REVISED AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH May 19, 2026

Implementing Los Angeles County's First Ethics Commission

On July 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the motion, "Establishing an Independent Ethics Commission". The motion called for a report back from County Counsel on the creation of an independent Ethics Commission, Office of Ethics Compliance, and the position of Ethics Compliance Officer. Subsequently, the confidential report was provided to the Board on August 23, 2024, which included a review of other jurisdictions, including funding. ~~and cost estimates to establish the ethics bodies.~~ Since then, the voters approved Measure G, which mandates the creation of an independent Ethics Commission and the establishment of an Ethics Compliance Officer in 2026. The County has conducted research, received public input from leading ethics advocacy groups, and the Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) has submitted their report to the Board with a path to move forward on implementing the will of the voters on ethics, including draft charter amendment language. The County started this process in July of 2024, through a ballot measure and a motion. It is now the Board's responsibility to move forward and deliver on the first-ever Ethics Commission - and necessary supporting infrastructure - in the history of the County of Los Angeles.

	MOTION
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

This motion was discussed at Operations Cluster on May 6, 2026, and feedback was received from Board policy deputies, members of the GRTF, and other stakeholders. Additional feedback was also received outside of the cluster meeting. Much of the feedback was regarding the nomination process for the Ethics Commission. This included public comment at the cluster meeting from GRTF members requesting that the Task Force have the ability to nominate a Commissioner, as previously requested, and committing that the nomination would be made in a timely manner. Written feedback was also received from the California Contract Cities Association with concerns that other countywide elected officials were not provided appointments to the Ethics Commission. Changes have been made to the motion to reflect feedback on the nomination process, including adding deadlines for when nominations for the Commission must be submitted to the Board, so that the Commission can be seated in 2026 as required by Measure G.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Board of Supervisors' Executive Office, Auditor-Controller, ~~County Counsel,~~ and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to identify positions and funding in their budgets that currently perform ethics related duties and provide that information to the Chief Executive Office within 14 days.
2. Direct County Counsel to identify positions and funding in its budget that currently perform ethics related duties and provide that information to the Chief Executive Office within 14 days, to assist the Chief Executive Office with allocating the funding necessary to implement section 11.69.50 of the GRTF's proposed draft ordinance if the charter amendment referenced in Directive 4 is adopted by the voters.

2. Direct the Acting Chief Executive Officer to review the GRTF report, receive the information from Directive 1 from the Board of Supervisors' Executive Office, Auditor-Controller, and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk ~~County departments~~, and allocate the funding necessary to implement the first phase of the Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance in the FY 2026-2027 budget, so they can be established in 2026, as required by Measure G.

3. Delegate authority to the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to:

   a. Begin the recruitment process to establish an independent Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance.

   b. Hire one or more consultants to assist in establishing the Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance.

4. Direct County Counsel to take the following actions:

   a. Draft an ordinance establishing the Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance that is consistent with the best practices recommendations included in the GRTF's proposed charter language to the greatest extent possible, while remaining in compliance with the County Charter as currently written, ~~to implement the recommendations of the GRTF to immediately launch the Ethics Commission and establish the Office of Ethics Compliance,~~ and place the draft ordinance on the June 30, 2026, ~~a~~ Board agenda ~~within 90 days~~ for the Board's consideration. The ordinance shall reflect the changes to the makeup of the members of the Ethics Commission as

outlined in Directive 5 (b) of this motion. The ordinance shall also include a requirement that the nominees provided by the Governance Reform Task Force, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, Assessor, District Attorney, and Sheriff, shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors within 45 days of the effective date of the ordinance.

b. Draft an ordinance to place a charter amendment on the November 2026 ballot as recommended by the GRTF, and place the draft ordinance on a future Board Agenda for the Board's consideration with the following changes to the GRTF's proposed draft ordinance: ~~section 11.67.00 (c) (1) (A) of the GRTF's proposed draft ordinance to be replaced with the following language:~~

   i. Replace section 11.67.00 (c) (1) (D) with "The Sheriff shall nominate one (1) member."

   ii. Add section 11.67.00 (c) (1) (E) with "The District Attorney shall nominate one (1) member."

   iii. Add a section 11.67.00 (c) (1) (F) with "The Commission shall nominate the remaining two members at a public meeting following a public recruitment and application process, which should include outreach to communities that are underrepresented in the County's political process. The Commission's nominees shall be broadly representative of the general public and at least one member nominated by the Commission shall be a resident of an unincorporated area.

The appointing authorities shall value lived experience, community leadership, traditional and non-traditional expertise, and working class accessibility. A member of the Commission shall not communicate with a county elected official, or an agent of a county elected official, about whom the Commission should nominate to serve on the Commission, except that a county elected official or agent of a county elected official may provide comment on potential nominees at a Commission meeting. A Commission-nominated member may vote to nominate their successor.

iv. Replace section 11.67.00 (d) (2) (B) with "The term of the members nominated by the District Attorney and Sheriff shall expire on June 30, 2028."

~~i. The Chair of the Board shall nominate one (1) member who has a background in public information and public meetings, community outreach and engagement, or using technology as relates to open government. Beginning on January 1, 2029, this member shall instead be nominated by the elected County Executive.~~

c. Conduct an analysis of GRTF's recommendation regarding an amendment to California Government Code §3203 and report back with a publicly available written report to the Board within 90 days.

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LPH:jo/jrl

Ethics Commission - Interim Ordinance - Deadlines/Timing

Interim Ordinance Considered by the Board (First Reading)	June 30, 2026
Interim Ordinance (Second Reading)	July 7, 2026
Ordinance Effective	August 6, 2026
GRTF, Board Chair, DA, Sheriff, Assessor Nominees Due to Board	September 20, 2026
Board Deadline to Approve Nominees	November 4, 2026