



**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
11.		Favor	Sean P Patterson	anti-Racist Campaign; DO NOT FOLLOW ILLEGAL ORDERS;
		Other	Alejandra Ponce de Leon	Generally, we are supportive of the GRTF's recommendations AND advocating that our recommendations be included to further enhance what the Taskforce is proposing. However, we strongly oppose amendments in the motion that would allow the Sheriff Dept and District Attorney to appoint any member of the ethics commission. There is strong community and Taskforce voice against this change, especially after robust conversations were led by the Taskforce at their public hearings and community listening sessions.
		Item Total	2	
Grand Total			2	

May 13, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Final Considerations for the Ethics Compliance Design and Structure

Dear members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

Organize | Unite | Reform LA (OUR LA) Coalition holds deep gratitude for the opportunity to meet with each of you to share our goals and priorities for establishing the Los Angeles County's first independent ethics commission that we envision designed to build community trust, accountability, and transparency of our county government.

As you continue to deliberate internally and prepare for your upcoming public hearing on May 19th, we want to take a moment to uplift some of the most critical pieces OUR LA had and continues to advocate for. These recommendations reflect the collective input of low-income communities and communities of color across LA County that are essential to ensuring an ethics commission that is fully independent, representative of, and accountable to residents, and innovative in its approach by setting a new model that enhances the commission's traditional scope of work and impact. Our top priorities include:

1. Establish a **fully independent selection process** with no appointing bodies, or to the very least, a "kick-start" model to establish the inaugural ethics commission.
2. Incorporate a **public education and engagement function** within the Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance to strengthen community's voice, knowledge, and political efficacy.
3. Center a **racial equity and community impact analysis** within the Commission's and Office of Ethics Compliance's scope of work to better identify, assess, and address harms to communities, especially underrepresented communities.
4. Integrate a more **comprehensive set of demographic and geographic factors** to guide the selection of commissioners that maximize the representation and diversity of Los Angeles County.

Below, we provide more details on each of OUR LA's four priorities.

I. Independent Selection Process/Kick-Start Model

Given the continued discussion and concerns for ensuring a truly independent ethics commission, OUR LA strongly recommends **commissioners should be selected through an**

independent, community-centered process that removes elected officials from direct appointment authority. A public application process, paired with transparent screening for qualifications, public review, and randomized selection for the initial cohort, ensures that commissioners are chosen based on merit, community experience, and independence rather than political alignment. This model prevents any single elected official from shaping the body responsible for oversight, reduces the risk of political capture, and strengthens public trust in the Commission's neutrality. Additionally, it avoids the conflict in deciding which elected bodies are designated with appointing authority and which are left out.

As embodied by the California and the Los Angeles County Independent Redistricting Commissions, randomized selection for the first set of commissioners creates a diverse and representative foundation, while subsequent deliberation among the first members of the commission through a series of public hearings, allow the commission to fill remaining seats in a way that ensures demographic, geographic, and experiential diversity, with the opportunity for communities to weigh-in on demographic and geographic gaps to be considered. To ensure independence and public trust, incorporate these best practices into the selection process:

- Establish a public application process with clear eligibility criteria, while welcoming diversity of background, education levels, skillsets, and experiences.
- Publish all eligible applicants for the community to weigh in and raise any issues with their qualifications before selections are made. Those that are flagged by the public, will undergo additional vetting and background checks to verify eligibility.
- Select the first **four** commissioners through **randomized drawing** from four sub-pools aligned with the expertise areas identified by the Governance Reform Task Force: community engagement/technology; public policy/law; campaign finance/auditing/ethics law; and local governance.
- The first four Commissioners will then select the remaining 3 members to round out LA County's demographic and geographic diversity. This selection process must be done in a series of public hearings to allow for open deliberations among commissioners and to enable public feedback and participation.

Going through this process eliminates influence from an appointing body and strengthens the commission's independence and credibility.

Alternatively, we recommend a **Kickstart Model** approach, if appointed Commissioners are retained ONLY to establish the inaugural ethics commission. After the initial body is seated, the Commission will assume responsibility for conducting public application processes and selecting all future commissioners to fill all vacancies as we delineated above through an independent selection process.

II. Public Engagement and Education Function

Establishing the first ever independent ethics commission by Los Angeles County, creates an opportunity to be innovative in the design and functions this body could have, thus, establishing a new model for other jurisdictions to follow. One innovation OUR LA offers is to expand the scope of work of the ethics commission and office of ethics compliance to incorporate a public engagement and education function. Beyond the commission establishing a webpage to share information and resources for the public to access, and holding public hearings, OUR LA envisions the commission **building direct partnerships with community organizations and trusted messengers and directly engaging residents** through various vehicles, such as teach-ins, workshops and webinars on ethics laws, violations, and annual reports that are **multilingual and based on culturally relevant outreach**. Additionally, we recommend the commission and office of ethics compliance creating periodic opportunities for **community-based hearings and listening sessions** to gather feedback from the community to further enhance their efforts and impact, and foster greater trust in the government, as well as creating additional forms of **feedback loops** to inform their ongoing work and opportunities for future reforms.

III. Racial Equity and Community Impact Analysis

Another way to innovate the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission and enhance its impact across communities and residents is that it **centers and integrates a racial equity and community impact lens into all analysis, investigations, audits, and enforcement actions** it performs. There are a variety of ways this could be applied in practice. First, the commission and office of ethics compliance can analyze data and allegations to measure and assess any dilution of political voice for marginalized communities in areas such as land use agreements, development decisions, contracting, campaign finance, lobbying, and governmental ethics. Secondly, they could evaluate barriers to participation and responsiveness of elected officials and County agencies, including structural, linguistic, economic, and procedural obstacles that limit community influence. Lastly, they could identify and recommend remedies beyond fines to address community-level harm, including corrective actions, structural reforms, and measures that restore or strengthen community voice and access.

IV. Commission Composition

OUR LA strongly believes the **commissioners should reflect the diversity, values, and lived experiences of Los Angeles County residents**. To do this, we recommend that the Commission as a whole must reflect the racial, ethnic, linguistic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of the County. Representation should include, but not limited to, renters and homeowners, immigrants, non-citizens, gender identity, youth and elders, residents of unincorporated areas, and people with disabilities. Additionally, we recommend you expand on desired skillsets, background, and expertise to be reflected across commissioners to also include:

- Deep roots in community engagement, civic participation or advocacy.
- Expertise on racial equity, political representation in local/state governance, and the impacts of money in politics.

- Knowledge of how lobbying, land use, campaign finance, and contracting affect marginalized communities.

Thank you for considering these recommendations and for your ongoing work on this critical process. We look forward to continuing to work alongside you to ensure that this reform effort reflects and uplifts the voices and experiences of communities across Los Angeles County. For further information or to answer any questions, please reach out to Alejandra de Dios Ponce de León at aponcedeleon@catalystcalifornia.org.

Sincerely,

OUR LA Coalition



May 14, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Concerns Regarding Motion to Amend GRTF's Ethics Commission Recommendations

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Organize | Unite | Reform LA (OUR LA) Coalition, we are writing to express our deep discontent and disappointment regarding the motion introduced by Supervisor Horvath to alter the Governance Reform Task Force's proposed draft ordinance that goes against communities' voice and stance. The motion reverses key elements of the community-vetted recommendations and undermines the core promise of Measure G: the creation of a truly independent ethics commission.

Specifically, we strongly oppose the proposal to grant the Sheriff and the District Attorney authority to nominate commissioners. Community members across Los Angeles County have been clear and consistent throughout this process: law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial offices must not have appointment power over the body responsible for ethics oversight. This structure creates inherent conflicts of interest, erodes public trust, and contradicts the independence voters were promised.

We are equally concerned by the proposal to reduce the number of at-large commissioners to only two. This change unbalances the commission's structure, concentrates appointment power, and moves the County further away from a model that reflects community representation and independence.

Additionally, we request immediate clarification regarding the language stating: "The term of the members nominated by the District Attorney and Sheriff shall expire on June 30, 2028." It is unclear whether this provision is intended to limit their influence or to establish a temporary foothold for law-enforcement-appointed commissioners. The ambiguity raises significant concerns about the long-term implications for independence and accountability.

For these reasons, OUR LA firmly rejects this motion. We urge the Board to instead adopt a truly independent selection process, one rooted in public participation and community-centered vetting, as outlined in our [recent letter](#). The communities most impacted by inequitable governance have spoken clearly: independence cannot be achieved when those subject to oversight are empowered to select their own regulators.

We respectfully ask the Board to honor the spirit and intent of Measure G and to uphold the community's vision for an ethics commission that is independent, representative, and accountable to the people of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

OUR LA Coalition

May 13, 2026

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Sincerely,

OUR LA Coalition





357 Van Ness Way, #110
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 371-7222
sbccog@southbaycities.org
www.southbaycities.org

May 11, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Opposition to Motion – “A More Accountable Homelessness Governance Structure for Los Angeles County”

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), we strongly oppose the motion titled “A More Accountable Homelessness Governance Structure for Los Angeles County,” scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2026.

For years, cities, Councils of Governments, and community-based organizations have built regional partnerships, coordinated outreach systems, funded interim housing and navigation programs, and filled critical gaps in the homelessness response system. These efforts were intentionally designed to create regional alignment while still allowing solutions to reflect local needs and conditions. This motion moves in the opposite direction by centralizing authority while reducing the role of the very partners responsible for successfully implementing and administering many of these programs locally.

While the SBCCOG supports improving accountability and coordination within the homelessness response system, this proposal advances major governance and operational changes without clearly identifying the specific problems it is intended to solve or how these changes will improve outcomes for the communities already doing this work on the ground.

The proposal also raises serious concerns regarding transparency, local flexibility, and regional effectiveness. The SBCCOG is concerned that this motion shifts decision-making authority away from the local and regional partners responsible for implementation and diminishes local feedback loops. Regional alignment cannot be achieved through a top-down structure that centralizes housing placements, prioritization, matching decisions, and funding administration at the County level without a clearly defined role for cities. Doing so risks weakening partnerships, reducing accountability, and creating additional inefficiencies within an already strained system.

This concern is particularly significant in regions such as the South Bay, where smaller cities rely on shared regional infrastructure and partnerships to leverage resources and coordinate services effectively. Encouraging jurisdictions to route Measure A Local Solutions Fund dollars through County administration, potentially with additional administrative fees, undermines the

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

original purpose of those funds which is to allow cities to tailor solutions to local conditions and community needs. These changes risk discouraging collaboration, fragmenting regional response efforts, and reducing overall effectiveness.

Of equal concern is the proposal to evaluate eliminating or restructuring regional coordination bodies such as the Executive Committee on Regional Homelessness Alignment (ECRHA), Leadership Table for Regional Homeless Alignment, and related governance structures. These bodies were created specifically to bring cities, regional entities, service providers, and the County together to coordinate responsibilities and align efforts collaboratively. If improvements to the current system are needed, those discussions should occur within the regional structures established for that purpose, not outside of them.

The County must ensure there is a complete understanding of the current system before advancing major restructuring efforts. Cities throughout Los Angeles County are already investing substantial local resources into outreach, navigation, interim housing coordination, and other frontline services. The Responsive Regional Plan Inventory was intended to provide visibility into these investments and responsibilities, yet that work remains incomplete. It would be premature and irresponsible to advance structural changes of this magnitude without first understanding what currently exists, what is working, and where the actual gaps remain.

The SBCCOG remains committed to partnering with the County and regional stakeholders to improve homelessness response efforts across Los Angeles County. However, we emphatically urge the Board to pause consideration of this motion and engage cities, regional entities, and system partners in a collaborative process to clearly define the goals of any proposed reorganization before advancing changes of this scale.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernadette Suarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bernadette Suarez, SBCCOG Chair
Councilmember, City of Lawndale