



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 21, 2009
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Voter Identification Initiatives
Attachments: 1. Vote SAFE Information
2. City of Beverly Hills 2009-10 Legislative Platform

INTRODUCTION

The City conducts all municipal elections according to procedures and regulations established by the County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

The LA County Registrar's Office is responsible for the registration of voters and the maintenance of voter files. Issues involving voting irregularities or fraud are under the jurisdiction of the LA County Registrar's Office, the District Attorney and State Attorney General, as appropriate.

Several states have enacted laws requiring every voter to present identification when voting at the polls. These state laws have been upheld by the United States Supreme Court. However, California State law does not allow municipalities or jurisdictions to enact voter identification provisions during any election, including municipal elections.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Krasne has requested that options be provided the City Council to support voter identification measures and to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Options available to the City Council to support voter identification initiatives include the following:

1. **Ballot Measures:** Signatures are currently being gathered in support of "Vote SAFE", a ballot initiative which would require voters to present identification when voting at the polls. This provision is modeled after the Indiana state law upheld by the United State Supreme Court.
2. **State Legislation:** SB 370 and AB 1415 were introduced in 2009 to require persons who wish to vote to provide proof of identification, among

other provisions. Both bills failed passage in committee in May, 2009; similar bills may be re-introduced during future legislative sessions.

3. Other: Direct staff to closely track any new legislation or statewide voter identification initiative and notify the Council when developments occur.

The City's current 2009-2010 Legislative Platform does not include a category on the topic of voter identification. Should the City Council express an interest in monitoring, supporting or affiliating with a voter identification initiative, the Legislative Platform can be expanded to include this topic.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to incorporate the topic of voter identification in the City's Legislative Platform, nor to monitor, support or affiliate with current or future legislative initiatives.

Should the State of California enact legislation that requires municipalities to develop or enforce voter identification, the City would incur additional staff costs to implement voter identification requirements during election years.

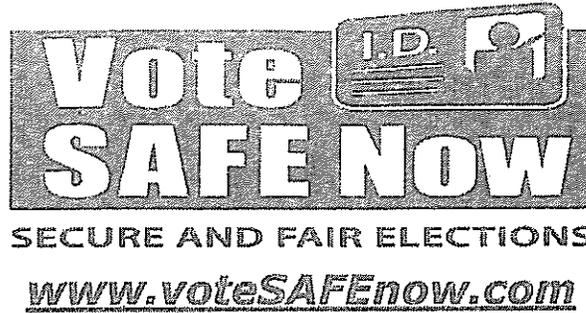
RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction from the City Council on the following:

- a) Add the issue of voter identification to the City's Legislative Platform to monitor developments and report back to the Legislative Committee and Council.
- b) Support or affiliate with current or future legislative initiatives.

Cheryl Friedling
Approved By

cf



Vote SAFE: Secure and Fair Elections

Voter ID Initiative June 2010 Primary Election

Summary:

Proposal is to take to the voters through the initiative process the traditional Republican ideal that voters ought to be able to authenticate that they are who they say they are when they exercise their right to vote. The proposal will shore up the integrity of our elections process.

Major Provisions:

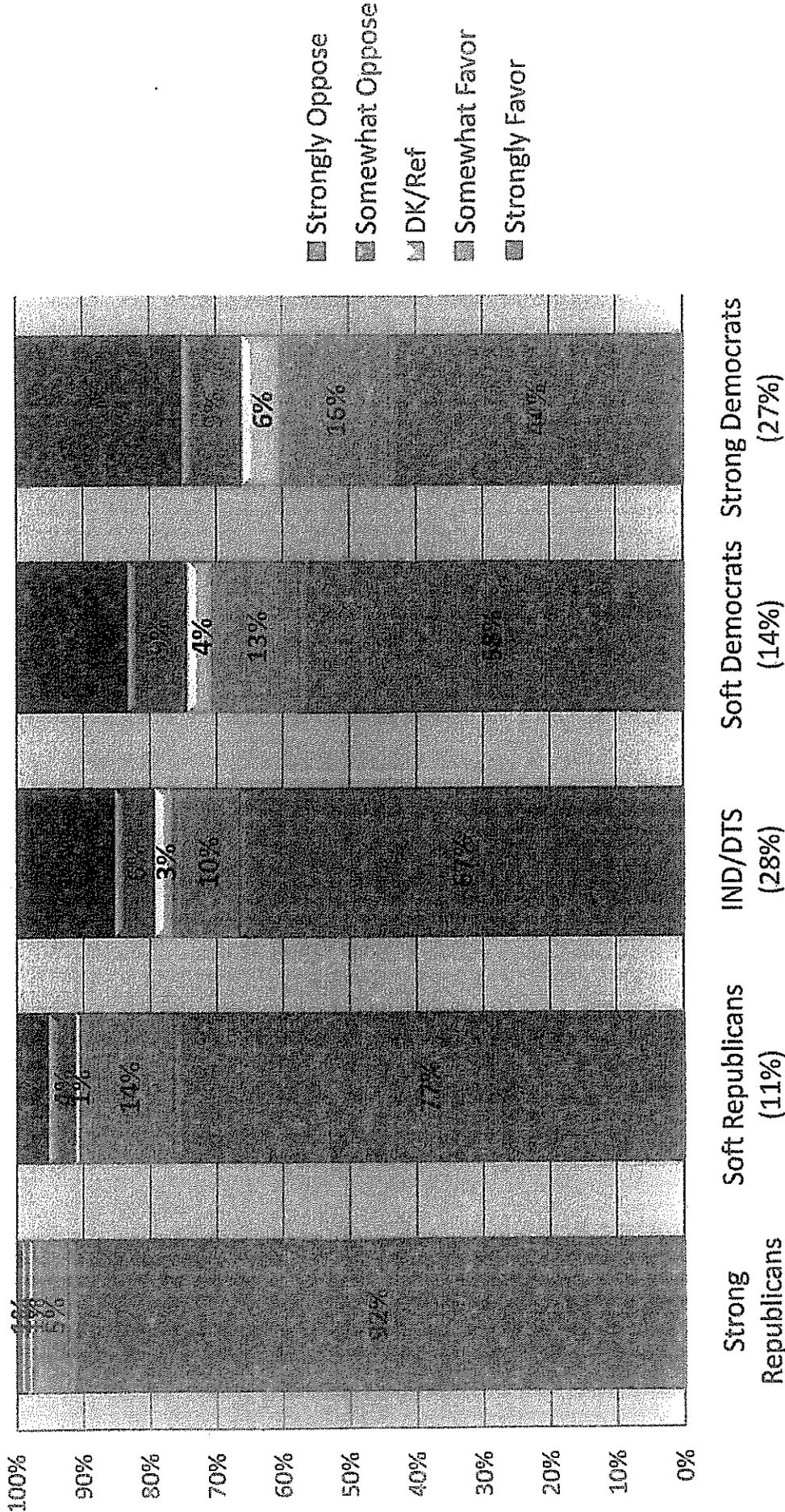
- **Voter Identification** – This provision is modeled after the Indiana law, upheld recently by the United States Supreme Court, that requires voters to present identification when voting at the polls. In addition, a Georgia statute with similar voter identification provisions was upheld in January of this year by a United States Court of Appeal.
- **Felony Disqualification** – Under existing law, convicted felons granted probation are eligible to vote the day after conviction. Felons sent to prison for the same offense must complete their sentences, including parole, before being entitled again to vote. This initiative will close this loophole by requiring completion of probation before voting. Eighteen states already require felons to complete probation before they vote.
- **Military Votes** – This provision will ensure that overseas military voters who legally cast their votes prior to the close of polls on Election Day will be accepted by county registrars for up to 21 days following the election. This will ensure that the votes of our military stationed in other countries are properly counted. Nineteen states already have a process for counting military ballots received after Election Day.
- **Absentee Ballot Voter Verification** – This final provision will ensure that voters casting their votes through absentee ballots shall have their signature and personal identification verified by the county elections officials. This will help defeat voter fraud while also protecting the identification information of the voter.

Author of Jessica's Law and Amber Alert, initiative proponent Senator George Runner represents the 17th Senate District and is a strong taxpayer advocate. For more information, please visit www.GeorgeRunner.com.

Paid for by the Committee for Secure and Fair Elections: Vote SAFE, with major funding by Taxpayers for George Runner, BOE 2 - Campaign ID #1317149

Even among strong Democrats the proposal draw majority support.

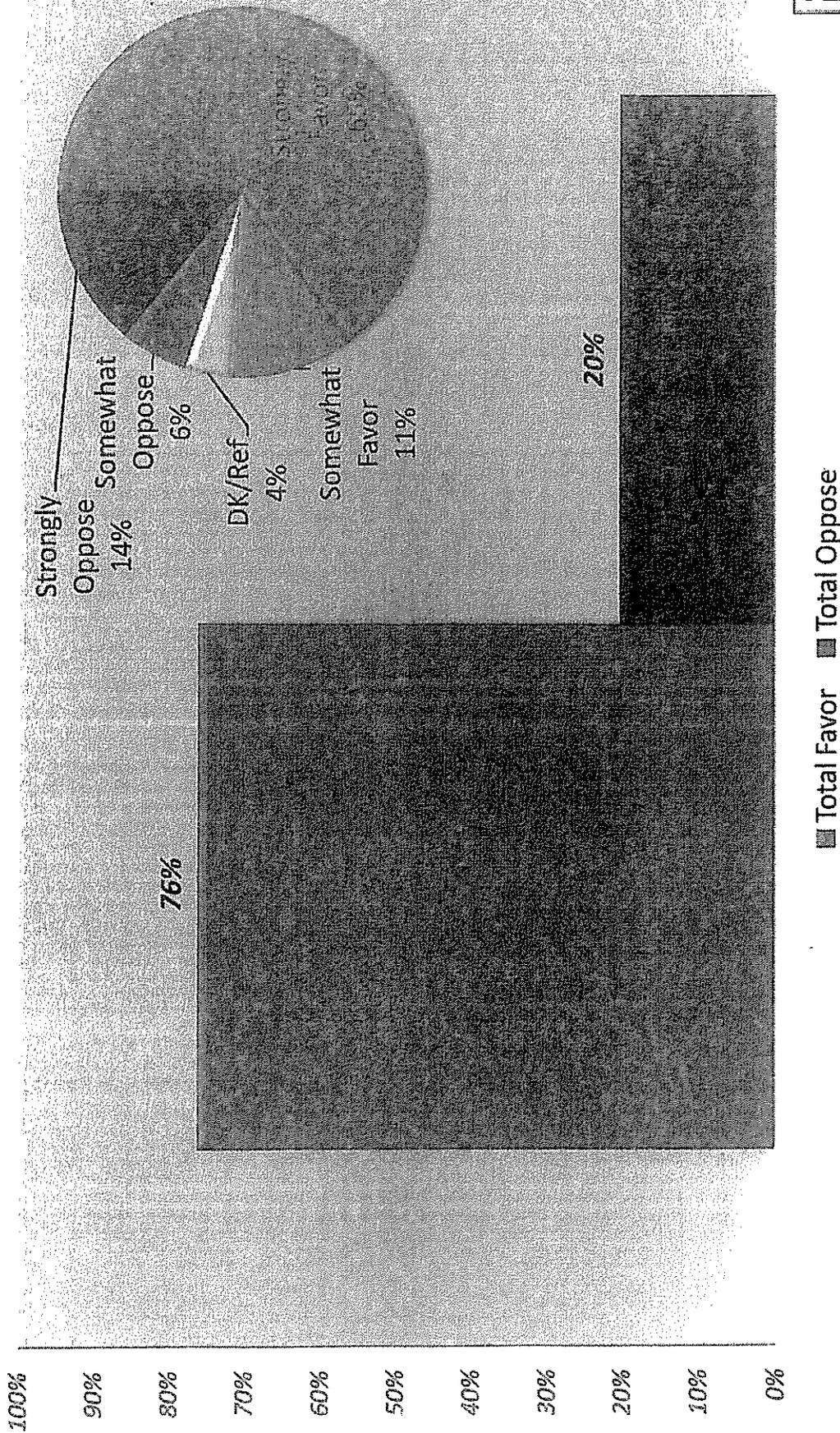
Q44. There is a proposal under consideration in California that would require that every voter show a valid photo ID to prove that they are a citizen and eligible to vote before they cast a vote in any election. Would you favor or oppose this requirement?





Voters overwhelmingly support the requirement of a valid photo ID in order to vote in any election. Two-thirds of voters strongly favor the requirement.

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City of Beverly Hills
2009 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Platform Overview

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills.

The City's primary legislative focus includes protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, obtaining funding for environmental sustainability, transportation and infrastructure improvements.

The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the City to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Local Control

Advocate legislation that maintains and enhances local control of resources and tools that allow cities to address the needs of constituents locally and within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of federal and state incentives for local government action rather than mandates (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.

Fiscal Initiatives

Maintain the protections provided by Proposition 1A (November 2004 State election), promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and oppose unfunded State mandates. Pursue funding opportunities for public facilities and services including capital improvement projects, public works projects, library, parks (construction and renovation), recreational and social service facilities.

Direct staff and advocacy resources toward identifying grant and financial resource opportunities, positioning the City to obtain resources for transportation, homeland security, water and sewer projects, and parks and recreation, among others.

Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security

Support efforts, strategies and legislation that promotes emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. Advocate for ICIS (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations. Support funding opportunities for UNITE local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations. Seek grants, and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security priorities.

Housing and Land Use

Pursue incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements. Prioritize funding for necessary infrastructure. Emphasize local control related to land use planning.

Transportation

Support state and federal legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile and pedestrian traffic, including issues related to photo speed radar enforcement, traffic congestion reduction programs and regional transportation improvements. Initiatives also include funding for Beverly Hills, the extension of the Westside "Subway to the Sea" and the Westside Cities' regional priorities such as the Expo light rail and the Robertson/I-10 intersection.

Environmental Sustainability

Advocate for cost-effective, sustainable, and responsible environmental policy and programs in the areas of energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, climate change, potable water, wastewater, solid waste removal and storm water, among others.

Community Services

Support legislation related to the Internet and filtering in public facilities, funding for literacy and English-as-a-second language programs and protection against censorship and restriction of free speech. Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades. Promote legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at-risk populations such as the frail elderly, homeless, disabled and other challenged populations.

Public Health

Continue to promote legislation that enhances the health of the general population, with an emphasis on programs that focus on youth, the elderly and at-risk populations. Monitor opportunities to expand the City's 'Fresh Air Dining' ordinance to other communities or through state legislation.