



Zerita Jones

@zeritaj  

Zerita Jones is a born Angeleno, mother of 5 and grandmother of 7. She attended school, worked, and has lived in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw community for over 40 years. Now, a retired Grocery Manager for Boys Markets, Lucky's Stores and Albertsons.

Zerita regularly hosts "Renters Rights" workshops for the Baldwin/Leimert/Crenshaw, local of the Los Angeles Tenants Union, which she co-founded. Zerita believes in good customer service and a safe, clean community where the citizens can live and thrive. She is an active member of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) and serves the Tenant Chapter as board secretary. As a resident of the 425-unit Chesapeake Apartments in District 10, she organized her massive complex by founding a tenant's association whose unity and collaboration thwarted a mass eviction attempt by Chesapeake's corporate landlords and, PAMA (Regency) Management. As the Concerned Community Members of Chesapeake Apartments, she was able to ward off a nuisance abatement lawsuit against the complex in 2018 and assist in protecting the tenants to stay in place with the help of the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation.

As a dynamic voice in housing justice advocacy in the face of widespread gentrification in the affluent, primarily Black and Brown Baldwin Hills community, Zerita is also:

- **Board Vice-Chairperson of the Liberty Community Land Trust** (Crenshaw Corridor, South Central Los Angeles)
- **Executive Director of the JEPWA Community Land Trust** (Jefferson Exposition Park West Adams)
- **Board Secretary of the Los Angeles County Client Coalition Inc.**, (Advocacy against the incarceration of women with mental health issues)
- **Active participant in the Right To Counsel Coalition** (Steering Committee)
- **An active partner in the Emergency Renter Assistance Program**
- **Member of Our Future LA Coalition to end homelessness** (Steering Committee)

Zerita fervently encourages longstanding community members to organize and work on community issues. She is no stranger to direct actions, holding protests, rallies, press conferences, and lobbying. However, she feels that an emphasis on coalition-building between organizations with common overarching goals strengthens not only community bonds, but community economics.

As a universal participant in statewide, county and local civic engagement, Zerita is an outspoken advocate of the creation of multi-ethnic and socioeconomically diverse coalitions as an integral part of developing the empathy necessary to debunk long-standing class/race myths and misnomers. Zerita believes a strong coalition of brave and empathetic community members cooperating in support of one another is the only way to obtain an equitable and fair quality of life for people in underserved communities.

She's also active member in several other community-based organizations: the Black and Asian coalition, the Black and Latinx Community Coalition, Young Adults Academy of Los Angeles, Reclaim Black Los Angeles, and Save Black Los Angeles.

SECTION 1.

Title 6.9 (commencing with Section 64700) is added to the Government Code, to read:

TITLE 6.9. Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency PART 1. Formation of the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency and General Powers

. . .

64711.

(a) The agency shall be governed by a board of directors composed of 21 voting members and one nonvoting member, as follows:

(1) Five members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. If the number of members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is increased, the agency shall, within 60 days of the increase, submit a plan to the Legislature for revising the composition of the agency.

(2) (A) The mayor of the City of Los Angeles.

(B) Three members appointed by the mayor of the City of Los Angeles, each of whom shall be either a member of the Los Angeles City Council or a housing expert or advocate.

(C) One member who is a city council member or a housing expert or advocate appointed by the President of the Los Angeles City Council.

(3) The mayor of the City of Long Beach or the vice mayor of the City of Long Beach, as determined by the mayor of the City of Long Beach.

(4) (A) Five members, each of whom shall be a mayor or a member of a city council, appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee.

(B) For purposes of the selection of four of the members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A), Los Angeles County, excluding the City of Long Beach and the City of Los Angeles, shall be divided into the following four sectors:

(i) The North County and San Fernando Valley sector.

(ii) The Southwest Corridor sector.

(iii) The San Gabriel Valley sector.

(iv) The Southeast sector.

(C) For purposes of the selection of one of the members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A), one of the members shall be an at-large member who will be selected each term from one of the four sectors described in subparagraph (B), in the following order: the Southeast sector; the San Gabriel Valley sector; the Southwest Corridor sector; and the North County and San Fernando Valley sector.

(D) The League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division, shall define the sectors. Every city within a sector shall be entitled to vote to select a candidate from that sector for consideration for appointment by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee. A city's vote shall be weighted in the same proportion that its population bears to the total population of all cities within the sector.

(E) The members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee upon an affirmative vote of its members that represent a majority of the population of all cities within the county, excluding the City of Los Angeles and the City of Long Beach.

(5) (A) One at-large member from an eligible small city who is appointed by all members of the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee that are eligible for the seat, as determined by the board.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, "eligible small city" means a city in the County of Los Angeles that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) The city has a population of less than 100,000, according to the most recent census, as of the date that the at-large member is selected.

(ii) The city is in the top 50 percent of the most impacted cities in the County of Los Angeles, as determined by the proportion of households that are low-income and severely cost-burdened according to data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy database, as used in the CalEnviroScreen Housing Burden tool.

(iii) As of January 1, 2024, the city is in substantial compliance with housing element law.

(iv) As of January 1, 2027, the city has adopted programs and policies to support low-income renters at risk of eviction.

(v) The city has adopted at least one model land use standard created by the agency, or a substantially similar land use policy, by January 2027, or within two years after those land use standards are created, whichever date is later. If the agency has updated a particular model land use standard less than two years prior to the appointment, a city that has adopted the current or immediately preceding version of the model standard shall be considered a small city.

(C) The board shall compile a list of cities that satisfy the definition of "eligible small city."

(6) (A) (i) The interim chair of the citizens' oversight committee created by Section 64718.

(ii) The interim chair shall be selected by the three members described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) and then submitted to the full board for approval.

(iii) The interim chair shall have lived or experienced homelessness or housing instability.

(B) The chair of the citizens' oversight committee created by Section 64718 after the chair is elected pursuant to Section 64718.1, at which time the chair shall replace the interim chair described in subparagraph (A).

(7) (A) Until permanent expert members are selected, three members as follows:

(i) One member with expertise in affordable housing production, who shall be a designee from the Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing.

(ii) One member with expertise in affordable housing preservation, who shall be a designee from the Los Angeles Community Land Trust Coalition.

(iii) One member with expertise in renter protection and support, who shall be a designee from the steering committee for Stay Housed L.A. County.

(B) (i) The chief executive officer of the agency shall facilitate a selection process that results in three members as follows:

(I) One member with clear and demonstrated expertise in affordable housing production, including, but not limited to, affordable housing project finance and development.

(II) One member with clear and demonstrated expertise in affordable housing preservation, including, but not limited to, naturally occurring affordable housing, expiring affordability covenants, community land trusts, or related affordable housing preservation strategies.

(III) One member with clear and demonstrated expertise in renter protection and support, including, but not limited to, experience in advocating for or enforcing tenants' rights.

(ii) (I) The chief executive officer of the agency shall create three lists, one for each subclause in clause (i), each with at least five candidates who satisfy the criteria of that subclause.

(II) Members of the public shall be entitled to submit their names for consideration or to nominate other persons for consideration by the chief executive officer of the agency for inclusion in the candidates list required by subclause (I).

(III) The candidates required by subclause (I) shall be subject to the agency's conflict-of-interest policies.

(iii) The members described in clause (i) shall be selected by a vote of the 15 elected members of the board described in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, from the lists created pursuant to this clause.

(8) The Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments shall be a nonvoting member.