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## Important: Information on NC Option to Change to Selection Update

1 message

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EmpowerLA <empowerla@lacity.org>  
Reply-To: empowerla@lacity.org  
To: NC-NoHoWestNC <nc-nohowestnc@lacity.org>

Thu, Oct 31, 2024 at 3:56 PM

Dear Neighborhood Council Leaders,

On Tuesday, October 29, the Office of the City Clerk sent out communications announcing that in response to concerns raised about the Vote-By-Mail (VBM) only election model, Neighborhood Councils will have an opportunity to change from an election to a selection process for the 2025 election cycle.

This decision is **entirely up to the Neighborhood Council**. Neighborhood Councils **are not required** to change from election to selection, or vice versa. If your Neighborhood Council is not interested in making any changes to your voting process, **no action is needed – your Neighborhood Council does not need to hold a vote to participate in the election process if elections are already in your bylaws.**

We wanted to provide some additional information to help your Neighborhood Council decide if selections are right for your community and share steps to take if your Neighborhood Council would like to move forward with the selection model for the 2025 election cycle.

### **What is a Selection?**

**Selection** is a town hall-style process that Neighborhood Councils can use to seat their Governing Board or Board of Directors for a new term. Selections **are not the same as appointments**. Community stakeholders vote in a selection process at an in-person town hall-style event for the candidates they would like to serve on the Neighborhood Council. The primary distinction between voting models for elections and selections is that voters need to include their names when casting their votes during the selection process.

### **How Does the Selection Process Work?**

The entire selection process happens over a 90-day period. To set the framework for the selection process the Neighborhood Council will complete a [Selection Procedures Stipulation Worksheet](#) form to determine the stakeholder verification and vote count methods. Additionally, the Neighborhood Council is responsible for composing a *Selection Outreach Plan* that is reviewed and approved by EmpowerLA. The outreach plan is to be executed for no less than 30 days before selection. Interested candidates apply on a Neighborhood Council-developed application that must be open to the public. Within 20 days of the selection, information about the process and candidates must be shared at the Neighborhood Council's posting location(s).

During the selection, a Neutral Third Party (NTP) selected and vetted by the Neighborhood Council will administer the selection process. The NTP must not be a member of the board or its committees, nor a candidate, and will not vote in the selection. The NTP will not be a staff member of EmpowerLA. During

the selection, they will make sure each candidate has equal time to make a statement and respond to two minutes of questions each, as well as conduct the vote for each candidate. Should all seats up for election be uncontested and/or have no candidates running, the NTP will hold a Board Affirmation town hall instead of a selection at the Neighborhood Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

**How Are Elections and Selections Different?** While there are a number of similarities between selections and elections, there are also some critical differences. Please review the [attached tool](#) that explores these similarities and differences.

### **How To Adopt Selections**

If your Neighborhood Council would like to discuss and possibly take action on changing from elections to selections starting with the 2025 Neighborhood Council Election cycle, please agendaize the item at a regular or special board meeting. The motion will need to pass with a simple majority. Be sure to fill out the attached 2025 Selection Procedure Stipulation Worksheet and take a board vote. Board action must be taken and the stipulation worksheet must be completed before the following regional deadlines:

**Region 11:** Tuesday November 12, 2024

**Region 12:** Friday November 15, 2024

**Region 9:** Friday November 22, 2024

**Region 10:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024

**Region 5:** Friday December 6, 2024

**Region 6:** Friday December 13, 2024

**Region 7:** Friday December 20, 2024

**Region 8:** Friday, December 27, 2024

**Region 1:** Friday, January 3, 2025

**Region 2:** Friday, January 10, 2025

**Region 3:** Friday, January 24, 2025

**Region 4:** Friday, January 31, 2025

If you are unsure which regional deadline applies to your Neighborhood Council, can find your Neighborhood Council's service region [here](#).

***If your Neighborhood Council does not have a regular board meeting scheduled prior to your regional deadline and would like to take this option under consideration, please plan to schedule a special board meeting,***

The Department will be supporting outreach efforts for both elections and selections, as we want to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible hear about the Neighborhood Council. We will do this in collaboration with you.

We value your dedication to engaging stakeholders and ensuring a smooth election or selection process for your Neighborhood Council. Your proactive approach in adapting to recent changes will foster transparency and community participation. If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate.

[Reference to 10/29/24 City Clerk e-mail]

<b>Subject</b>	Important - Option to Change to Selection
<p>Dear Neighborhood Council Board Members,</p> <p>We are writing to address concerns received from board members regarding the use of the all Vote-By-Mail election model to conduct the upcoming 2025 Neighborhood Council (NC) Elections. As mentioned to NCs previously, the Office of the City Clerk did not receive funding to conduct at-poll elections. As such, there will be no at-poll elections during the 2025 election cycle. However, in response to requests made to use a different voting model, NCs will have an opportunity to change from an election to a selection process for the 2025 election cycle. Please note, this change will require board action. EmpowerLA will provide additional information and steps for making the change from election to selection.</p> <p>The Office of the City Clerk will not be involved in the selection process. If a NC votes to proceed with the change, it cannot revert back to an election during the 2025 cycle.</p> <p>Since this change impacts candidate filing, any changes must be communicated to our office no later than (insert due date).</p> <p>If you have any questions or need further assistance, reach out to your NEA.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	

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