

Los Angeles County Governance Reform Task Force

GRTF Recommendation:

Establishing a Los Angeles County Ethics
Commission & Office of Ethics Compliance



5/19/2026

Measure G (2024)

“By **2026**, there shall be an **independent Los Angeles County Ethics Commission** ... [that] shall ... investigate allegations of misconduct by County officials [and] monitor and enforce laws in coordination with other agencies related to governmental ethics.”

Los Angeles County Charter, Sec. 11.68



GRTF Recommendation – North Stars

The mission of the Commission is to promote fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in County government.

To ensure fairness and maintain public trust, the Commission must be **politically independent** & insulated

The Commission must have **sufficient tools and resources** to accomplish its mission



Overview of Recommendation

Creates 7-member **Ethics Commission**

- Responsible for setting policy, overseeing Office of Ethics Compliance, and adjudicating enforcement actions
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Establishes **Office of Ethics Compliance**

- Led by **Compliance Officer**
 - Supports Commission, provides education and advice, conducts investigations, presents enforcement actions
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Establish **by ordinance** in 2026; place **charter amendment** with **gold standard** language on Nov 2026 ballot



GRTF Recommendation - Ethics Commission

Adopts layered best practices from FPPC, LA City, San Francisco, etc., to ensure Commission **independence** and **impartiality**:

Protections:

Minimum Eligibility Qualifications

e.g. no relatives of County elected officials, recent candidates for county office, or registered County lobbyists

Diversified Nominations

County Executive (GRTF until 2029), Board Chair, Assessor, Commission

Majority Commission-Selected Nominees through a public application process

Board Confirmation of all nominees at a public meeting

During and Post-Service Restrictions

e.g. no campaigning for candidates while on the Commission or running for County office for 2 years after

Single 5-Year Term & Removal for Cause Only

GRTF Recommendation – Office of Ethics Compliance

- Prevention/education-forward approach
- Robust independence protections:
 - ✓ *Creates independent Office of Ethics Compliance separate from County Executive direction/control*
 - ✓ *Compliance Officer runs Office and reports directly to and is hired/fired by the Commission*
 - ✓ *Protected minimum budget*
 - ✓ *In-house legal counsel*
- Six Core Divisions:
Education & Training, Enforcement, Policy/Regulatory, IT/Disclosure, Legal, Admin
- Anticipated 54 FTE staff
(less than prior County estimate of 73-93 FTE)





Thank You!

GRTF Recommendation – Office of Ethics Compliance

The GRTF considered several options for nominating Commissioners:

A. Countywide Elected + Commission Nominate	B. GRTF Ethics Ad Hoc’s First Proposal	C. GRTF Recommendation
County Executive (Board Chair until 2029)	County Executive (Board Chair until 2029)	County Executive (GRTF until 2029)
Assessor	Assessor	Assessor
District Attorney	District Attorney	
Sheriff		
	Registrar/Recorder	Board Chair
Commission: 3 members	Commission: 3 members	Commission: 4 members

All options also require Board consideration of nominations.

