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Arleta election flaws charged *Challenge targets local council poll*

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ARLETA -- A Panorama City man on Thursday filed a formal challenge to last weekend's election of the Arleta Neighborhood Council, alleging a series of technical violations by city officials that tainted the vote.

Ron Woods, who served on the formation committee for the Arleta Neighborhood Council, forwarded his 11 challenges of the advisory panel's election to the Los Angeles chapter of the League of Women Voters, which was designated as the administrator of Saturday's election.

Among other things, Woods alleges that the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment failed to print election materials in Tagalog for Filipinos in the area, that it failed to post election results in one of five agreed-upon places and that it changed some of the election rules without consulting people in the community.

"It doesn't matter whether you're playing football, hockey or baseball; there's rules and once you throw out those rules there's anarchy," said Woods, who did not run in the election.

Greg Nelson, the DONE general manager, said he could not comment on the specific charges because the Arleta Neighborhood Council's formation committee agreed that the League of Women Voters would forward the challenge to his staff for a ruling. But Nelson said the DONE staff could not arbitrarily change the election rules by itself; it could only recommend changes to the formation committee.

In his challenge letters, Woods wrote that the various violations of election procedure add up to a flawed election that needs to be held again. Woods said two other members of the formation committee agreed with him.