



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, October 8, 2010**

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Voter Empowerment Workshops: Making Community Voices Count

LOS ANGELES, CA –Recent corruption scandals and governance woes that have rocked the city of Bell have had a significant impact on citizen trust in government; not only in the City of Bell, but also in surrounding communities. Voter confidence in our democratic processes may have also suffered. With the November 2nd General Election less than a month away, a wide collection of national, state, and local non-partisan community-based organizations and government agencies have joined together to help restore voter confidence in the process by coordinating a number of community workshops. These “Voter Empowerment Workshops” are designed to ensure that community members in Bell and surrounding cities have access to information about the election and can also raise any concerns concerning the integrity of the election.

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles, California Common Cause, California Participation Project, and the NALEO Educational Fund all have the common mission of facilitating civic participation through informed communities, and they are excited to come together to further this cause through collaborative effort. The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member, Yolie Flores have also partnered in the effort, demonstrating great collaboration between government and the community.

Voters will receive information about where to access non-partisan information about the candidates and propositions on the November ballot. Workshops will also clarify voting procedures, explain voting rights, and answer common voter questions. As the chief Elections Official this election, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office will be on hand to assist voters with questions about registering to vote, Voting By Mail and at the polls.

When: Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 10 am

**Where: South Region Middle School No. 2
6411 Orchard Ave., Bell, CA 90201**

The City of Bell workshop is open to all voters in Southeast Los Angeles County. This is the first in a series of workshops leading up to the election. Voter Empowerment Workshops have also been scheduled in the cities of Compton and South Gate.

The strength of our democratic system is in large part measured by citizen participation. Voting in elections is the most direct way to participate in this process. California will elect both a U.S. Senator and a Governor this November, plus a host of local representatives, as well as decide on a series of ballot propositions. As such, it is important that voters in all communities know that their vote counts and that elections should be conducted in a fair, accessible, and transparent manner. The workshop organizers hope that bringing communities together will help ensure that.

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