

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
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December 17, 2024

**Adopting A Deliberative Policymaking Structure: Implementing A Process to
Review Legislation at Cluster Meetings**

On October 22, 2024, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the motion titled, “Encouraging Public Participation and Deliberation at the Board of Supervisors to Deliver a More Accessible and Community-Driven Approach to Policymaking,” which directed the Executive Officer (EO) in consultation with County Counsel to revise the Rules of the Board to require that policy motions be first heard at the appropriate subject matter policy cluster before consideration by the full Board, except in cases of urgency or other specified exceptions. This proposed revision to the Board’s process is aimed at enhancing public engagement, promoting transparency, and fostering a more deliberative policymaking process. Under the established cluster system, Board letters brought forward by departments are required to be reviewed at the appropriate subject matter cluster before consideration at an agendized Board meeting. Clusters, originally introduced to streamline departmental and Board communications, now play a critical role in policy development and public participation.

In response to the Board’s October motion, the EO, with consultation from County Counsel, conducted a detailed review of the cluster structure and operational processes, including an analysis of current Board agenda workflows and a comparison of other governance models, such as the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation

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Authority. The analysis revealed the expanding policymaking function of clusters and highlighted the need to balance public participation with the timely advancement of policy initiatives. It also identified three potential implementation options, each designed to integrate motion review into the cluster process without impeding the overall legislative schedule.

After thorough evaluation, “Scenario 1” emerged as the most efficient and effective solution. Under this approach, all Board motions would be introduced at one of the five original cluster meetings—Operations, Community Services, Family and Social Services, Health and Mental Health Services, and Public Safety—held on the Wednesday immediately preceding the Board meeting. This timeline ensures motions are presented for discussion and public input without causing significant delays to the current motion filing and posting process. Motions will be filed on Wednesday for consideration the following Wednesday at the appropriate cluster, and then the following Tuesday (should the author’s office choose to proceed) at the Board meeting. By focusing on the original clusters, which are already equipped with established meeting structures and administrative support, this approach minimizes procedural disruption while fostering a more accessible and community-driven policymaking environment.

Scenario 1 also aligns with future compliance requirements under Measure G, which extends the agenda posting timeline from 72 hours to 120 hours effective 2026. By maintaining the Wednesday timeline for cluster reviews, the County will be better positioned to adapt to the changes with minimal administrative burden. Accordingly, the Board should seek to implement Scenario 1 to improve the efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity of the Board’s policy development process while safeguarding the integrity of the County’s legislative framework.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt Scenario 1 as outlined in the Executive Officer’s Report dated December 11, 2024, along with the corresponding revised Rules of the Board, as provided in Attachment A to the referenced report. These changes shall become effective for all relevant policy motions introduced for the Board meeting on January 21, 2025, and shall stay in effect through December 31, 2025.

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