypress Park, Highland Park, Mt. Washington, Solano Canyon, Elysian Park, Echo Park, Westlake, Angelino Heights, Temple Beaudry, Lafayette Park, Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, Pico-Union, Mid-Cities, MacArthur Park

District 6 includes:

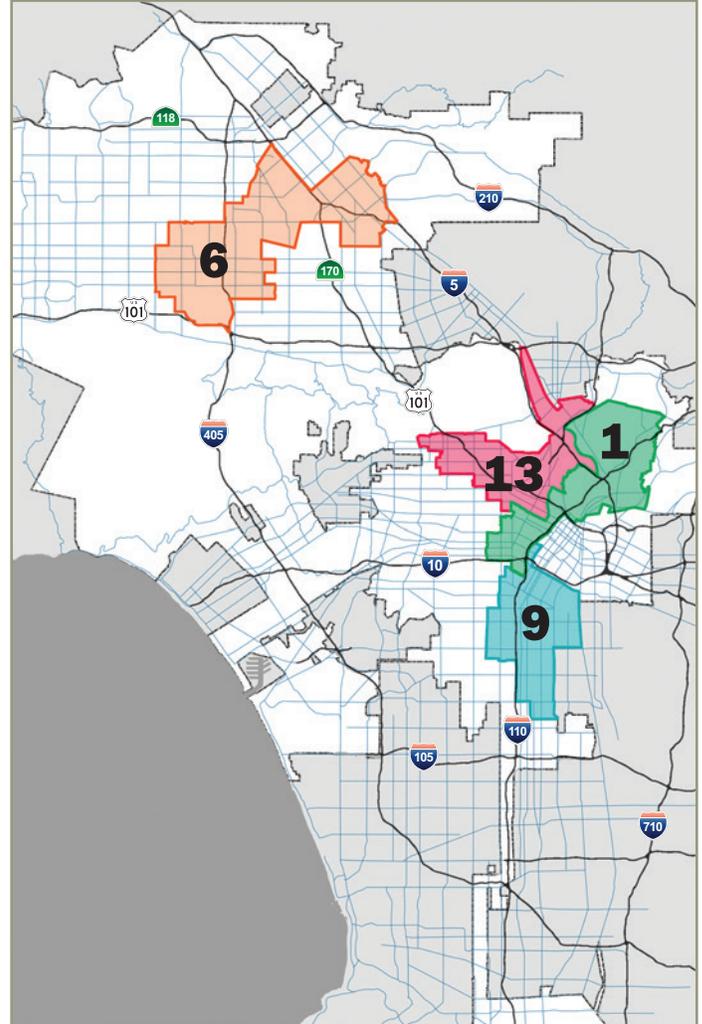
Arleta, Encino, Lake Balboa, North Hollywood Northeast, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Van Nuys

District 9 includes:

Bunker Hill, Downtown, The Arts District, Little Tokyo, Central City East, South Park, Jefferson Park, Vermont Square

District 13 includes:

Hollywood, East Hollywood, Thai Town, Little Armenia, Los Feliz, Virgil Village, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Temple-Beverly, Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, Westlake, Wilshire Center, Melrose Hill, Elysian Valley, Atwater Village, Glassell Park



City Council District 1



Gilbert "Gil" Cedillo

OCCUPATION:
Former California State
Lawmaker

WEBSITE:
www.gilcedillo.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Former State Assembly Member
- ◆ Former General Manager of the Los Angeles County Public Employees Union
- ◆ Former State Senator



Jose A. Gardea

OCCUPATION:
Councilmember's
Chief Deputy

WEBSITE:
www.josegardea2013.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Political Science degree from UCLA

QUESTION 1: *What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City of Los Angeles today? As Council Member, what would you do to deal with it?*

Cedillo: Our city faces a peculiar conundrum: a lack of jobs, but at the same time, a shortfall in skilled labor. Nowhere is that more true than in Council District 1, where we have seen the worst job growth in the city, and unemployment soars above national averages. As a member of the City Council, I will work together with business leaders...*

Gardea: I believe that our most important issue facing the city is the vulnerability of the city budget. We need to re-prioritize our services so that core services like public safety, clean streets, sidewalk repairs, and park maintenance are in fact fully-funded, and thus make our city a place with a better quality of life...*

QUESTION 2: *85% of the City's General Fund Budget is for personnel costs. If forced to cut costs to balance the budget, would you favor reducing the number of employees or asking existing employees to accept lower wages and/or reduced benefits?*

Cedillo: We have made years worth of one-time cuts, and they have gotten us nowhere. The fact of the matter is that the deficit is caused by the rate of change of spending, not that we're spending too much in an absolute sense. We need to get a grip on the structural issues that cause spending growth to exceed revenue growth...*

Gardea: I would first work with our city administrative officer, as well as our employee collective bargaining units, to identify any and all options to reduce expenditures. Over the last several years during the deepest parts of our budget crisis, our city employees demonstrated their loyalty and courage by accepting a greater share of responsibility to cover their benefits, as well as deferring pay raises...*

QUESTION 3: *Do you support the DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions even if that will result in increased bills for ratepayers?*

Cedillo: We need to work aggressively to reduce our carbon footprint, and in the long-run, that may mean that energy costs more in the future than it does today, but I believe that ultimately reducing our carbon footprint will be at least partly a question of technology, not just price signals. To that end, I will work with the DWP...*

Gardea: I believe ratepayers will support an increase in their bills if they see a full accounting of where their money will go. Many residents are concerned with the growing signs of climate change. I am too. Let's address our future needs by creating strong accountability measures today within DWP.

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/cedillo_g/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/gardea_j/

City Council District 9



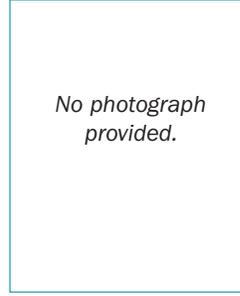
Ana Cubas

OCCUPATION:
Candidate

WEBSITE:
www.anacubasforcouncil.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ University of California at Berkeley, B.A, Highest Honors in Sociology, May 1993
- ◆ Princeton University, Master's Degree in Public Affairs/ Urban and Regional Planning (MPA-URP), June 1996
- ◆ Chief of Staff for Councilmember José Huizar, 2009-2012
- ◆ LA City Human Relations Commission 2002-2005



No photograph provided.

Curren D. Price, Jr.

OCCUPATION:
State Senator/
Professor

WEBSITE:
No website provided.

QUALIFICATIONS:

No information provided.

QUESTION 1: *What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City of Los Angeles today? As Council Member, what would you do to deal with it?*

Cubas: To revive the economy of Los Angeles we need to improve the business environment, attract new revenue and investment to our city, and ensure that those investments reach our most under developed communities. Council District 9 needs more attention and resources, not just at its northern-most point, but throughout the district. The business climate is poor because our workforce is untrained...*

Price: No response provided.

QUESTION 2: *85% of the City's General Fund Budget is for personnel costs. If forced to cut costs to balance the budget, would you favor reducing the number of employees or asking existing employees to accept lower wages and/or reduced benefits?*

Cubas: First, the City needs to collect on hundreds of thousands of uncollected business taxes. These are taxes owed to the City by major corporations. These funds could be used to reduce the current deficit. The City Council has already implemented hiring freezes, early retirement programs, layoffs and furloughs. The key issue is how to grow the economy and create jobs.

Price: No response provided.

QUESTION 3: *Do you support the DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions even if that will result in increased bills for ratepayers?*

Cubas: I support the DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions, but I do not support rate increases. We need to be more aggressive in reducing our carbon footprint and incentivizing our community to be an active part of our environmental solutions. I'm committed to expanding efforts to educate people on the importance of conservation...*

Price: No response provided.

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/cubas_a/

City Council District 13



Mitch O'Farrell

OCCUPATION:
Councilmember's
Senior Advisor

WEBSITE:
www.mitchforcitycouncil.org

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ 2004 Democrat of the Year, 44th Cal Assembly District
- ◆ 2004 Appointment to Cal Electoral College, Congressman Xavier Becerra
- ◆ 2006 Citizen of the Year, Glassell Park Improvement Association
- ◆ 2006 City Nerd, Elected Official Staffmember



John J. Choi

OCCUPATION:
Commissioner/
Community Organizer

WEBSITE:
www.johnchoi2013.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Public Works Commissioner
- ◆ Economic Development Director
- ◆ City Council Field Deputy
- ◆ B.A. UCLA
- ◆ J.D. UCLA

QUESTION 1: *What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City of Los Angeles today? As Council Member, what would you do to deal with it?*

O'Farrell: Our chronic budget deficit crisis overshadows everything at City Hall. It is a justification for not doing enough while providing excuses for avoiding the tough decisions that need to be made. Without adequate funding for basic city services, our neighborhoods will continue to suffer. We must increase revenue, cut waste and tax-payer funded patronage positions, and rebuild confidence in our neighborhoods...*

Choi: Los Angeles was hit especially hard by the economic crisis, and continues to struggle to get back on its feet. We need ensure that our city is financially stable without sacrificing the city services and character that make Los Angeles a truly special place to live. As a member of the Public Works Board, I learned how to do more with less...*

QUESTION 2: *85% of the City's General Fund Budget is for personnel costs. If forced to cut costs to balance the budget, would you favor reducing the number of employees or asking existing employees to accept lower wages and/or reduced benefits?*

O'Farrell: I will do whatever it takes to balance our budget and get this city fully functioning. My focus is to increase revenue and putting my business reform plan into process immediately. We can cut all patronage positions, such as eliminating the Board of Public Works. It is duplicative and much of their work can be done by a volunteer commission...*

Choi: Los Angeles' budget problems are significant, but changing. We need to get our budgets back on track, and that means doing more with less until our city and the economy recovers. I intend to bring all stakeholders to the table to devise a plan that ensures our city is no longer dependent on the boom and bust cycles of our economy...*

QUESTION 3: *Do you support the DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions even if that will result in increased bills for ratepayers?*

O'Farrell: Nothing is more important than the air we breathe and the water we drink. We must clean our air and take sensible steps to a sustainable way of life in Los Angeles. I know from personal experience that every household can reduce power consumption significantly by taking thoughtful steps to do so. At the same time, the LADWP must set all their rates...*

Choi: I think we need to do more to build a more sustainable, greener Los Angeles. The DWP has taken the right steps to enhance our renewable energy portfolio and it needs to be strengthened. I would support the DWP shutting down its Coal-Fired plants and replacing them with renewable sources of power. Here in Los Angeles we need to be on the cutting edge...*

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/ofarrell_m/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/choi_j/

LAUSD District 6

The School Board sets district policy and appoints a superintendent, who oversees the daily operations of the district.



Monica Ratliff

OCCUPATION:
Fifth Grade Teacher

WEBSITE:
<http://monicaratliff2013.nationbuilder.com>

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Successful teacher at a thriving inner city school from 2001–the present
- ◆ Resident of Sunland and past resident of Sun Valley
- ◆ Former legal services attorney at San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services in Pacoima
- ◆ M.Ed/UCLA
- ◆ JD/Columbia Law School



Antonio Sanchez

OCCUPATION:
Educator/
Community Organizer

WEBSITE:
www.antonio4schools.com/2013/

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ BA California State University Northridge
- ◆ MA in Planning from UCLA
- ◆ UCLA Researcher and Teaching Assistant
- ◆ Community Organizer
- ◆ Former Area Director for City of Los Angeles Office of the Mayor

QUESTION 1: Describe your specific goals if you should become a School Board Member.

Ratliff: I will focus on the safety and health of our students; college or vocational readiness for all; fiscal responsibility and budgetary transparency; bringing back the arts; collaborating with parents, teachers, administrators, and community stakeholders to create effective evaluations and professional development(s); and recognizing the schools that work within the Valley as models and fixing the schools that are floundering.

Sanchez: I have lived, attended schools and worked in the Valley my entire life. As Board Member, my priorities are 1) Leadership training/teacher development: ensure resources for educators to work and grow together to strengthen instruction. 2) Parent involvement: ensure parents are equal partners and empowered with quality school options. 3) Increase classroom resources: ensure voter-approved Prop 30 dollars go directly to support schools.

QUESTION 2: Do you believe that teachers should be paid based on their performance? If so, how would you weight student test scores in determining a teacher's effectiveness?

Ratliff: Any highly skilled and effective employee should be recognized and rewarded. Parents and staff at a school site often know who are the most effective teachers. Once we have a system that accurately measures performance in the many areas that impact our students' lives, we can effectively discuss recognizing, rewarding, and best using our highly skilled and effective employees.

Sanchez: Teachers are the builders of tomorrow, and as a whole, are underpaid given their significant contributions to society. We must elevate the profession by increasing compensation levels for all teachers, while simultaneously rewarding those who are most effective in educating students + determined through multiple measures that must include student performance data and classroom observations as core weights.

QUESTION 3: What kind of decisions can the Superintendent make on his own and what matters should require approval by the School Board?

Ratliff: The Superintendent should be free to select his staff and oversee administration in a manner fitting his understanding of board policy. School Board members are elected and charged with setting the policy and direction of the district and overseeing the budget. The Board and Superintendent must work together to implement the voters' vision, goals, and expectations for the district.

Sanchez: As the district's educational leader and chief executive, the Superintendent should be empowered to make decisions regarding instructional practice; program design and implementation; personnel; operations; and preparation of the annual budget and policy recommendations, among others. As the governing body, the Board is primarily responsible for hiring the Superintendent, setting district policy, and approving the budget.

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/ratliff_m/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/sanchez_a/

LACCD Board of Trustees, Office No. 6



Nancy Pearlman

OCCUPATION:
Community College
Trustee

WEBSITE:
www.nancypearlman.net

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Community College Trustee
- ◆ Executive Director (for Educational Communications)
- ◆ Cultural Anthropologist
- ◆ Environmentalist
- ◆ Educator (Community College Instructor)
- ◆ Environmental Documentarian
- ◆ Radio Host & Broadcaster



David Vela

OCCUPATION:
School Board Member

WEBSITE:
www.electdavidvela.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Masters in Public Policy, Pepperdine University
- ◆ Bachelor of Science Anthropology, UCLA
- ◆ YMCA Board Member
- ◆ LA County Trustees Association Director
- ◆ CSBA Former Delegate

QUESTION 1: Describe your specific goals if you should become a Community College Trustee.

Pearlman: As a Trustee, I continue to work to make the Los Angeles Community College District the best in the nation. The Board must make policies that encourage student completion of their degree and credential programs, that keep the nine colleges accredited, and that provide the necessary classes. Proper faculty ratios should be maintained and the best administrators hired...*

Vela: 1) Improve course availability by shifting resources from large bureaucratic operations to the classroom. 2) Increase transfer rate to UC and Cal State for those students who are pursuing a bachelor's degree. 3) Cut wasteful spending. 4) Create an educational "task force" made up of students, professors and community to hold college presidents and the chancellor accountable...*

QUESTION 2: What experience in general management, fiscal management and budgetary oversight would you bring to the job of Trustee?

Pearlman: As a trustee for twelve years, I have had the experience of voting on billion dollar budgets yearly and have routinely promoted fiscal oversight, cost savings, and management review. As a community college instructor, I know how important it is to have faculty participation in our decision-making budget process and have supported a restructuring of our college budget allocations...*

Vela: As a current school board member I carefully implemented budget plans that reduced spending at the administrative level while saving vital resources in the classroom. For the last five years I have overseen the fiscal and budgetary aspects of the Montebello Unified School District. I manage the work of our Superintendents and Asst. Superintendents. I have a clear understanding of my fiduciary responsibilities...*

QUESTION 3: What kind of decisions can the Chancellor and College Presidents make on their own and what matters should require approval by the Community College Board?

Pearlman: The Board of Trustees is responsible for creating policies and approving the budget and contracts within our shared governance system. The Chancellor represents the Board and is involved in the daily operations. The College Presidents report to the Chancellor. Depending on the issue, some decisions should be made by the Board and others at the college level.

Vela: The Chancellor and the College Presidents should make daily operation decisions as well as decisions that improve the college experience for our students. Implementing curriculum and designing smart practices to increase the educational goals of our students. Any approval of expenditures that affect the general budget need to be approved by the College Board not individual college presidents...*

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/pearlman_n/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/vela_d/

Special Election, City Council District 6

This **special election** is being conducted to fill the vacancy resulting from the election of Councilmember Tony Cardenas to the California 29th Congressional District. *At press time, there was no response from the following candidates for City Council District 6: Cindy Montanez, Nury Martinez*



Walter Alexander Escobar

OCCUPATION:
Student

WEBSITE:
www.walterescobar.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Working on a Master of Aeronautical Science, ERAU
- ◆ MBA in Aviation, ERAU
- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science, ERAU
- ◆ Commercial Pilots License



Richard Valdez

OCCUPATION:
Businessman

WEBSITE:
www.valdezforcitycouncil.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ BA Psychology, SDSU
- ◆ US Army Veteran
- ◆ Real Estate Broker, Lic 01211013
- ◆ Member of Veterans for Peace
- ◆ Foreclosure Prevention Advocate

QUESTION 1: *What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City of Los Angeles today? As Council Member, what would you do to deal with it?*

Escobar: The single most important issue facing LA is that no one is willing to fight for what is right. Everyone wants to keep the status quo because they are afraid of the people in control. Special interests can buy candidates for the right price. I will stand and fight against special interests and expose them wherever they may be...*

Valdez: The “Special Interest” entities pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into our elections, which creates a conflict of interest atmosphere for our representative and a lack of confidence in them. I will represent with community-based governance. I will not be controlled by political strings, and I will strive to be fair and objective. I will be the “people’s voice” at City Hall.

QUESTION 2: *85% of the City’s General Fund Budget is for personnel costs. If forced to cut costs to balance the budget, would you favor reducing the number of employees or asking existing employees to accept lower wages and/or reduced benefits?*

Escobar: We need to cut the budget by cutting from the top down. Not from the bottom up like many politicians do. I intend to follow my words and cut my office budget. I intend to donate 61% of my salary back to District 6 so the money can be used for education programs, fixing the roads, or lighting the streets...*

Valdez: My goal would be not to reduce the number of employees due to the fact that it would lead to less adequate services provided to our community. I would be more inclined to asking certain employees to pay more towards their Health benefits, to be more in line with the average percentage of what other city workers pay.

QUESTION 3: *Do you support the DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions even if that will result in increased bills for ratepayers?*

Escobar: The idea of going green is good. The idea of going green, which will result in an increase in bills for taxpayers, is not good. There are times to move forward the green agenda but not right now. The city is struggling and the people are suffering. Everything is getting tacked on to the taxpayer and that is wrong...*

Valdez: I do support DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions, but not at the expense of taxing our community with additional utility bill increases. Many of the members of the community in District 6 are already paying over \$1000 a year for these programs. There are steps DWP can take that will not incur additional taxes to our community...*

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/escobar_w/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/valdez_r/

Special Election, City Council District 6 *(continued)*



Derek Waleko

OCCUPATION:

Senior Government
Advisor

WEBSITE:

www.derekwaleko.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ◆ KOTRA Los Angeles, Investments
- ◆ Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, FMR President & current Board member
- ◆ Mayors Budget Advocate Committee, FMR Board member
- ◆ Korea Times (featured), Mr. KOTRA
- ◆ Kappa Sigma, Member
- ◆ Texas Tech University, B.S.



J. Roy Garcia

OCCUPATION:

Community Activist/
Businessman

WEBSITE:

www.roygarcia4cd6.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

QUESTION 1: *What do you think is the single most important issue facing the City of Los Angeles today? As Council Member, what would you do to deal with it?*

Waleko: Financial stress from budgetary issues plagues our city. LA needs a new revenue source without raising taxes on hard working Angelenos and needs jobs for those struggling to provide. I've created jobs for LA through my international business background and will continue to leverage my expertise to do just that. Our economy relies too heavily on real estate, retail, and other consumption models...*

Garcia: The single most important issue facing the city is the deficit. We need to examine our spending and prioritize so that we are not wasting our tax dollars. As a councilman I will work with our city controller to continue to identify and curb wasteful spending...*

QUESTION 2: *85% of the City's General Fund Budget is for personnel costs. If forced to cut costs to balance the budget, would you favor reducing the number of employees or asking existing employees to accept lower wages and/or reduced benefits?*

Waleko: The city has already cut 5,300 jobs since 2007, that's over 14% of the city's workforce, which cuts into basic services and lowers the quality of life. Tree trimming, pot hole repair, graffiti and garbage clean up, infrastructure (street, sidewalk, etc) improvements, and animal services all suffer. I believe it's as much the dignity of the city worker that is at stake...*

Garcia: If forced to cut costs I would advocate to identify areas where services are being duplicated. We will need to make tough decisions keeping in mind that we are dealing with people's lives and the future of our city. In good times we entered into contracts that now are putting the solvency of the city at risk...*

QUESTION 3: *Do you support the DWP taking steps to reduce carbon emissions even if that will result in increased bills for ratepayers?*

Waleko: I support the ratepayers first and foremost and respect our environment. I fought hard as President of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council to support the Sierra Club and I stood with them again at DWP when Al Gore came to praise the work Los Angeles has done to ensure we as a city act responsibly to our planet by phasing off coal and implementing new greener technologies...*

Garcia: While I support the reduction of carbon emissions we cannot continue to give the DWP a blank check. We need to be able to control all costs and seek ways to reduce emissions that will have the least monetary impact on the residents of Los Angeles. A thorough review or audit of the DWP is necessary in order to identify areas where costs can be contained...*

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/waleko_d/

* Complete answers at: www.smartvoter.org/2013/05/21/ca/la/vote/garcia_j/

SmartVoter® Tip

How Do I Evaluate Ballot Propositions?

-  Look at what the measure is trying to do. Do you agree with its goals? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
-  Does the measure deal with one issue that can be easily decided by a YES or NO vote? Or, is it a complex issue?
-  Watch out for distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing important about the measure. Beware of half-truths.
-  Try to find out who is spending money to support or oppose the measure.

Choosing YES or NO on a Proposition

-  **YES** A **YES** vote means that you approve of the change a proposition would make.
-  **NO** A **NO** vote means that you want to leave things as they are now.

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Ballot Propositions

Proposition C: Limits to Campaign Spending and Rights of Corporations

The way it is NOW:

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a case known as *Citizens United* that since corporations are formed by individual people acting together, they have the same right as individual people to spend money to influence elections.

Many people would like the heart of the decision to be thrown out. But that can only happen if the Court changes its mind, or if the U.S. Constitution is changed by amendment. An amendment would require a constitutional convention or two-thirds votes of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, and then approval of three-quarters of the States.

IF Proposition C PASSES:

The voters would “instruct” their representatives in Congress and the State Legislature to work to change the U.S. Constitution to overrule the *Citizens United* decision.

The people would say that corporations should not have the constitutional rights of human beings, and that corporate spending to influence elections should not be protected by the Constitution.

Effect on the city budget:

None.

People FOR Proposition C say:

- ❖ This is as strong a step as the voters of Los Angeles can take to insist that Congress act to limit corporate spending on elections and artificial rights of corporations.
- ❖ Los Angeles elections are threatened by misguided Supreme Court rulings.

People AGAINST Proposition C say:

- ❖ It is too hard, and takes too long to pass a Constitutional amendment, and this proposition is only an advisory measure. There are better ways to address the issue of money in politics.
- ❖ The decision of the Supreme Court in *Citizens United* is correct.

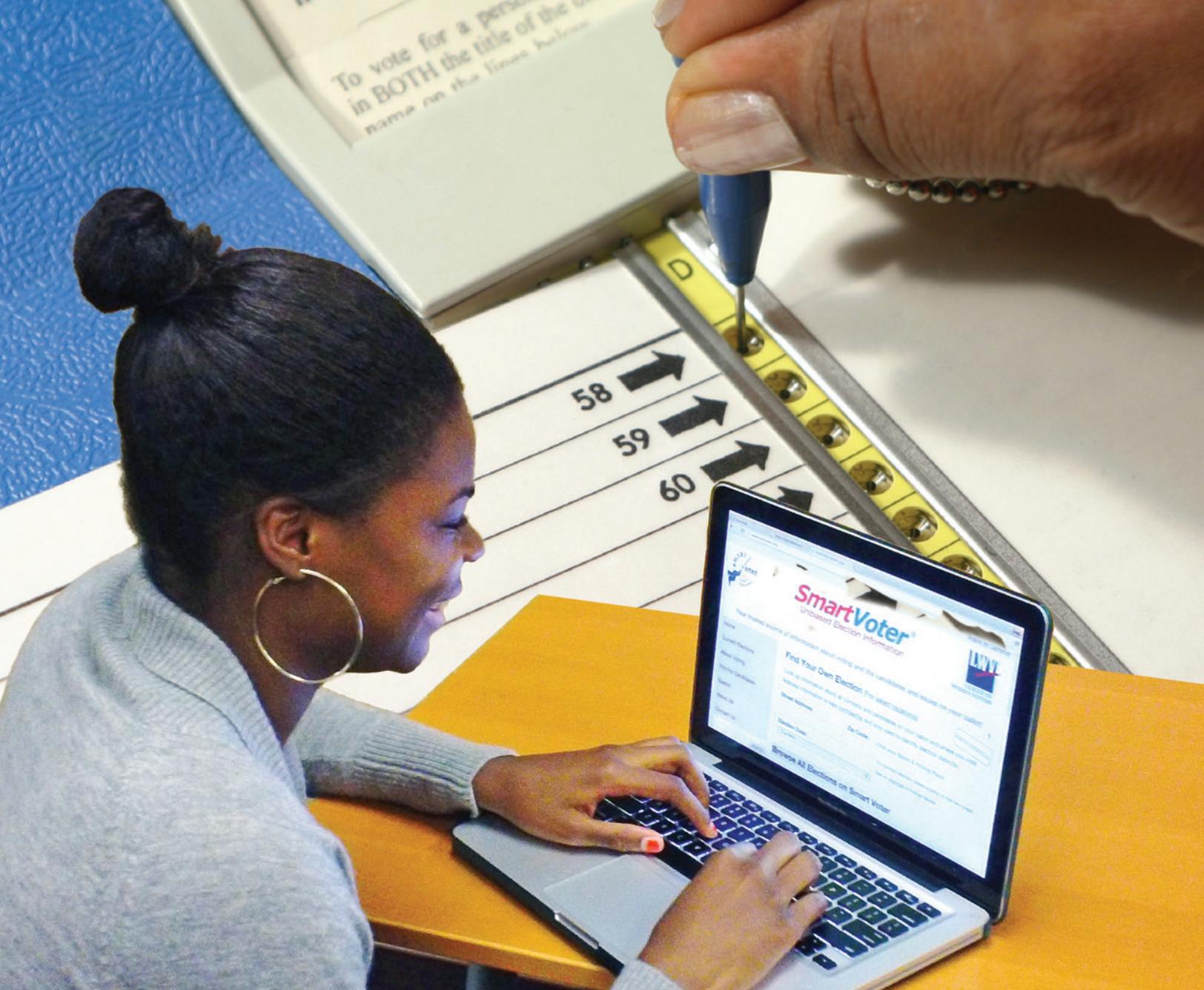
Proposition D and Initiative Ordinances E and F: Medical Marijuana Regulation and Taxation

Proposition D and **Initiative Ordinances E** and **F** are competing measures regarding the regulation of medical marijuana businesses in the City of Los Angeles. **If more than one of these measures passes** (simple majority vote required), only the one with the most votes will go into effect. **If none passes**, the City of Los Angeles will have no law regulating medical marijuana businesses.

The way it is NOW: Medical marijuana is legal in California, but illegal under federal law. Medical marijuana businesses pay the City of Los Angeles a city business tax of \$50 for each \$1,000 of sales. In 2012, these taxes brought in \$2.5 million for the city.

Proposition D and Initiative Ordinances E and F compared:

	Proposition D (City Council proposal)	Initiative Ordinance E (voter initiative)	Initiative Ordinance F (voter initiative)
What would the Proposition or Ordinance do?	Permits only businesses operating and in compliance since September 2007 (about 135 businesses).	Permits only businesses operating and in compliance since September 2007 (about 135 businesses).	Permits any registered business meeting requirements. No limit on the number of businesses.
Taxes	Increases tax from \$50 to \$60 per \$1,000 in sales.	No tax increase (remains \$50 per \$1,000 in sales).	Increases tax from \$50 to \$60 per \$1,000 in sales.
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana businesses must maintain a required distance from schools, parks, and other designated places; • The businesses must be separate from each other by 600 feet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana businesses must maintain a required distance from schools, parks, and other designated places; • No required distance from each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana businesses must maintain a required distance from schools, parks, and other designated places; • The businesses must be separate from each other by 500 feet.
Who is exempt from regulation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed healthcare facilities; • Groups of 3 or fewer patients growing for their own use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed healthcare facilities; • Groups of 5 or fewer patients growing for their own use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed healthcare facilities; • Non-commercial activity in dwellings zoned residential.
Effect on the city budget	• Reduced revenue from fewer taxed businesses; may be offset by higher tax rate, clients changing suppliers.	• Reduced revenue from fewer taxed businesses; may be offset by clients changing suppliers.	• Higher tax rates and new businesses would likely increase city revenues.
 People FOR say:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best way to regulate & tax marijuana businesses; • Allows access to medicine; • Protects neighborhoods. 	Sponsors of Initiative Ordinance E now endorse Proposition D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best way to regulate marijuana businesses; • Provides additional revenue; • Ensures safe, compassionate care.
 People AGAINST say:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal law bans marijuana sales; • May lead to increased crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal law bans marijuana sales; • May lead to increased crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal law bans marijuana sales; • May lead to increased crime.



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