



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
80.		Favor	allison schallert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles County's form of government has not changed since 1912 when the population was 500,000, before women even had the right to vote. Today, the same number of elected supervisors serve the most populous county in the nation with each serving two million constituents. • By reforming the County Charter, we have the opportunity to create a governance model that is more effective, representative, and accountable to Angelenos. • Moving from an appointed CEO to an elected County Executive would give the public a say in who controls the County's \$45.6 billion budget. It would establish distinct executive and legislative branches of the government, creating the necessary checks and balances for such a large government. • Expanding the Board from five to nine will allow more diverse voices reflective of the makeup of Los Angeles County to shape County policy, bringing people closer to their elected Supervisors. With nine supervisors, each would represent one million constituents instead of the two million today.
			Andrea Kinloch	By reforming the County Charter, we have the opportunity to create a governance model that is more effective, representative, and accountable to Angelenos.
			Ann Dorsey	
			Christine M Harris	Please add to the Charter Amendment that the Board of Supervisors should give direction to LA County Registrar Dean Logan to come back with a report on how the County could implement RCV for County elections and elections run by the County on behalf of local government agencies. By moving to a single PRCV general election and eliminating the two round, contingent run-off system in Los Angeles, it would place the choice of who represents Los Angeles before the greatest and most diverse number of voters, compared to lower-turnout and less diverse primaries.
			Cipra Nemeth	



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80.		Favor	Elizabeth Beale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles County's form of government has not changed since 1912 when the population was 500,000, before women even had the right to vote. Today, the same number of elected supervisors serve the most populous county in the nation with each serving two million constituents. • By reforming the County Charter, we have the opportunity to create a governance model that is more effective, representative, and accountable to Angelenos. • Moving from an appointed CEO to an elected County Executive would give the public a say in who controls the County's \$45.6 billion budget. It would establish distinct executive and legislative branches of the government, creating the necessary checks and balances for such a large government. • Expanding the Board from five to nine will allow more diverse voices reflective of the makeup of Los Angeles County to shape County policy, bringing people closer to their elected Supervisors. With nine supervisors, each would represent one million constituents instead of the two million today.
			Hector Ramirez	
			helen eigenberg	<p>Los Angeles County's form of government has not changed since 1912 when the population was 500,000, before women even had the right to vote. Today, the same number of elected supervisors serve the most populous county in the nation with each serving two million constituents--larger than some states. By reforming the County Charter, we have the opportunity to create a governance model that is more effective, representative, and accountable to Angelenos. We have the opportunity to make LA county better represented for all Angelenos!</p>
			Jerry Gaines	Jerry Gaines, Former Appointed Charter Reform Commissioner, City of Los Angeles



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			Name	Comments
80.		Favor	Jingran Xu	<p>My name is Jingran and I am with Chinatown Service Center, a nonprofit health & human services agency serving the LA County since 1971. I support Item 80 to expand the Board of Supervisors and elect a County Executive.</p> <p>LA County is the nation's largest county with nearly 10 million residents. As our County's population grows and diversifies, we must innovate and re-evaluate how we can best meet residents' changing needs to ensure we deliver the support to them as inclusively and transparently as possible.</p> <p>This is very critical for LA County residents who have historically been underrepresented and left out of these conversations, and who deserve equal representation, to be given a platform that ensures their diverse voices are heard and amplified, and their needs are met with integrity.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
			Jodi Chen	<p>I am writing in support of this Charter reform proposal, which is crucial for enhancing representation and accountability within our diverse communities.</p> <p>By increasing the number of elected officials, each community will have a representative who truly understands their unique needs and challenges. This change will foster a more inclusive and responsive government, better equipped to address the specific concerns of its constituents.</p> <p>Good governance is marked by accountability to the people. With more elected representatives, officials will be directly answerable to the communities they serve. This will not only strengthen the trust between the government and its citizens but also enhance the effectiveness of our leadership in addressing local issues.</p> <p>I also want to express my appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for demonstrating real leadership by putting forth this proposal. Their willingness to share their powers shows a commendable commitment to the principles of representation and accountability.</p> <p>I urge the county government to place this Charter reform on the November ballot to allow LA County residents to voice their support for a more representative and accountable governance structure.</p>
			Jonathan Chang	<p>I support this amendment to the County charter. Los Angeles County has too many people to be represented by so few individuals. The continued corruption scandals involving former County and City of Los Angeles officials make it clear that there need to be an independent ethics commissions and additional checks and oversights for public officials.</p>



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80.		Favor	Mariko Kahn	This is an important proposal. With over ten million people in LA County, it is time to have more equitable representation by increasing the number of supervisors. I am very much in favor of this proposal.
			Sean McMorris	
			Tania Ibanez Virnig	By reforming the County Charter, we have the opportunity to create a governance model that is more effective, representative, and accountable to Angelenos. Moving from an appointed CEO to an elected County Executive would give the public a say in who controls the County's \$45.6 billion budget. It would establish distinct executive and legislative branches of the government, creating the necessary checks and balances for such a large government. It would promote efficiencies and provide accountability on budget decisions by centralizing information. Expanding the Board from five to nine will allow more diverse voices reflective of the makeup of Los Angeles County to shape County policy, bringing people closer to their elected Supervisors. With nine supervisors, each would represent one million constituents instead of the two million today.
		Oppose	Guadalupe Gracian	
			Imelda Rodriguez	
			Isis Hernandez	
			jessica gracian	
			Joselias Gracian	
		Pavel G Rivera		



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
80.		Oppose	Rob Quan	<p>Oppose unless amended:</p> <p>The draft charter language cannot be allowed to move forward. It is highly misleading to present this to voters as creating an “independent” ethics commission.</p> <p>These reforms completely fail to articulate the basic structure and power of the commission. There are no minimum criteria for commissioners or requirements that they be insulated from electoral politics. The size of the commission and appointment process is left unaddressed. There are no protections against removal of commissioners (in the City of LA they can only be removed for cause). The selection and removal process for the ethics compliance officer is left unaddressed and proposed section 11.18 would appear to, by default, vest that power in an elected official (the county executive). The commission is not given any sort of protection for it’s budget, or the ability to use independent outside counsel. The commission is not given subpoena power, and the investigation/enforcement process is left unaddressed. Basic essentials like the power to issue fines are left unaddressed.</p> <p>Presumably, these matters will be left for future study by the reform task force and implementation by the board of supervisors. Even if the board later implements a robust set of reforms, this still fails to provide a remotely independent ethics commission as there would be a pervasive looming threat that, at any time, the board of supervisors could gut the commission’s powers (without seeking voter approval).</p> <p>The failure to advance these reforms in a timely manner has constrained the board’s runway to finalize ballot language, but it still has the opportunity to work through these issues by holding an additional special meeting.</p> <p>Lastly, further consideration should be given to the election cycle for the county executive. Mounting a campaign during a presidential cycle is more expensive and it is harder to garner attention down the ballot. It could also allow the City of Los Angeles to play a disproportionate role in the field of candidates, as its citywide offices (representing 40% of the County’s population) are elected at the same time we elect our governor. This would allow all of those city officeholders a “free run” for county office as they would not have to give up their current seats to run for the position of county executive.</p>
			Silvia Barajas	

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
80.		Other	Dave Gilotte	
			Lionel Mares	<p>The Board must act quickly, but in order to get the details right we need to ensure the public has sufficient opportunity to weigh in. After the official language is drafted, the Board should hold an evening meeting on this item to maximize public input. Schedule a special meeting so that the board has additional time to hear from the public and flush out details.</p> <p>Many important decisions are left to a reform task force created after the measure's passage, but there needs to be greater effort to detail what that process would look like and how the public's role will be preserved.</p> <p>Decisions related to the ethics commission cannot be left to the task force. The commission will only be independent if its powers and safeguards are placed in the charter.</p> <p>Making the County CEO an elected position will provide a meaningful check on the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>The County faces enormous challenges but does not have a clear leader in charge of its departments or the delivery of services.</p> <p>This hinders our ability to address issues like homelessness or transportation with true accountability or a clear voice.</p> <p>A 5 member board cannot represent the diversity of 10 million people.</p> <p>The 2021 redistricting commission had a very difficult time drawing fair maps w/ just 5 puzzle pieces, and recommended expansion.</p> <p>Districts with 2 million residents are too large to manage, and do not produce competitive elections.</p>
			Mike Feinstein	<p>Recommendation that all Board of Supervisor seats be elected by ranked-choice voting (RCV) and that Board give direction now to County Registrar of Voters to return with RCV implementation options, so that new Charter Review Commission can be so informed, and then focus on compare and contrast of RCV vs County's current out-dated two-round contingent runoff system.</p>
		Item Total	26	
Grand Total			26	

<http://losangeles.cagreens.org/issues/lacounty-electoral-reform-2024-07-22>

LA County Board of Supervisors expansion and ranked-choice voting

July 22, 2024

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

I am a former Santa Monica City Council member and Mayor, writing to you on behalf of the Green Party of Los Angeles County (GPLAC).

Our position is that (i) the LA County Board of Supervisors would ideally be expanded to 13 members, (ii) our low end of an acceptable increase is to nine members — and that (iii) the goals of broader and deeper representation on the Board for the people of LA County will be best achieved by electing all Board seats by ranked choice voting (RCV), compared to the two-round contingent runoff system you use today.

For this reason, we believe your next phase on Charter Review should include a full evaluation of the advantages of electing Board members in single RCV general elections, compared to the two-round contingent runoff system you use today.

Since the [ordinance before](#) you on July 23 would establish a Charter Review Commission — and presumably an initial proper evaluation of RCV to elect the Board would occur there, **we strongly recommend that the Board give direction now to the LA County Registrar of Voters to prepare a report on options to implement RCV for Board elections.** In that way, the Charter Review Commission can focus on a comprehensive ‘compare and contrast’ evaluation of RCV elections vs. the county’s contingent two-round runoff system, instead of wondering ‘if, when and how’ it would be possible to implement such a system in time for use when the number of Board members is expanded in 2032.

Additionally, because a growing number of LA County cities are already interested in exploring using RCV for their own elections — and those cities contract with the County to conduct those elections, the Board would be doing the responsible thing now to respond to that interest by ensuring it has all the facts on ‘how and when’ RCV could be implemented for use by local governments in the County.

Finally, before your second reading on this ordinance on August 6, the GPLAC will provide you will a list of benefits we believe that use of RCV would provide for County elections. Until then, we want to emphasize how important it is for you to give direction now to the County Registrar of Voters to return with a report on RCV implementation options, in order to best inform the next stage of your Charter Review process.

Sincerely,

Mike Feinstein
Secretary, Green Party of Los Angeles County

July 23, 2024,

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Kenneth Hanh Hall of Administration, Room 381B
Los Angeles, California 90012



Re: Good Government Charter Reforms for the November 2024 Ballot (BOS Meeting, Agenda Item #80)

Honorable L.A. County Supervisors:

California Common Cause is pleased to see a set of good-government reforms potentially going on the November 2024 ballot. Angelenos have a right to weigh in with their vote on how their county government is held accountable. We know that public officials cannot and should not be left to police themselves on matters of ethics and accountability related to their positions of power. The people they represent must have a say. Therefore, California Common Cause supports this process and, in principle, the reforms outlined in the proposed charter amendments in Agenda Item #80 on the July 23, 2024 LA County Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda.

However, we have concerns about the lack of detail in the reforms. This lack of detail grants the Board of Supervisors a broad brush and ultimate say on what the specifics of charter reform will look like rather than the electorate who is voting on the reforms. This approach creates a troubling dynamic: the very people who are meant to be held accountable through these reforms will decide whether to craft and implement the details in the best interest of the public or to serve themselves and the special interests who lobby and contribute to their political campaigns.

For example, nothing in the proposed charter language implies that the “independent” County Ethics Commission will be “independent” or adequately empowered and funded. Similarly, there is little to suggest that the proposed Governance Reform Task Force will have anything other than advisory power over the implementation of these charter reforms or that the Task Force will be composed of a diverse group of experts and stakeholders who are not in some way adjacent to or beholden to the Supervisors.

For these reasons, we hope that the Supervisors will add language to the currently proposed charter reforms that will better ensure: 1) the proposed ethics commission will be independent, 2) the proposed ethics commission will be adequately and consistently funded, and fully empowered to investigate and enforce County ethics laws, 3) the Governance Reform Task Force will be guarded from political influence and retain more than advisory power (e.g., any amendments to the Task Force’s recommendations must be approved by a super majority vote of the supervisors and affirmed by a supermajority vote of the Task Force), 4) any amendments to the reforms via supervisorial vote after initial implementation must be progressive to the intent

and purpose of the reforms (i.e., not transgressive), similar to the mandate that any amendments to the California Political Reform Act further the Act's purposes, and 5) any amendments to the reforms via supervisorial vote after initial implementation will require a supermajority vote of the Board of Supervisors as well as majority approval by the County Ethics Commission.

We commend the Board of Supervisors for taking this bold step to implement overdue democracy reforms. We support moving this process forward in time for the 2024 ballot and hope that guardrail language that facilitates meaningful reform-outcomes will be added to the text of the proposed charter amendments. However, we will reserve final judgment on the quality of the reforms until the details of the reforms are established and instituted.

We thank the Board of Supervisors for their time and consideration of our suggestions.

Sincerely,
Sean McMorris
Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager
California Common Cause
smcmorris@commoncause.org



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1014

3460 FLETCHER AVE. • EL MONTE, CA 91731 • (310) 639-1014 • FAX (310) 639-5314



July 22, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
500 W Temple St #383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT ITEM 80

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Los Angeles County Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1014 rises to ask for an administrative amendment to correct what likely was an oversight in the language for an ordinance regarding County Governance Structure (“Ordinance”).

We appreciate the opportunity to have discussed this item with the Chair and Co-author of the motion reflecting the first reading of the “Ordinance”, and while we have not been a part of the crafting of the language for the Item or Motion, we want to put forward a request to amend ARTICLE III-B, COUNTY EXECUTIVE as follows:

Section 11.10 - add FIRE DISTRICT to the list of exceptions along with Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Legislative Analyst, and their Departments.

Section 11.12 - add FIRE DISTRICT to the list of exceptions along with Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Legislative Analyst, and their departments,

Section 11.18 - add Fire District to the list of exceptions along with elective offices, the County Legislative Analyst, and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Section 18. - Section 25-1/3 - add FIRE DISTRICT to exceptions along with Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, County Legislative Analyst, and Clerk of the Board.



The basis for the amendments and addition of the FIRE DISTRICT to the sections is as a function of the FIRE DISTRICT being an Independent District, a Special District, and a Special District in two Counties, and such is governed for these aspects by the FIRE COMMISSION and there is ample state law that applies to the FIRE DISTRICT as well relative to governance through the FIRE COMMISSION.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this detail and important administrative change to the "Ordinance" for accuracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave Gilotte", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVE GILLOTTE
President, Local 1014