

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Community Impact Statement Council File 20-0963 Neighborhood Council Elections

Dear Honorable Councilmembers of Los Angeles City Council:

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council suggests that if the 2021 Neighborhood Council elections take place, it provides stakeholders with a variety of ways to vote to ensure access and equity during this time. This includes City Clerk's proposition of Vote by mail with the recommendation of adding online and/or in-person voting. However, with the condition that the current voting requirements proposed by City Clerk not be included because they are not inclusive of all stakeholders.

We suggest that if elections take place next year, that stakeholders voting requirements remain consistent with former practices, such as self affirmation be sufficient for voting. The current proposed requirements of Photo ID, Proof of Age, and Proof of Stakeholder Status would not be inclusive and would deter stakeholders from registering and voting in the 2021 Neighborhood Council elections.

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council proposes and requests the cancellation of the 2021 Neighborhood Council elections for the following reasons:

Voting will not be inclusive of Stakeholders who are elderly, immigrants, homeless, displaced or have special needs to be able to vote by mail and provide proof of the requirements proposed.

Due to the current state of affairs, many individuals and families might not have the time, means, or energy to be involved in the 2021 elections.

Outreach cannot be achieved for Neighborhood Councils because we cannot hold public forums and online forums would exclude Stakeholders. Online outreach leaves a majority of stakeholders from accessing information due to digital inequity because many do not have wifi or computers to attend, register to vote, and vote.

Neighborhood Councils are providing ongoing service to our communities and can continue our work until 2023.

If 2021 elections are to be cancelled, we propose the reallocation of our election funds to food services and Covid-19 crisis support and relief measures for our stakeholders.

BHNC requests 2023 for the next Neighborhood Council Elections.

Thank you for your considerations,  
Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council