

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
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Los Angeles County Governance Reform: Implementing the Voter Mandate for a More Representative, Accountable & Transparent LA County

Measure G's approval by voters paves the way for historic changes to Los Angeles County's governance structure. The comprehensive set of reforms will result in a government that is more accountable, transparent, representative, and responsive to individuals and communities in greatest need. This comes after six previous attempts to update Los Angeles County's governance structure failed to secure Los Angeles County voter approval in 1962, 1976, 1992, 2000, and legislative support in 2015, and 2017. Now, this once-in-a-generation change is coming to Los Angeles County through a voter mandate.

The passage of Measure G amends the Los Angeles County Charter, establishing the first elected County Executive, creating four additional Supervisorial districts, establishing an independent Ethics Commission, and requiring public departmental budget hearings. The reforms will modernize and reorganize the County's governance structure with true checks and balances - through the separation of legislative and executive authorities - to meet the complex challenges currently facing the County and the nation.

The measure includes changes that are required immediately; therefore, bold steps must be taken today to ensure the structural overhaul meets voter-approved deadlines. It is the County's responsibility to deliver on the promise of greater transparency and improved service

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delivery to County residents. The timeline for the Charter amendment includes:

- Immediately requiring County departments and agencies to present their budgets to the Board of Supervisors in open, public meetings, prior to adoption of an annual budget.
- Immediately strengthening “revolving door” policy prohibiting former County officials from lobbying the County for a minimum of 2 years after leaving County service.
- Immediately authorizing the suspension with or without pay for elected officials criminally convicted of a crime related to a violation of official duties.
- By 2026, creating an independent Ethics Commission as well as an Office of Ethics Compliance, to be led by an Ethics Compliance Officer.
- By 2026, requiring all non-urgency, items of business agendaized at a regular Board of Supervisors meeting be publicly posted for a minimum of 120 hours (five days) before Board action.
- In 2028, electing a County Executive and establishing the County Legislative Analyst and Director of Budget and Management positions.
- Following the 2030 Census and upon the completion of the Independent Redistricting process, elect four additional members of the Board of Supervisors in 2032.

During this process, many have expressed a desire to help shape how this monumental change moves forward. The County must be committed to a robust public engagement process beginning now. The Charter amendment states, “The Board of Supervisors shall establish a Governance Reform Task Force, with representation from the County workforce, responsible for

implementation of this Charter amendment upon adoption by the voters, including robust community and stakeholder outreach.” It further states, “Implementation efforts and recommendations by the Governance Reform Task Force shall use existing County funding sources, and any implementation costs shall be offset by cost savings determined through the annual County budgeting process, with no additional costs to, or taxes imposed on taxpayers.” The Charter amendment requires the Governance Reform Task Force to convene no later than 180 days after certification of the vote (June 1, 2025). Immediate action must be taken to implement the Charter amendment, and meet the timelines imposed (see attached Overview of County Charter Amendment).

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Board of Supervisors Executive Office (EO), in consultation with County Counsel, to establish the Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) to research and analyze the current governance structure, conduct public outreach, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on a reorganization proposal that implements the voter-approved Charter amendment to transition the County’s governance structure. The GRTF will be comprised of thirteen members and must be selected as follows:
 - a) Application and selection process: Within 60 days, the EO, in consultation with County Counsel, must develop an online GRTF member application that follows a similar application process to the LA County Independent Redistricting

Commission. Applicants for the GRTF must come from the following sectors: academia, the County workforce, labor, government (including cities), business, and community organizations, as well as an individual with significant experience or knowledge in public sector ethics. Furthermore, the final composition of the GRTF should represent the diversity of the County of Los Angeles. Criteria for selecting GRTF members must include:

i) Minimum Requirements:

- (1) Adults over age 18.
- (2) Must reside within Los Angeles County at the time of service.
- (3) Willingness to work on a highly visible advisory body.
- (4) Ability to commit the necessary time.
- (5) Possess experience that demonstrates analytical skills relevant to the performance of governmental functions and execution of governmental duties under applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- (6) Must explain their reason for seeking to be a member of the GRTF.
- (7) Upon selection, file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700)

ii) Desirable Qualifications:

- (1) Skills, knowledge or lived experience that will help the GRTF fulfill its roles and responsibilities particularly around municipal or civic administration, stakeholder engagement, and project planning and implementation.

- (2) Commitment to, and experience with, advancing the County's core values of anti-racism, equity, communication, collaboration, transparency, "care first" and fiscal responsibilities.
 - (3) Interest and experience in the County's transition elements, e.g. municipal administration, financial and budget planning and operations, and roles and responsibilities of the expanded Board and County Executive, including roles of the County Legislative Analyst and Director of Budget and Management.
 - (4) Ability to leverage community connections to support community engagement efforts of the GRTF.
 - (5) Local government experience/knowledge is preferred, including but not limited to cities within the County.
 - (6) Residents of County unincorporated areas possessing the minimum requirements.
- iii) Applicants will be disqualified from GRTF membership if they, or an immediate family member, are currently:
- (1) Appointed to, elected to, or a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing any area within the County of Los Angeles.
 - (2) Serving as appointed staff of, or a paid consultant for, an elected representative at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of

Los Angeles.

- (3) Serving as an employee of, or paid consultant for, a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles.
 - (4) A registered state or local lobbyist.
 - (5) The disqualifications above do not apply to the following:
 - (a) appointed staff not working directly for an elected official's office;
 - (b) commissioners; and
 - (c) employees of organizations representing local cities.
- b) Develop an application that presents questions to the applicants that best demonstrate their qualifications. Once the application is finalized, it must be posted on the EO website for a minimum of 30 days (application period) to provide applicants the opportunity to complete and submit their applications.
- c) Within 10 business days after the close of the application period, applications must be reviewed for completeness and provided to the Board, including a summary of which qualifications identified above each applicant possesses.
- d) Within 45 days after the close of the application period, Board action must be taken to select five GRTF members by a majority vote of the Board. Each Board member should recommend one GRTF member from the application pool.
- e) Within 45 days of the closing of the application period, three additional GRTF members shall be nominated by labor as follows:

- i) One nominated by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor;
- ii) One nominated by SEIU Local 721;
- iii) One nominated by the Coalition of County Unions; and
- iv) The labor nominees must participate in the application process, to be approved by the Board within 30 days of receiving the nominations. No other GRTF members shall be representatives of labor, including members appointed by the Board or the GRTF to ensure equitable distribution across all stakeholder sectors. Representatives of labor include individuals that are members of labor unions.
- f) The remaining qualified applications must be provided to the five Board nominated and approved GRTF members, for the purpose of recommending applicants to the Board to fill the outstanding GRTF member seats. The final GRTF members must be selected to fill gaps in the sector representation (academic, business, government (including cities), and community organizations, as well as an individual with significant experience or knowledge in public sector ethics) not yet met by the five GRTF members appointed by the Board and the nominated and approved GRTF members representing labor. Within 30 days of being appointed, the five GRTF members must submit their proposed appointments to the Board for approval.
- g) Should a member of the Board not nominate an applicant for the GRTF within the

60 days of the closing of the application period, the selected and appointed members by the remaining Board shall nominate an applicant to fill the member seat set aside for a Board office, unless otherwise directed by the Board.

2) Direct the EO, in consultation with County Counsel and other relevant departments, to prepare the following within 60 days:

a) A Governance Reform Transition Work Plan (Work Plan) for the GRTF that includes short- and long-term focus areas, and timelines, as outlined in the Charter amendment (summary attached) and provide to the Board for consideration. The Work Plan must include, but not be limited to the following:

i) Public Budget Hearings (2025)

(1) A proposed process for departments to present their budget requests in a public Board meeting, including schedules that comply with state law, starting with the FY 2026-27 Budget (see Directive 3a).

ii) Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgency Legislation (2026)

(1) Provide notification to Board offices and departments of the updated filing instructions for board letters and motions reflecting the Charter amendment change which requires all non-urgency, County legislation be publicly posted for a minimum of 120 hours (five days) before Board action.

iii) Ethics Commission (2026)

(1) A proposed structure for the independent Ethics Commission utilizing

County Counsel's report on Ethics Reform in addition to a public input process that is completed in time to implement the Commission by 2026.

- iv) County Executive (2028)
 - (1) Reorganization options that include the creation of a County Legislative Officer, a Director of Budget and Management, including staffing and budget.
 - (2) A staffing and budget proposal for the County Executive's office.
 - v) Board Expansion (2032)
 - (1) A staffing and budget proposal for the new nine-member Board.
 - vi) Charter Commission (2034)
 - (1) Proposal and timeline to establish a Charter Review Commission to meet at least decennially (i.e., every 10 years) to review Los Angeles County's governance and the County Charter, and make recommendations to the Board, which the Board must place on agenda for vote no later than 90 days after transmittal. Any governance issues outside of the scope of the GRTF should be addressed by the Charter Review Commission.
- b) Develop a comprehensive public engagement strategy for the GRTF, including but not limited to, rotating public meetings across Supervisorial districts, both in person and virtual; education materials on the Charter amendment; a communications plan for the governance transition; and outreach efforts to stakeholders countywide, in

consultation with all Board offices. All outreach materials should be developed according to the countywide language access policy.

- c) Establish a website as a central point of information for the public on the County's governance transition efforts, including educational materials for the public on the voter-approved Charter amendment and the governance transition.
 - d) In consultation with the Department of Human Resources, provide recommendations for the project management and/or staffing of the implementation of the Charter amendment, including support for the GRTF. Consider both internal and external candidates and/or consultant support to effectuate the implementation of the adopted Charter amendment. A project management plan must be included to support the work of the GRTF, including but not limited to an executive director/project manager, outside counsel and communications and outreach personnel.
 - e) Propose fair compensation to be provided to GRTF members to assure that a wide range of residents can participate. The compensation must be on a per diem basis.
 - f) Explore the potential willingness of philanthropy to provide funding to support the County's governance transition planning efforts.
- 3) Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to prepare the following within 60 days, unless noted otherwise and begin to:
- a) Within 30 days, develop a proposal that aligns with the implementation of the

Charter amendment, subject to the Board's approval, to amend the FY 2025-26 budget calendar and process to include public departmental budget hearings before the Board, as an interim step for FY 2025-26, until the GRTF has recommended a process for FY 2026-27 and beyond.

- b) Identify a point of contact to respond to information requests related to the implementation of the Charter amendment.
 - c) Identify available funding to support the GRTF in the current budget and for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27, including budget, staffing, and placement within the EO and ensure that direct services are not impacted to achieve this directive.
- 4) Direct County Counsel to identify a lead counsel to be responsive to the requests of the GRTF and to report back in 75 days on ordinance updates or legislative proposals that may be required or recommended to implement the Charter amendment and any other potential code updates that could be required once the public input process on the governance transition has been completed. The report must also include recommendations regarding ex-parte communications between the GRTF and the Board and conflict of interest policies that could be applied to the GRTF.
- 5) Direct County departments, including but not limited to, the Auditor-Controller, the Registrar-Recorder, EO and CEO to respond in a timely manner to information requests related to the implementation of the Charter amendment from the EO, the GRTF and/or their consultants.

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DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this fact sheet does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice.

The information provided in this fact sheet does not spell out every Charter revision in the proposed Charter amendment.

All information contained herein is for general informational purposes only. Should the proposed Charter amendment appear on the November 2024 General Election, voters are encouraged to read the ballot measure in its entirety before voting.

"INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS, RESPONSIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT THROUGH CHARTER REFORM" MOTION

On July 9, 2024, the Board of Supervisors directed the Office of the County Counsel to draft the necessary documents, including an ordinance, for a proposed Charter amendment (which incorporated language from the 2000 Charter amendment ordinance to the extent applicable) proposing the establishment of an elected County Executive and expansion of the Board of Supervisors, and changing the Los Angeles County governance structure for placement on the November 5, 2024 ballot, to be consolidated with the Statewide election to be held that day.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT BALLOT QUESTION

LOS ANGELES COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY CHARTER AMENDMENT. Shall the measure amending the Los Angeles County Charter to create an elected County Executive; create an independent Ethics Commission to increase restrictions on lobbying and investigate misconduct; establish a nonpartisan Legislative Analyst to review proposed County policies; increase the Board of Supervisors from five to nine elected members; require County departments to present annual budgets in public meetings; using existing funding sources with no additional taxes to implement, as detailed in the charter amendment ordinance, be adopted?

The following is a summary of the proposed Charter amendment.

GENERAL CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVISIONS

Proposed Charter Amendment Summary	Deadline	Proposed Charter Section
<p>Create the Office of a County Executive elected by voters every 4 years who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume all executive and administrative powers and duties of the Board of Supervisors ("Board") except for administrative oversight of the County Legislative Analyst and the Clerk of the Board. (Legislative and quasi-judicial powers shall be retained by the Board.) • Perform all powers and duties provided by State law as County chief administrative officer. • Appoint all appointed department heads, subject to confirmation by the Board, except for County Legislative Analyst and Clerk of the Board. • Have authority over dismissal of department heads appointed by the County Executive, subject to reinstatement by the Board with two-thirds vote. • Supervise all appointed department heads except County Legislative Analyst and Clerk of the Board. • Develop and submit County annual budget to the Board for approval or amendment. • Have veto authority over budget amendments by the Board (subject to the Board's override by two-thirds vote within 7 days (excluding weekends and holidays) of veto). • Lead and direct County's emergency response. 	2028	Art. III-B Sec. 11.2 – 11.40



Proposed Charter Amendment Summary	Deadline	Proposed Charter Section
<p>Expand the Board from 5 to 9 elected members in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following 2030 redistricting, elect a total of 7 Supervisors in 2032 (Supervisor Districts ("SD") 2, 4, 5, and new SDs 6, 7, 8, 9). • Two of the 7 Supervisors, selected at random following 2030 redistricting, will serve a 2-year term, which would not count towards term limits in the County Charter. These 2 supervisorial seats will be up for election in 2034. • Four Supervisors to be elected in 2034 for a full four-year term (SD 1, 3, and the 2 SDs randomly selected for initial 2-year terms), followed by 5 Supervisors to be elected full term in 2036 (SDs 2, 4, 5 and remaining 2 SDs that had initial 4-year terms). • Staggered full term elections of 4 Supervisors and 5 Supervisors in even-numbered years going forward. 	<p>2030: Census</p> <p>2031: Reapportionment</p> <p>2032: 7 Supervisors elected (with 2 in office)</p> <p>2034: 4 Supervisors elected</p> <p>2036: 5 Supervisors elected</p>	<p>Art. II Sec. 6</p>
<p>Modify powers of the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain legislative and quasi-judicial powers and duties. (County Executive assumes all executive and administrative powers and duties.) • Appropriate and authorize the expenditure of any and all funds of the County. • Establish rules of organization and procedure and establish committees of its members or other appropriate assignments. • Administrative oversight of the County Legislative Analyst and the Clerk of the Board. • Authorize County Counsel to file or dispose of suits or proceedings on behalf of the County, with concurrence by County Executive. If the County Executive does not concur, disposition is authorized by two-thirds vote of the Board. 	<p>2028</p>	<p>Art. III-A Sec. 10.2 – 10.28</p> <p>Art. VI, Sec. 21</p>



Proposed Charter Amendment Summary	Deadline	Proposed Charter Section
Establish position of Director of Budget and Management to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and administer the annual budget for the County Executive, advise and provide recommendations to the County Executive, and promote efficiency. • Coordinate additional administrative functions currently performed by Chief Executive Office. 	2028	Art. III-B Sec. 11.26
Establish the position of County Legislative Analyst, appointed and removed by two-thirds vote of the Board, with the power to provide nonpartisan legislative support and analysis to the Board on County policy issues.	2028	Art. III-A Sec. 10.28
Require all non-urgency, County legislation be publicly posted for a minimum of 120 hours (five days) before Board action.	2026	Art. III-C Sec. 11.66
Establish an independent Ethics Commission with the power to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate allegations of misconduct by County officials and monitor and enforce laws in coordination with other agencies related to governmental ethics. • Regularly review the County Code and make recommendations to the Board regarding governmental ethics. • Develop and/or implement additional updates and features to enable searchable public data portals related to governmental ethics, including all lobbying activities. 	2026	Art. III-D Sec. 11.68
Authorize suspension of an elected County officer, including a member of the Board, with or without pay, who has been criminally charged with a felony related to a violation of official duties.	Immediately	Art. IV Sec. 17
Establish Office of Ethics Compliance, to be led by an Ethics Compliance Officer, to support the work of an independent Ethics Commission.	2026	Art. III-D Sec. 11.70
Require a "revolving door" policy prohibiting former County officials from lobbying the County for a minimum of 2 years after leaving County service. ¹	Immediately	Art. III-D Sec. 11.72

¹ State and local ordinance require a one-year ban. See Government Code section 87406 and County Code Section [2.175.030.C](#).



Proposed Charter Amendment Summary	Deadline	Proposed Charter Section
<p>Establish a Governance Reform Task Force, that will advise the Board and be responsible for implementation of the Charter Amendment upon adoption by the voters. The Governance Reform Task Force will include representation from the County workforce. The Governance Reform Task Force shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct community and stakeholder outreach. • Provide recommendations to the Board within a reasonable timeframe to carry out effects. • Disband upon completion of implementation. 	No later than 180 days after certification of the vote.	Art. III-D Sec. 11.74
<p>Establish a Charter Review Commission to meet at least decennially (i.e., every 10 years) to review Los Angeles governance and County Charter, and make recommendations to the Board, which the Board must place on agenda for vote no later than 90 days after transmittal.</p>	By 2034	Art. III-D Sec. 11.76
<p>Require County departments and agencies to present their budgets to the Board in open, public meetings, prior to adoption of annual budget.</p>	Immediately and ongoing	Art. VI Sec. 25-2/3
<p>Require that implementation of the measure may only use existing County funding sources, and that there not be any additional costs to or taxes imposed on taxpayers to implement.</p>	Immediately and ongoing	Art. III-A Sec. 10.14.G Art. III-B Sec. 11.38 Art. III-D Sec. 11.74



EXPANSION OF THE BOARD

Expansion of the Board from 5 to 9 members is legally permissible.² The completion of the staggered election cycle will take place over 3 election cycles, or during the 2032, 2034, and 2036 elections, according to the chart below.

CHART OF ELECTION CYCLES UNDER PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE BOARD

Election Cycles: Board Expansion with Elected County Executive							
2032 ELECTION: 7 Districts with 2 Districts <i>randomly</i> selected for 2-year terms to run again in 2034 to establish staggered cycle of 4/5 Supervisors running during general elections + Elected County Executive and District Attorney.							
2034 ELECTION: 4 Districts + Sheriff and Assessor.							
2036 ELECTION: 5 Districts + County Executive and District Attorney.							
<i>Initial 2-year terms for the 2 randomly selected supervisorial districts would not count towards a complete 4-year term for purposes of term limits. Those 2 Supervisors could potentially serve a maximum of 14 years in office.</i>							
District/ Officer	2024	2026	2028	2030	2032	2034	2036
SD1		X		X		X	
SD2	X		X		X		X
SD3		X		X		X	
SD4	X		X		X		X
SD5	X		X		X		X
<i>SD6</i>					X		X
<i>SD7</i>					X		X
<i>SD8</i>					X	X	
<i>SD9</i>					X	X	
<i>County Executive</i>			X		X		X
<i>Assessor</i>		X		X		X	
<i>District Attorney</i>	X		X		X		X
<i>Sheriff</i>		X		X		X	

**Blue tinted box indicates new elected office/officer authorized by Charter Amendment, if ballot measure approved by voters.*

² California Constitution, article XI, section 4(a), a county charter may provide for "(a) governing body of five or more members."



