

## Neighborhood councils

Hats off to the Daily News for its continuing coverage of the L.A. charter reform issue. Your "Getting real" editorial (Sept. 2) on charter reform was right on in identifying neighborhood councils as a key component of the reform issue.

As president of the Studio City Residents Association, a large and active group that fights to give our community a voice at City Hall, we have achieved significant results in spite of numerous challenges inherent in a process that encourages confrontation, not compromise. One can only imagine what might be achieved if communities are truly empowered through the creation of neighborhood councils.

The structure of these councils is still an open issue, but our experience tells us that all stake-holders, residents and businesses alike, need to have a voice at the community level to achieve the best results.

Elected neighborhood councils, supported with city resources and established as mandatory review boards with advisory powers for all issues with community impact, including land-use, transportation, crime and safety, and the city budget, could wield tremendous power and influence. Just look at what residents groups like SCRA achieve today outside the process.

As stated in your editorial, neighborhood empowerment is an issue that could make or break charter reform. The structure of neighborhood councils could also determine the future of groups like the SCRA.

— Tony Lucente  
President

Studio City Residents Association