

RESOLUTION

FEB 20 2009

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature agreed Thursday on a revised 2008-09 Budget, 105 days after the Governor declared a state of fiscal emergency and asked both parties to come together and quickly adopt a new Budget; and

WHEREAS, current year deficit had grown to \$9.45 Billion over the first half of the fiscal year and the State had been reduced to issuing IOUs to contractors and had recently issued layoff notices to 10,000 workers with the possibility of adding 10,000 more; and

WHEREAS, the 2008-09 Budget itself was passed 85 days after the June 15 date mandated by the State Constitution, a record; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the State to pass its budget on-time year after year and our descent into near financial chaos this year are a result of the two-thirds majority vote requirement to pass a budget; and

WHEREAS, only two other states (Arkansas and tiny Rhode Island) require a super-majority to pass a budget, which as the recent budget standoff in Sacramento has made starkly clear, empower the minority political party to exercise inordinate control; and

WHEREAS, more than 70% of the members of the State legislatures of Arkansas and Rhode Island are of the same party, so they do not have the same issues passing a budget as California, where Democrats need three Republican votes in each house; and

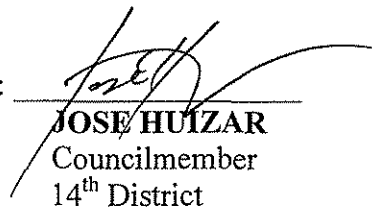
WHEREAS, the voters of the State recently voted to adopt Proposition 11, which will change the way that political districts are drawn, and as a condition of obtaining the necessary votes in the State Senate to pass the budget revision will be asked to vote on another proposal to allow for open primaries in all state elections; and

WHEREAS, a recent statewide poll by the Public Policy Institute of California found that a majority of likely voters would support lowering the vote threshold to pass a budget to 55%, the same percentage that voters in 2000 agreed to lower for school construction bonds; and


WHEREAS, two initiatives are currently in circulation for signatures that would reduce the vote threshold required to adopt a State Budget from two-thirds to 55%.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for any initiative or referendum that would reduce the vote threshold required to pass a State Budget from the current two-thirds to a lesser amount.

PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember
14th District

SECONDED BY:


ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember
13th District

ORIGINAL

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