

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

July 7, 2026

Restoring the Will of Los Angeles County Voters at the Ballot Box

In November 2020, Los Angeles County (County) voters approved Measure J as a charter amendment establishing a baseline minimum allocation of unrestricted general fund revenues for direct community investment and alternatives to incarceration. Measure J has been implemented through the County budget process and relied upon by residents and stakeholders across the County for significant annual investments that strengthen communities and save lives. The loss of these investments would be catastrophic.

The will of County voters was clearly expressed at the ballot box in passing Measure J, and it is the duty of their County government to uphold their intent. Unfortunately, because administrative errors left Measure J out of the version of the Charter presented to the public, voters were unaware that approving Measure G in 2024 would result in the repeal of Measure J in 2028—eliminating this critical County commitment to communities and the Board’s Care First, Jails Last policy. Furthermore, Measure G is silent on the responsibility of the newly elected County Executive (who will be elected for the first time in 2028) to uphold the Measure J commitment. A charter amendment is necessary to ensure that the commitment made by Measure J survives both administrative errors and changes in the governance structure put forth by Measure G.

Measure G also mandated the establishment of an independent Ethics Commission by the end of 2026. On May 19, 2026, at the recommendation of the Governance Reform Task Force, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed County Counsel to draft a charter amendment for the November 2026 ballot, following up on Measure G, to incorporate additional changes that are now clearly necessary to establish

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fundamental elements of independence for the Ethics Commission. County Counsel is expected to present the proposed Charter amendment language in July, prior to the Board's deadline to place measures on the November 2026 ballot. As this ballot measure takes key steps to implement Measure G, it is the appropriate vehicle to also correct that ballot measure's unintended effect on Measure J.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct County Counsel to incorporate into the pending language for a Charter amendment on the Ethics Commission (as directed by the Board on May 19, 2026) additional language ensuring that the commitment in Measure J continues uninterrupted in the new governance structure created by Measure G, specifically by:

- a. Renumbering Article III, Section 11, Subsection (8) of the County Charter to Article XII, Section 51¼; and
- b. Amending the new Article XII, Section 51¼ to make both the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive subject to its requirements, as shown in relevant part below:

Section 51¼.

~~(8)~~ It shall be the duty of the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive to allocate, in compliance with all laws and regulations, the County's locally generated unrestricted revenues in the general fund as follows:

...

- c. Amending the new Article XII, Section 51¼ to require that the Measure J set-aside shall not be subject to veto by the County Executive.

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(JY)