

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is profoundly shaped by its immigrant communities—more than 1.35 million Angelenos—who are inextricably linked to the City’s history, identity, culture, and accomplishments.

Yet the City’s immigrant communities remain under an unprecedented scale of attack from the federal government by way of violent raids and incarceration, family separation, loss of income due to fear of persecution, attempts to revoke birthright citizenship, travel bans, and billions of taxpayer dollars spent to execute targeted anti-immigrant actions.


While the City lacks the authority to fully halt the immigration enforcement actions of the presidential administration, the City does possess the ability, through Charter reform, to enfranchise and empower its immigrant population to participate in City and Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member elections.

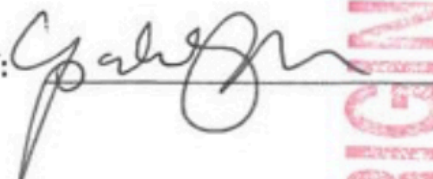
Historically, the expansion of voting eligibility to marginalized communities has strengthened democratic participation, fought systemic inequalities, and driven transformative change. Despite their many economic and cultural contributions, noncitizen Angelenos remain disenfranchised and underrepresented in the local elections and decisions that determine their quality of life. It is imperative that the City grant noncitizens the right to vote in the City they live in and significantly strengthen, to foster a more representative electorate.

The ongoing Charter Reform process (Council File: 26-0489) provides a timely avenue by which the City can enshrine the ability for this enfranchisement action to occur if prompted by Council ordinance.

Therefore, the City should amend its Charter to allow Council the option to expand voting eligibility to noncitizens that is limited to municipal and Board of Education elections.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present the documents necessary to place on the November 2026 ballot a measure that would amend the Charter to grant Council the ability to introduce an ordinance that would authorize noncitizens to vote in elections for City offices and for members of the Board of Education.

PRESENTED BY: 
 HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ
 Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL


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