

INSIDE POLITICS

(EXCERPT)

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10 Candidates Are From Neighborhood Councils

When voters agreed four years ago to create elected neighborhood councils throughout Los Angeles, some pundits predicted that the advisory panels would be breeding grounds for future mayors and city council members.

That was borne out last week.

Ten of the 79 candidates who filed papers to run for city office came from Los Angeles' neighborhood councils.

City Atty. Rocky Delgadillo's only challenger is Etan Lorant, a member of the West Hills Neighborhood Council, while 9th District Councilwoman Jan Perry faces competition from Bella De Soto and Edward "Eddie" Reyes, who came from the Vernon/Main Neighborhood Council, and Annette Jeffries, vice president of the Vermont Harbor Neighborhood Council.

Two of the challengers to 1st District Councilman Ed Reyes are Jesus "Jesse" Rosas of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council and Stephen Sarinana-Lampson of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council.

Eddie Reyes, a middle school teacher, recently resigned as president of the Vernon/Main council so he could devote more time to the campaign for City Council.

"Neighborhood councils bring a democracy to the doorstep of people like myself," Reyes said. "It gives us pride and ownership over what happens in our community."

Reyes said his leadership on the panel allowed him to make many friends and contacts in the community that he hopes will now help him unseat Perry.

"It's a great network," he said of the people he met.

Perry appears unfazed by the challenges spawned by the network of 83 neighborhood councils she helped set up.

"Everybody's got a right to run," she said. "It's promoting the growth of democracy."

