



**ERIC
GARCETTI**
President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



200 N. Spring St. Room 470 • Los Angeles • CA 90012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2006

Contact: Josh Kamensky (213) 473-7013
Mayor: Diana Rubio (213) 978 0741

GARCETTI, MAYOR TEACH “GOVERNMENT 101” MORE THAN 100 ANGELENOS OF ALL AGES TAKE CRASH COURSE IN CITY HALL

More than 100 Angelenos from across a wide spectrum of Los Angeles’ neighborhoods, ethnic groups and ages packed into City Hall for a crash course on the inner workings of government. “Government 101”, taught by Council President Eric Garcetti and co-sponsored by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, taught Los Angeles middle-schoolers, working men and women and senior citizens how to make their voices heard in a system that is open to all but can appear foreboding.

“Government only succeeds when it brings the people to the table,” said Garcetti, who developed the Government 101 curriculum through teaching dozens of “Leadership Institute” seminars to community members from his district. “The people who come here today will learn how power works, and how they can use power. They may organize to support the work that we do, and they may even use what they learn to speak up against the actions of elected officials. Long after the tide of term limits have washed today’s crop of leaders from office, there will still be men and women living in the neighborhoods of Los Angeles who know how to lead.”

“This is an important step along the path to active citizenship,” said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who joined Council President Garcetti to sponsor the expansion of the formerly 13th-district-based trainings into a citywide forum. “Knowing how the political system works is key to knowing how to get things done for your neighborhoods and your fellow residents.”

The day began in the Board of Public Works room with a welcome from Council President Garcetti. The attendees then moved into Council Chambers, where they watched a council meeting in action. From there, they divided into small groups in City Hall’s tenth floor conference rooms, where they examined case studies, learned the separation of powers between jurisdictions and branches of government, and learned how and at what points individuals can influence the process for shaping legislation, policies, and land use decisions in Los Angeles.

“I thought I was pretty savvy about L.A.’s government to start with,” said Aquilina Soriano, an advocate in the Pilipino community, “but Government 101 gave me details that I can use to be more effective and that I can share with my community.”

Government 101 will be offered again later this year. People interested in participating may sign up by emailing councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org or by calling (213) 473-7013.

###