

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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AND JANICE HAHN

Proclaiming September 17, 2023 as Citizenship Day in Los Angeles County

On September 17, 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia. While the bounds of citizenship at this time were limited, the history of the United States is a history of struggling to expand the rights and privileges of citizenship to those groups that were left out by the Constitution — a history of millions of immigrants and their children becoming citizens of this nation, bringing with them their cultures, cuisine, and languages that have enriched our national character.

Since 1941, the United States has federally observed Citizenship Day to celebrate those that have become naturalized citizens of the United States. In 2004, the holiday was moved from the third Sunday of May to September 17 and renamed “Constitution and Citizenship Day” to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution as well.

This day recognizes both the importance of the U.S. Constitution and the efforts and contributions of immigrants who have become naturalized citizens. The naturalization process can take years and requires passing a citizenship interview and

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exam. To pass the exam, individuals must take the time and effort to study to be able to answer questions on topics from U.S. history, government, and civics.

There are over 3.3 million immigrants in Los Angeles County (County), making up more than a third of the County's population. Of them, 53.8% - more than 1.8 million – are naturalized U.S. citizens. On Citizenship Day, the County should celebrate the efforts of these individuals who have become naturalized citizens, as well as their contributions to the County and country.

The Los Angeles County Library has planned events during the week of Citizenship Day in which individuals can create their own U.S. Flag, take practice Citizenship Exams, and learn about the resources County Libraries offer to those studying or considering applying to become a U.S. Citizen. To celebrate the County's 1.8 million naturalized citizens and to promote County resources for those looking to become citizens, it is essential that the County recognize Citizenship Day and uplift these events across its workforce and population.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim September 17, 2023 as Citizenship Day to celebrate those who have become naturalized citizens and the signing of the U.S. Constitution,
2. Direct all County Departments to promote, to both their employees and customers, County Library and any other County-sponsored events celebrating Citizenship Day.

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