

Next Neighborhood Council Elections May be Delayed until 2014

The Los Angeles City Clerk has said that the next Neighborhood Council Elections will be delayed until 2014 because there is no funding to conduct an election in 2012. The City Council removed the funding from its 2011-2012 budget to save money. If no Neighborhood Council election is held in 2012, the next available date for the City Clerk to hold an election would come in the Spring of 2014, extending the terms of current VNC Board Members by 2 years.

The removal of funds for a 2012 election is awkward for the City, since current statute requires that Neighborhood Council board member elections shall be held by the City Clerk: "during the months of March, April, May and June of each even-numbered year..." The City Council has asked the City Attorney to draft language cancelling the election in 2012; at the same time, the Council has requested the City Clerk to "report on an opt-out program whereby Neighborhood Councils would conduct their own elections."

The Venice Neighborhood Council is already on record supporting removal of elections from the City Clerk and returning them to the Neighborhood Councils because the amount of money they would charge NC's is projected to be over \$13,000.

At its September 28th Meeting, the VNC Rules and Elections Committee is tentatively scheduled to decide if a resolution should be brought to the VNC Board opposing the potential two year election delay. Several sample resolutions have been drafted requesting earlier elections and may be agendized for discussion at the September 28th meeting. These resolutions reflect the groundswell of concern building within the VNC and citywide regarding the possible delay to NC elections.