

## Los Angeles Daily News

Claims denied over Arleta panel election

By James Nash

Staff Writer

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ARLETA -- The League of Women Voters has rejected a series of challenges that a Panorama City man filed against the election of the Arleta Neighborhood Council.

Ron Woods, who helped organize the advisory neighborhood council but did not run in its May 17 election, claimed the polling was tainted by technical violations including failures to ensure secret ballots, to specify the age of the youth representative on the council, to translate election materials into Tagalog and to distribute them throughout the council's area.

The Los Angeles chapter of the League of Women Voters, in a report paid for by the city's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, concluded that Woods' challenges had little merit and that the election results should stand.

While the league's report was intended as the final word on the election, Woods said he doesn't accept the findings because the league officials didn't thoroughly investigate his charges.

"I don't think (league officials) are qualified" to judge the election, Woods said.

"Their report doesn't mean anything; there's nothing definitive about it."

Julie Rajan, the league's executive director, said the league did all the research necessary to support its conclusions.

"It's very difficult for some stakeholders to recognize that this is not a federal election," she said. "It's a small neighborhood election that's done by volunteers."

James Nash, (818) 713-3722 [james.nash@dailynews.com](mailto:james.nash@dailynews.com)