



City of La Verne

NEWS RELEASE

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March 5, 2024, Election Update Due to Lack of Nominees, City Council Unanimously Appoints Council Members Crosby and Lau to Additional Term in Office

LA VERNE, CA – In accordance with §10229 of the California Elections Code, due to only one nominee per open City Council District, the City Council appointed Council Member Rick Crosby and Council Member Wendy Lau to the District 2 and 5 City Council positions, respectively. With this action, and per the Elections Code, the Council also unanimously canceled the upcoming municipal election scheduled for March 5, 2024.

The decision follows the adoption of a resolution in October calling for a General Municipal Election to elect two members to the City Council, the publication of the openings, and a social media effort to advertise the two available positions. During the nomination period from November 13 to December 8, only the two current Council Members filed nomination papers.

After careful deliberation and hearing from the public at the Monday, December 18, 2023, City Council Meeting, the City Council determined that canceling the election and appointing the two Council Members was the legal and reasonable action to take. The two members will be sworn in for their new terms at the April 1, 2024, City Council meeting. This is the fifth time in La Verne's history that an election has been canceled and Council Members were appointed to a subsequent term. Previous City Council Members were appointed to offices in 1996, 2006, 2010, and 2012 at-large Council elections.

This decision ensures the efficient use of taxpayer dollars by redirecting approximately \$50,000 to other priority projects. "We listened to our residents, both for and against this action, including concerns regarding district voting, which I voted against in 2021, but ultimately this decision is centered around the fact that this is an uncontested election," shared Mayor Tim Hepburn. "It is in the City's fiscal interest to appoint Crosby and Lau to serve another term and these appointments are a testament to Council Members Crosby and Lau, and to the whole Council, as we effectively represent our districts and demonstrate our combined dedication to the City. It's time for us to look forward and focus on continuing our collaboration in governing the City."

In a joint statement, Council Members Rick Crosby and Wendy Lau expressed their gratitude, saying, "We are honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve another term. Our commitment to this community remains unwavering, and we will continue to work for the betterment of our City. Together, as a united Council representing all residents, we will actively pursue avenues for positive steps forward, ensuring La Verne remains a vibrant and thriving community."

Residents will still receive a ballot for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Ballots will cover national, state, and regional matters. For more information on the election, please visit lavote.gov.

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