



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



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

NEWS ADVISORY  
April 24, 2007

Contact: Josh Kamensky (213) 359-4328

## **ANGELENOS GET A CITY HALL EDUCATION IN FOR GARCETTI'S "GOVERNMENT 101" CLASS**

More than 50 Los Angeles residents learned the ins and outs of City Hall's legislative process and the responsibilities of other levels of government in Council President Garcetti's "Government 101" class held in Los Angeles City Hall.

"From the moment I took office, I've wanted to use my office to help people solve their problems, but I've also tried to use a community organizing model to show people how to directly influence government," said Garcetti. "Elected officials will come and go over time, but if we can leave behind an empowered constituency who know their rights, we've made our city better."

After a welcome from Council President Garcetti and a visit to watch the City Council in action, attendees heard a presentation about how to influence and partner with their city government and got answers to far-ranging questions. Agenda items included:

- what the city is responsible for, as distinct from county, state, and federal levels of government
- the responsibilities of different elected officers
- what goes on in council meetings
- the legislative process and how residents can impact it

"As a community organizer, I know how to reach out to people, but I want to be more familiar with local government," said Frank Romero, an organizer with Progressive Christians United. "I'm interested in learning how to use the legislative process to make effective change. Today's session helped me learn how to lobby councilmembers on policy goals."

Garcetti's office has long offered community education programs to demystify government and empower constituents. Since he came to office in 2001, classes such as Government 101, Planning 101, and the Leadership Institute have graduated more than 1000 Angelenos.

###