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## Reminder on Political Activity and Candidate Materials

1 message

**EmpowerLA** <empowerla@lacity.org>

Fri, May 22, 2026 at 1:44 PM

Reply-To: empowerla@lacity.org

To: NC-PRNC &lt;nc-prnc@lacity.org&gt;

Neighborhood Councils play a crucial role in inspiring local civic engagement. As the trusted messengers in your community, stakeholders look to you for information and resources. This is especially true during election season. As a result, EmpowerLA is providing you with a supportive framework to help you better support community outreach. Neighborhood Councils are uniquely positioned to foster civic participation and should remain nonpartisan community leaders. The Department would like to remind Neighborhood Councils that Neighborhood Council meetings, official communications, and Neighborhood Council-sponsored events must remain neutral with respect to candidates for public office and ballot measures unless otherwise authorized by law.

Neighborhood Councils must not use Neighborhood Council resources, meeting agendas and locations, events, social media platforms, mailing lists, logos, city assets, or public funds to support, oppose, or otherwise take a position on candidates, campaigns, ballot measures, or political parties. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Distribution of campaign literature or promotional materials for candidates;
- Candidate endorsements by the board acting in its official capacity;
- Campaigning or solicitation during official Neighborhood Council meetings or Neighborhood Council-sponsored events; and
- Use of Neighborhood Council communication platforms to advocate for or against candidates.

Neighborhood Councils may, however, conduct neutral and equitable voter education activities, such as candidate forums or informational events, provided they are conducted in a fair and nonpartisan manner with equal access for all qualified candidates. Neighborhood Councils are also permitted to share nonpartisan educational resources and materials, including but not limited to voter registration information, election deadlines, ballot box and polling locations, and election results, provided the resources and materials are from a nonpartisan government department or agency and do not advocate for or against any candidate or measure.

Individual board members retain their personal First Amendment rights outside of their official Neighborhood Council roles to express their personal political views and/or endorsements. Board members may not express their personal political views or endorsements in their capacity as a

Neighborhood Council Board Member or on behalf of the Neighborhood Council at any public setting, whether in-person or online.

To support your Neighborhood Council in navigating voter education and political activity during election season, we recommend reviewing the following resources:

- [Hosting Candidate Forum Guidelines](#): guidance and recommendations for Neighborhood Councils on hosting or administering nonpartisan candidate forums
- [Neighborhood Council Digital Communications Policy](#): policy regarding permissible and prohibited content Neighborhood Councils can share on digital communications platforms, including but not limited to social media, websites, and newsletters
- [California Secretary of State Elections and Voter Information](#): nonpartisan resources on voter registration, voting options, voter education, and voter outreach
- [Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters](#): nonpartisan resources on voter registration, interactive sample ballots, vote center locations, election results, and voter outreach
- [City of Los Angeles Office of the City Clerk](#): nonpartisan resources on municipal elections, voter outreach, multilingual voter services, and Neighborhood Council elections

If the Neighborhood Council is found in violation of this policy, the Department and/or the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners may take corrective action, including requests to remove prohibited materials or activities and review of the Neighborhood Council's compliance with applicable policies regarding the use of public resources.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping maintain public trust and neutrality throughout the election process. Please contact your Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate if you have any questions.

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**Department of Neighborhood Empowerment**

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[EmpowerLA.org](http://EmpowerLA.org)



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