

## ELECTION COVERAGE

# Voters to Council: Settle In

■ **Extension of term limits for Councilmembers is one of the results of the big November election. Election had other ramifications for City employees.**

**CITY COUNCIL** — City Councilmembers can now be elected to three terms instead of two, as a result of Proposition R, passed by City voters in the midterm elections Nov. 7.

Proposition R also redefines some ethics issues, which was seen as a way the Proposition could carry the relaxation of term limits. Some of these ethics reforms may be in conflict with the City's Ethics Commission. This issue remains unresolved at press time.

The Proposition, which allows members to serve three four-year terms instead of two, passed with a 59 percent majority.

Seven of the 15 Councilmembers would have faced the end of their Council careers in 2009 without the extension afforded by Proposition R. Those include Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Ed Reyes. They now can remain in office potentially until 2013, giving them time to assess their next career steps.

In other Proposition news, Proposition J, which makes technical changes to the Fire Department's in-force Proposition F, passed with

a 76 percent majority. Proposition J allows fire stations to be built on smaller lots.

In sadder news for those City Employees who are struggling to find affordable housing, Proposition H, a bond measure that would have spurred on construction of rental units and made affordable housing more within reach of many, failed to attain the required two-thirds majority. It garnered a 62-percent majority, which fell short.

But the slate of statewide bond issues, which all passed, could prove a windfall for ongoing and expensive City works projects.

Among the City projects that could benefit from a direct infusion of cash from the state bond measures:

- The City's street light coordination effort (see related story);
- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's dream to build a Metro extension under Wilshire Boulevard to the ocean;
- Efforts to reconstruct the Los Angeles River;
- The mayor's million-tree initiative;
- Significant freeway improvement projects (managed by CalTrans);
- Significant mass transit initiatives;
- Water storage and reclamation projects;
- Cargo management efforts at the Harbor; and
- Affordable housing initiatives.

**Wanna share your thoughts on the past election?** Write a letter to the editor: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



Eric Garcetti



Wendy Greuel



Ed Reyes

## In Sync

**Transportation continues addressing that old commuter bugaboo, synchronized lights. State bond funds could help complete the effort.**



**TRANSPORTATION** — On Nov. 2, the City unveiled its latest effort to synchronize its traffic lights by announcing the completion of the 405/San Diego Freeway Corridor Traffic Signal Synchronization System Project.

This new synchronized traffic signal system — bounded by Van Nuys Boulevard, Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Nobel Avenue/Kester Avenue and Vanowen Street — stretches 8.5 square miles from Van Nuys through Panorama City and encompasses 71 traffic signals. With the system improvements, commuter travel times are estimated to reduce by 24 percent, and traveling speeds are estimated to increase by 32 percent.

The completion of this traffic light synchronization system puts the City one step closer to synchronizing 100 percent of the traffic signals throughout the City.

The 405/San Diego Traffic Signal Synchronization project is an ATSC (Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control) system, a computer-based traffic signal control system that monitors traffic

conditions. Through the ATSC system, Transportation staff will be able to monitor (via camera) traffic conditions, and manually change signal timing from its operation center located in Los Angeles.

Other benefits of the ATSC system include the reduction of fuel use, emission of air pollutants and intersection delay.

LADOT will continue to develop and construct ATSC system and other traffic improvements throughout the entire City. Future ATSC system projects include Exposition Park, Westchester and Mid-Wilshire.

Since January, Transportation has identified 100 of the most clogged intersections as part of Operation Bottleneck, its traffic congestion relief initiative.

Rush-hour delays have been reduced up to 78 percent at a third of the worst cross-streets in Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley, Crenshaw and on the Westside, according to the Los Angeles Times.

## City of Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation & Parks PERSHING SQUARE DOWNTOWN ON ICE



### Holiday Concert & Event Schedule

#### LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Tuesday / Thursday  
Selected Holiday Weekdays  
Nov. 16 - Jan. 15 (12-2:00pm)

#### GLIDE IN MOVIES

Weds. Nights Dec. - Jan. (7-9pm)

#### SPACELAND ON ICE

Thurs. Nights Dec. - Jan. (8-10pm)

#### FREEZE ZONE

Fri. Nights Nov. - Jan. (8-10pm)

#### YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Sat Nov. - Jan. (2-4pm)

#### SWING CONCERTS

Sun Nov. - Jan. (2-4pm)

#### WINTER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Dec. 8, 9, 10

Free Entertainment, Tree Decorating,

Make and Take Children's Crafts

Fri. Teen Night (7-10pm)

Sat/Sun (11am-7pm)

- Open 7 days/week, Nov. 16, 2006 - Jan 15, 2007
- Open Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day
- \$6 Skate Session, \$2 Skate Rental
- Convenient Underground Parking
- Discounted Parking with Ice Skating Validation

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