

# Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7 2180 Milvia Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704 PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 7, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Support SB 240: Require Polling Places on Higher Education Campuses

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Support SB 240: Require Polling Places on Higher Education Campuses.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Senator Leland Yee sponsored Senate Bill 240 which would require polling places on all University of California and California State University campuses. California Community Colleges would not be required to establish polling places but could opt to if it was deemed convenient for voters. SB 240 received early bipartisan support under the condition that the bill's provisions apply to all "statewide general and primary elections conducted by a county, or city and county."

Typically, student voter turnout has been low, under 20%, though it has gradually increased over the past couple of years primarily due to conveniently located polling locations and new technologies for voter registration. Requiring polling places on campuses, not just near or close by, would make voting easier for students and further increase student turnout.

Though SB 240 would have little effect on the City of Berkeley, which already includes polling places on UC Berkeley campus, it would set a statewide standard for increasing civic engagement amongst the 650,000 students currently enrolled in the UC and CSU systems.

For more information on SB 240: <a href="http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb\_0201-0250/sb\_240\_bill\_20130411\_amended\_sen\_v98.htm">http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb\_0201-0250/sb\_240\_bill\_20130411\_amended\_sen\_v98.htm</a>

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

## **CONTACT PERSON**:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170 Derek McDonald 510-981-7170