

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

January 14 , 2026

Agenda Item # 8

Charter Amendment to Regulate Neighborhood Council Elections

The Westwood Neighborhood Council hereby moves to request that the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission recommend a Charter Amendment requiring that all Neighborhood Council (“NC”) elections be conducted under the same unified ballot, administration, and procedural standards as all other City of Los Angeles elections.

Los Angeles City Charter Amendment Proposal

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is currently undertaking Charter Reform to modernize local governance, strengthen democratic participation, and enhance public trust in municipal institutions;

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Councils serve as the foundational level of City government, providing vital input on community priorities and ensuring local representation within the City’s governance structure;

WHEREAS, current NC election processes—administered separately from City elections—use distinct timelines, rules, and procedures, resulting in confusion among stakeholders, reduced visibility, lower voter turnout, and inequitable access to the ballot;

WHEREAS, integrating NC elections with regular City elections would promote broader participation, reduce administrative duplication, and enhance public legitimacy by allowing voters to elect their NC representatives on the same ballot as City Council, Mayoral, and other municipal offices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council urges the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission and the Los Angeles City Council to support and adopt a Charter Amendment providing that:

(i) **Unified Ballot** – Neighborhood Council elections shall be conducted on the same ballot and schedule as City Council and other City offices, whether the election is held in person, by mail, or through any other City-approved voting method.

(ii) **Uniform Administration** – All administrative functions, including candidate qualification, voter registration, vote tabulation, and certification of results, shall be

subject to the same standards and oversight as other City elections, under the authority of the City Clerk.

(iii) **Localized Ballot Access** – Each voter’s ballot shall include only the Neighborhood Council corresponding to their residence or stakeholder eligibility area, ensuring both accessibility and integrity in the voting process.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council requests the Charter Reform Commission to recognize Neighborhood Councils as a formal component of the City’s representative democracy, ensuring that reforms to the City Charter preserve and strengthen the role of NCs in public engagement,