

CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
#2

For TUESDAY 12/15

RULES & ELECTIONS

RULE 16

09-1222-52

MOTION

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#52

The City Clerk over the last several months has been working diligently on the upcoming neighborhood council elections scheduled for 2010. The Clerk's office has hosted nine regional informational meetings throughout the city to discuss the upcoming elections and address concerns, questions and suggestions.

The City Clerk's staff has been working very closely with all 89 neighborhood councils to adopt elections procedures, election timelines, polling locations, boundary maps and other necessary documents to conduct a smooth, fair, open and transparent election process.

The City Council approved a number of recommendations by the City Clerk to efficiently and effectively conduct the 2010 NC elections. One recommendation included the limiting of the Vote By Mail (VBM) process. This action by the Council is one concern that has been raised by various neighborhood councils and stakeholders across the city from the very beginning has been the Clerk's decision to limit availability of the VBM process.

The Clerk's office has decided to only provide legally required VBM access for stakeholders who are physically unable to go to the polls due to a disability and who affirm under penalty of perjury that they fulfill the aforementioned criteria.

The City Clerk has stated that in order to provide VBM, that it must be made available to all NC's and not just a few to insure voter parity. The Clerk has estimated that it needs an additional \$ 450,000 to restore VBM.

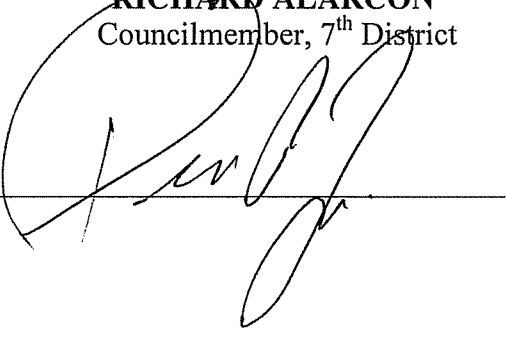
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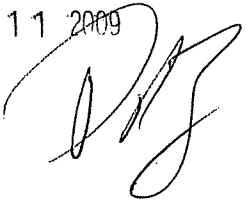
According to the City Clerk in the 2008 neighborhood council elections there were a total of 2,849 stakeholders or 37 % of the total voter turnout who exercised the use of VBM in 22 elections. If you extrapolate the percentage of VBM voters for the 89 elections you can approximate about a 30,000 - 35,000 voters who may exercise the option of VBM in 2010.

Given the importance that voting by mail has demonstrated in increasing voter turnout in local, state and federal elections.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Clerk to report back to the Council on Tuesday, December 15th on the steps necessary to fully restore the Vote By Mail option for the upcoming 2010 neighborhood council elections in time for the March 2, 2010 and subsequent elections.

PRESENTED BY 
RICHARD ALARCÓN
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY 

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ORIGINAL