CITY CLERK
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
FOUNDED 1781
ELECTION DIVISION

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

COMPILED BY PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE, CITY CLERK

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

clerk.lacity.gov/elections

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VOTER INFORMATION

The County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is the administrator of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections.

This pamphlet only contains information on the City/LAUSD ballot measures for the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election.

For information concerning the Election such as Vote Centers, please contact LA County at (800) 815-2666 or visit their website at www.lavote.gov.

The next 8 pages contain the simplified version of the City/LAUSD ballot measures. The full text of each measure, along with other information, is printed after the Ballot Summary (see Table of Contents Page).

CITY OF LOS ANGELES PROPOSITION TE

TITLE:
PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX EXEMPTION FOR VICTIMS OF JANUARY 2025 FIRE DISASTER.

THE ISSUE:
Should an ordinance be adopted to provide a one-time exemption from the City's Homelessness and Housing Solutions Tax (Proposition ULA) for residential properties damaged or destroyed in the Palisades Fire and sold within five years from the date the Fire began?

THE SITUATION:
In 2022, voters approved Proposition ULA, a special documentary transfer tax on sales of property over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation) to fund affordable housing and tenant assistance programs. The Palisades Fire, which began on January 7, 2025, damaged or destroyed many residential properties, including homes and residential units. Fire damaged properties that have been sold or will be sold for over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation) would be subject to the Proposition ULA tax.

THE PROPOSAL:
This measure would exempt sales of residential properties over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire from the Proposition ULA tax. If a damaged or destroyed residential property is sold between January 7, 2025 and January 6, 2030 by the owner on the date the Fire began, the sale would qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want sales of residential properties over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire to qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax if sold within five years from the date the Fire began.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want sales of residential properties over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire to qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax if sold within five years from the date the Fire began.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 15.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

TITLE:
CITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND CONTRACTING.

THE ISSUE:
Should the City Charter be amended to: establish a capital infrastructure plan and two-year budget cycle for the City; increase the authority of the Director of Public Works (Director) and allow for the elimination of or changes to the Board of Public Works (Board); remove restrictions prohibiting the City from engaging in business enterprises and mortgaging City-owned property; and change certain contracting rules and procedures?

THE SITUATION:
The Charter currently: establishes a one-year budget cycle; prohibits the City from mortgaging its property; restricts conducting commercial businesses; provides that the Department of Public Works is managed by a full-time Board and assisted by a Director; does not require a capital infrastructure plan; and regulates the award of contracts.

THE PROPOSAL:
This measure would:

- Establish a two-year budget cycle which can be adjusted by ordinance;
- Remove restrictions on the City's ability to engage in commercial businesses or mortgage City-owned property;
- Expand the Director's authority to administer the Department of Public Works, and allow changes to or elimination of the Board, by ordinance;
- Require the City to establish a capital infrastructure plan;
- Exempt certain critical infrastructure projects from the City's competitive bidding contracting rules; and
- Allow the City by ordinance to waive technical or administrative errors, and allow bidders to correct other errors or omissions, on ethics forms before contract bids are evaluated.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding City infrastructure, budget, finance, and contracting.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding City infrastructure, budget, finance, and contracting.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 23.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT PL

TITLE:
CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

THE ISSUE:
Should the City Charter be amended to: establish a Neighborhood Appeals Commission to replace Area Planning Commissions; change how certain planning decisions are reviewed and approved; clarify the City Planning Department's authority for quasi-judicial applications; allow changes to floor area regulations by ordinance; and make related changes?

THE SITUATION:
The Charter establishes the powers and duties of key decisionmakers in planning and land use, including the City Planning Department, City Planning and Area Planning Commissions, Director of Planning, Office of Zoning Administration, City Council and Mayor.

THE PROPOSAL:
The measure would:

- Replace the seven Area Planning Commissions with a single Neighborhood Appeals Commission (NAC) with at least seven members;
- Authorize the newly-formed NAC with the power to hear administrative appeals and consider those appeals anew without deference to earlier decisionmakers, and decide other matters as provided by ordinance;
- Create additional procedural and timeline requirements for the City Council to assert jurisdiction in planning and land use matters;
- Specify in the Charter that the City Planning Department is responsible for quasi-judicial review as performed by designated City Planning Department staff authorized by ordinance, and as appointed by the Director of Planning;
- Remove sections related to certain land use approvals and delegated legislative authority;
- Provide that General Plan Amendments are approved if the City Council does not act within 75 days after earlier approvals; and
- Allow the City Council to change the current Floor Area Restriction by ordinance.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want to amend the Charter with the changes above regarding the City Planning Department.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want to amend the Charter with the changes above regarding the City Planning Department.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 40.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

TITLE:
CITY ETHICS, ELECTIONS, AND GOVERNANCE.

THE ISSUE:
Should the City Charter be amended to: strengthen the independence of the Police Department Inspector General and Fire Department Independent Assessor; prohibit Ethics Commissioners from running for certain elected offices for five years after leaving office; increase monetary penalties for campaign finance violations; require the City Council to meet at least weekly rather than the currently required three days per week; increase the number of signatures needed for referendum petitions; and make other changes related to ethics, elections and government?

THE SITUATION:
The City Charter sets the structures, powers and responsibilities of City government.

THE PROPOSAL:
This measure would make the following changes:

- Prohibit the Executive Director and Commissioners of the Ethics Commission from running for City or Los Angeles Board of Education offices for five years after leaving their positions;
- Increase the maximum monetary penalty for campaign finance violations to the greater of $15,000 (adjusted annually for inflation), or three times the amount improperly reported or contributed, for each violation;
- Increase the number of signatures required for referendum petitions from 10 percent to 15 percent of the votes cast in the last Mayoral election;
- Strengthen the independence of the Police Department Inspector General and Fire Department Independent Assessor to open and conduct investigations or audits;
- Require the City Council to meet at least weekly rather than three days per week and make related changes to the timing requirements for veto of board actions;
- Clarify language regarding the transfer of powers for the Police Department and Fire Department; and
- Allow the definition of a Neighborhood Council stakeholder to be defined by ordinance.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding ethics, elections, and governance.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding ethics, elections, and governance.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 50.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK

TITLE:
CITY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS BUDGET.

THE ISSUE:
Should the City Charter be amended to increase the minimum budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks, phased in over ten years until it is double the current minimum budget allocation, with exceptions for fiscal emergencies?

THE SITUATION:
The Charter establishes a minimum budget for Recreation and Parks from the General Fund. That minimum budget is an amount equal to 0.0325% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes. The current Charter allocation percentage rate and the resulting budget allocation has not kept pace with the growing population, expanding park system, and increasing labor costs. This has contributed to reductions in Recreation and Parks services.

THE PROPOSAL:
This measure would increase the minimum amount of General Fund money provided to Recreation and Parks. The percentage would increase from 0.0325% to 0.065% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes, phased in over ten years. This measure would not create a new tax or generate additional City revenue. It would require more General Fund money to be provided to Recreation and Parks.

This increased funding would help address Recreation and Parks service levels, park equity gaps, and allow Recreation and Parks to cover the cost of operations and programs.

During a declared fiscal emergency, the City Council could reduce this increased funding by a certain amount. However, Recreation and Parks' minimum budget allocation could not be reduced below the current level of 0.0325% of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want to increase the minimum budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks, phased in over ten years, with exceptions for fiscal emergencies.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want to increase the minimum budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 63.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT PRT

TITLE:
CITY AIRPORTS, HARBOR, AND WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENTS.

THE ISSUE:
Should the City Charter be amended to: require the Harbor Department to allocate funds for waterfront public access projects; require disclosure of workforce impacts for certain leases and agreements at the Port of Los Angeles; increase maximum terms for certain leases; and change the composition requirement for the Airport Commission?

THE SITUATION:
The Charter allows City Council to approve leases of up to 50 years for the Airports Department (LAWA) and Department of Water and Power (DWP) and up to 66 years for the Harbor Department.

The Charter establishes a seven-member Board of Airport Commissioners with one member from the area surrounding Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and one member from the area surrounding Van Nuys Airport (VNY).

The Charter gives the Board of Harbor Commissioners authority to manage the Harbor District. State law requires Coastal Development Permits for many harbor development projects.

THE PROPOSAL:
This measure would:

- Allow City Council to authorize leases up to 66 years for LAWA and DWP;
- Require three members of the Board of Airport Commissioners to be from the area surrounding LAX and two from the area surrounding VNY;
- Require the Harbor Department to use some of its operating income for waterfront public access projects; and
- Require applicants for certain proposed leases, and for developments that require Coastal Development Permits, at the Port of Los Angeles to disclose the impacts on employment levels associated with the proposed project.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding the City's Airports, Harbor, and Water and Power departments.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding the City's Airports, Harbor, and Water and Power departments.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 69.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT SC

TITLE:
CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES RELATED TO BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS.

THE ISSUE:
Should the Los Angeles City Charter be amended to clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education elections and allow for changes by ordinance?

THE SITUATION:
The Charter has campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates. The Charter also has campaign finance rules for Mayoral candidates. The two sets of rules are very similar, but are in different parts of the Charter.

THE PROPOSAL:
The measure would remove repetitive language and apply the same campaign finance rules to Board of Education candidates that apply to Mayoral candidates with certain exceptions. This measure would also allow the City Council to adopt additional changes by ordinance.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want to remove repetitive language from the Charter, clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates, and allow the City Council to adopt additional changes by ordinance.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want to remove repetitive language from the Charter, clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates, or allow the City Council to adopt additional changes by ordinance.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 74.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

TITLE:
FUNDING FOR THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES TAX.

THE ISSUE:
Should an ordinance be adopted to establish a one-half percent (0.5%) sales tax in the City of Los Angeles to provide additional funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department, including for staffing, vehicles and equipment, fire stations, brush clearance, and other Fire Department needs? The tax would raise about $345 million each year and require annual audits and a Citizens' Oversight Committee.

THE SITUATION:
The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) receives funding each year through the City's budget process. Nearly all that funding is through the City's General Fund, which has limited resources and must support the majority of City departments while balancing a wide range of competing priorities.

THE PROPOSAL:
This measure qualified for the ballot through a citizen-sponsored initiative petition. This measure would establish a 0.5% sales tax that would generate additional annual revenue dedicated to support the LAFD. Revenues from the tax would be used for, but not be limited to:

- firefighter, paramedic, and civilian staffing;
- fire trucks, ambulances, helicopters, equipment, and emergency communication systems;
- brush clearance and wildfire preparedness; and
- maintenance, replacement, and construction of fire stations and emergency medical service facilities.

This measure would establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure that revenues from the tax are spent in accordance with the ordinance. The tax can only be imposed if the City maintains a minimum level of General Fund spending for the LAFD, based on historical funding levels.

A YES VOTE MEANS:
You want to establish a 0.5% sales tax to provide additional funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

A NO VOTE MEANS:
You do not want to establish a 0.5% sales tax to provide additional funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 99.

TE PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX EXEMPTION FOR VICTIMS OF JANUARY 2025 FIRE DISASTER. PROPOSITION TE.

Shall an ordinance be adopted to provide a one-time exemption from the City's special documentary transfer tax (Proposition ULA) for residential properties that were damaged or destroyed in the Palisades Fire and are sold within five years of the date of the Fire?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The City of Los Angeles imposes a documentary transfer tax of 0.45 percent on the sale or transfer of real property. In 2022, voters approved the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Tax (Proposition ULA), an additional special documentary transfer tax on the sale or transfer of real property. Proposition ULA established a four percent tax on the sale or transfer of real property over $5 million and a 5.5 percent tax on sales or transfers at $10 million or more. The property sale thresholds subject to the tax are adjusted annually based on the Chained Consumer Price Index and are currently at $5.4 million and $10.9 million. Government entities, qualified affordable housing organizations, and certain non-profit organizations are exempt from the tax.

Revenue from the Proposition ULA tax is used for affordable housing and tenant assistance programs. The Affordable Housing Program funds the production and rehabilitation of affordable housing. The Homelessness Prevention Program funds various tenant assistance activities, such as financial support or legal support in eviction cases. No more than eight percent of the revenue can be used for program administration, reporting, compliance, and implementation.

On January 7, 2025, the Palisades Fire began. According to data from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, the Palisades Fire led to the damage and destruction of approximately 5,620 structures, of which an estimated 5,495 were residential structures. If any of these properties are sold or transferred for over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation), the transaction would be subject to the Proposition ULA tax.

This measure would exempt the sale or transfer of residential properties over $5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire from the Proposition ULA tax. Damage or destruction would be verified by the Department of Building and Safety. If a damaged or destroyed residential property is sold or transferred between January 7, 2025 and January 6, 2030 by the owner of record on the date the Palisades Fire began, the sale or transfer would qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax.

The Director of Finance would be authorized to issue refunds on eligible claims for any Proposition ULA tax paid prior to the effective date of this measure.

This measure would provide financial relief for property owners affected by the Palisades Fire. This measure may lead to a reduction in Proposition ULA tax revenues, which would result in a decrease of funding for affordable housing and tenant assistance programs.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure grants a one-time exemption from the Proposition United to House LA (ULA) documentary transfer tax to residential properties damaged or destroyed in the 2025 Palisades Fire and sold between January 7, 2025 and January 6, 2030. This exemption will not impact the City's General Fund, but will reduce revenue to the House LA Fund, which finances affordable housing production and homelessness prevention programs. The estimated reduction in ULA revenue is between $35 million and $66 million through January 2030. This estimate is based on the average ULA tax paid per eligible transaction in the Palisades, the number of rebuilt homes listed for sale as of July 2026, and post-fire sales of vacant parcels. The upper estimate assumes the average number of transactions doubles. Actual revenue losses will depend on total eligible residential properties sold before the exemption expires.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION TE

Los Angeles voters approved Measure ULA to address the homelessness and housing crisis. It was never intended to penalize survivors who lost everything in a declared disaster.

When a fire, earthquake, or other disaster destroys a home or entire community, victims often have no choice but to sell their property to pay expenses, relocate, restore belongings, or recover financially. Requiring them to pay the ULA real estate tax when they have already lost everything - through no fault of their own - only makes a devastating situation worse.

After navigating unimaginable difficulties with insurance companies, skyrocketing rebuilding costs, and uncertain timelines, many fire survivors face an impossible choice: take on costs they cannot afford to rebuild, or sell the property they lost. They should not be further penalized by the ULA tax for circumstances beyond their control.

Providing tax relief to disaster victims is about fairness, compassion, and common sense. It preserves the core purpose of ULA, while recognizing that survivors of catastrophic losses deserve support and flexibility.

This measure does not repeal ULA or create a loophole for investors or speculators. Rather, this narrowly-tailored measure provides a limited, one-time exemption for owners of residential properties, including multi-family buildings, damaged or destroyed in the January 7, 2025 fires.

As Los Angeles has experienced firsthand, disasters can strike any neighborhood. When a disaster is declared, our response should be to help people recover, not impose additional financial burdens at the worst possible moment.

Supporting disaster victims is not a partisan issue. It is a statement that Los Angeles stands with its residents in their greatest time of need.

A **YES** vote preserves the intent of ULA while removing financial barriers to disaster recovery.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION TE

TRACI PARK
Councilmember, 11th District
City of Los Angeles

KAREN BASS
Mayor
City of Los Angeles

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Council President, 8th District
City of Los Angeles

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District
City of Los Angeles

BEN ALLEN
State Senator
State of California

JACQUI ERWIN
Assemblymember
State of California

NICK MELVOIN
Schoolboard Member
Los Angeles Unified School District

LA/OC BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
Ernesto Medrano
Executive Secretary

WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS
Favian Guillen
Executive Secretary Treasurer

PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Allison Holdorff Polhill
President

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED.

Arguments printed are the opinions of the authors and are not checked for accuracy by any City agency. In addition, the title beneath a signer's name is for identification purposes only and does not indicate that the individual is signing on behalf of the organization.

New provisions or language added to the Municipal Code or to existing Municipal Code sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Municipal Code or from existing Municipal Code sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

PROPOSITION TE

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. A new Section 21.9.17 is added to the Municipal Code of the City of Los Angeles, regarding exemptions to the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Tax, to read as follows:

SEC. 21.9.17. EXEMPTION – PALISADES FIRE

(a) The Homelessness and Housing Solutions Tax imposed by Subsection (b) of Section 21.9.2 of this Code shall not apply with respect to any deed, instrument or writing by which any lands, tenements, or other realty sold within the City of Los Angeles shall be granted, assigned, transferred or otherwise conveyed to, or vested in, the purchaser or purchasers, or any other person or persons, provided that:

(1) the land, tenements, or other realty sold within the City of Los Angeles is a residential property damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire in January 2025;

(2) the damage or destruction of the residential property described in Subsection (a)(1) is verified by the Department of Building and Safety;

(3) the grantor, assignor, or transferor is the owner or owners of the residential property described in Section (a)(1);

(4) the grantor, assignor, or transferor described under Subsection (a)(3) was the owner or owners of the residential property described in Subsection (a)(1) on January 7, 2025;

(5) the property described in Subsection (a)(1) did not previously obtain an exemption under this Section; and

(6) the property described in Subsection (a)(1) is not otherwise exempt from Subsection (a) of Section 21.9.2 of this Code.

(b) "Damaged" shall have the same application as set forth in Section 16.03 of this Code.

(c) Subsection (a) shall be operative beginning January 7, 2025 through January 6, 2030.

(d) The Director of Finance is authorized and empowered to issue refunds on eligible claims, which are deemed to accrue, for any Homelessness and Housing Solutions Tax imposed pursuant to Subsection (b) of Section 21.9.2 that was paid prior to the effective date of this section, in the manner provided in Section 21.9.10 of this Code. Any time limits set by Section 21.9.10 of this Code with respect to the refunds described herein shall not start to run until the effective date of this section.

Sec. 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this ordinance or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases,

portions, or applications of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this ordinance without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

LA CITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND CONTRACTING. CHARTER AMENDMENT LA.

Shall the City Charter be amended to: establish a capital infrastructure plan and two-year budget cycle for the City; increase the authority of the Director of Public Works and allow for the elimination of or changes to the Board of Public Works; remove restrictions prohibiting the City from engaging in business enterprises and mortgaging City-owned property; and change certain contracting rules and procedures?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) includes rules for how the City manages its budget, contracting, City-owned property, and the Department of Public Works. This measure would amend the Charter to make changes to these rules, as follows:

- Two-Year Budget: Currently, the City is required to adopt a budget each year. The measure would change the City's budget cycle to a two-year cycle unless another budget cycle is adopted by ordinance, and modify the date by which the Mayor submits a Proposed Budget. This measure would require the Mayor to submit a proposed two-year budget to the City Council (Council) by April 1. The Council would have until June 1 to approve or modify the proposed two-year budget. Council changes would be subject to Mayoral veto and Council override as specified in the Charter. For each fiscal year of the two-year cycle, the Council will approve the amount appropriated in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, by resolution, on or before June 1, subject to Mayoral veto and Council override provisions.
- Capital Infrastructure Plan (CIP): Currently, the City is not required to have a capital plan for City infrastructure projects. The measure would require the City to establish a CIP by ordinance. The ordinance would include the scope, timeframe, funds, and reporting requirements for the CIP. Projects may include constructing or improving City roads, parks, bridges, and buildings.
- Competitive Bidding: Currently, the Charter requires the City to comply with competitive contract bidding rules, such as awarding contracts to qualified businesses for the lowest cost. The measure adds an exception to these rules for software services or maintenance contracts obtained from the software manufacturer. The measure also allows the City, by ordinance, to create an exception to the rules for certain critical infrastructure contracts that are vital to the City's security, public health, or safety.
- Department of Public Works (Department) Governance: Currently, the Charter establishes a full-time Board of Public Works (Board) that is assisted by several bureau heads and the Director of Public Works (Director) to oversee the Department. This measure would increase the Director's powers and duties to:

directly manage public works project construction, including the lease or purchase of property; exercise the power of eminent domain, subject to Council approval; oversee contract administration; grant street permits; and recommend operating budgets for the Department. Conversely, some of the Board's authority would be transferred to the Director, but the Board would retain some of its duties, such as: approving the award of contracts; conducting hearings as authorized by ordinance; approving, in consultation with the Director, specifications for public works projects; and making recommendations about public works plans to the Director, Mayor and Council. The measure also authorizes the Council, by ordinance, to make changes to or eliminate the Board. Additionally, the measure eliminates the chief administrative officer designation for the bureau heads, consistent with the proposed powers and duties of the Director.

- Business Operations: Currently, the Charter prohibits the City from mortgaging City-owned property and prevents the City from operating purely commercial or industrial businesses. The measure would remove these restrictions to allow the City to utilize City-owned assets and engage in commercial or industrial businesses.
- Contracting Forms: Currently, when outside companies bid on City contracts, they are required to submit specific forms. This measure would allow the City, by ordinance, to waive or allow correction of minor technical or administrative errors before evaluating a contract proposal. Substantive errors in ethics forms, however, cannot be waived and must be fully corrected.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure establishes a capital infrastructure plan, shifts the City to a two-year budget cycle, expands the authority of the Director of Public Works, and allows the City to engage in business enterprises, mortgage City property, and modify contracting procedures. **Transitioning to the two-year budget cycle and establishing a capital infrastructure plan will require an estimated $4 million to $6 million in one-time costs to upgrade budget and asset management systems, train staff, and consult with subject matter experts.** Funding will come from the General Fund, subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council through the budget process. Ongoing expenses for these two elements of the measure, such as project management, will be absorbed by reorganizing existing resources. The financial and revenue impacts of the remaining charter amendments—including contracting changes, property mortgages, and business enterprises—cannot be quantified at this time.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

Vote YES on Measure LA to require City Hall to deliver better basic services, fix deteriorating infrastructure faster, and make smarter use of taxpayer dollars.

Los Angeles cannot tackle billions of dollars in needed infrastructure repairs or get its finances on stronger footing without a plan for what needs to get done, what it will cost, and who is responsible for delivering it.

Angelenos see what happens when the City fails to plan ahead. It takes the City years to repave streets, fix sidewalks and streetlights, and address ongoing maintenance, often waiting until problems are harder and more expensive to fix.

Measure LA fixes that. It requires Los Angeles to plan ahead. It establishes long-term infrastructure planning so the City can prioritize repairs, address maintenance before problems become more expensive, and move projects forward with clear responsibility for getting the work done.

It also requires two-year budgeting so City leaders consider tomorrow's costs when making decisions today. And it removes outdated Charter restrictions that make it harder for Los Angeles to operate efficiently and make taxpayer dollars go further.

Measure LA will not fix every pothole overnight. But better streets, sidewalks, infrastructure, and City services start with better planning, clearer accountability, and smarter budgeting.

We have spent years digging into City budgets, auditing programs, overseeing departments, and fighting for better infrastructure. We have seen firsthand what gets in the way. We believe these reforms will help Los Angeles deliver better results for the people who live here.

Vote YES on Measure LA.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

KENNETH MEJIA
Controller
City of Los Angeles

BOB BLUMENFIELD
LA City Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

RON GALPERIN
Former City Controller
City of Los Angeles

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER
CEO
Streets For All

KATY YAROSLAVSKY
LA City Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

JESSICA MEANEY
Executive Director
Investing in Place

DAVID LEVITUS
CEO
LA Forward

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ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

At a time when Los Angeles has experienced repeated corruption scandals and public trust in City Hall has been damaged, we should be strengthening transparency and accountability not eliminating independent oversight.

If approved, Charter Amendment LA would give the City Council the authority to eliminate the Board of Public Works and consolidate its powers under a single individual. The Board was established to provide independent review of City contracting, with decisions made in public meetings subject to California's open meeting laws. Removing this important check and balance would reduce public scrutiny and weaken accountability over billions of tax payer dollars for public projects.

Supporters of this Charter Amendment point to reforms like a Capital Improvement Plan, but that change can be implemented without amending the Charter.

Los Angeles needs more transparency, more oversight, and stronger protections against abuse, not fewer safeguards.

Vote NO on Charter Amendment LA.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Los Angeles City Councilwoman, District 7
City of Los Angeles

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REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

The opposition gets one thing right: Los Angeles has relied on the same fragmented system to oversee its infrastructure for generations. Responsibility is spread across multiple officials, commissions, agencies, and bureaus. Angelenos see the results in crumbling streets, buckled sidewalks, and streetlights that stay dark.

Measure LA changes that. It requires one Citywide long-term infrastructure program and two-year budgeting so Los Angeles sets clear priorities, identifies the projects that need to get done, and plans how to fund them over time.

It also puts one Director in charge of coordinating Public Works and delivering that plan. The Director reports to the Mayor and City Council and remains subject to oversight by the independently elected City Controller. Angelenos will know who is responsible for getting streets repaved, sidewalks repaired, streetlights fixed, and projects delivered.

Accountability means a clear plan, clear responsibility, and clear oversight.

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT LA

KENNETH MEJIA
Controller
City of Los Angeles

BOB BLUMENFIELD
LA City Councilmember, President Pro-Tempore
City of Los Angeles

RON GALPERIN
Former City Controller

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER
CEO
Streets For All

KATY YAROSLAVSKY
LA City Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

JESSICA MEANEY
Executive Director
Investing in Place

DAVID LEVITUS
CEO
LA Forward

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New provisions or language added to the Charter or to existing Charter sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Charter or from existing Charter sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

CHARTER AMENDMENT LA
(CITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND CONTRACTING)

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. Subsection (a) of Section 104 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

(a) [Repealed.] ~~**Mortgaging of Property.** The City shall have no power to mortgage its property for any purpose, but may buy property subject to mortgage.~~

Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of Section 104 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

(g) [Repealed.] ~~**Business Enterprises.** The City shall not engage in any purely commercial or industrial enterprise, except upon a majority vote of the voters of the City voting on the question, unless the enterprise was engaged in by the City at the time the Charter becomes effective, or unless engaging in the enterprise is elsewhere specifically authorized in the Charter. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the City from engaging directly in retail concessions of food and merchandise, when those concessions are consistent with and support City operations and purposes.~~

Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of Section 231 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and the Mayor's powers and duties, is amended to read as follows:

(g) prepare and submit the Mayor's proposed ~~annual~~ budget to the Council for consideration in accordance with Article III of the Charter;

Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of Section 291 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and the Chief Administrative Officer's powers and duties, is amended to read as follows:

(b) assist in the preparation of the ~~annual~~ budget in accordance with policies prescribed by the Mayor;

Sec. 5. Section 310 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 310. Budget Cycle; Fiscal Year.

(a) The City shall operate on a biennial budget cycle comprised of two consecutive fiscal years, unless another budget cycle is established by ordinance.

(b) ~~The~~ Each fiscal year of the City, notwithstanding when that fiscal year is in the budget cycle, shall begin on July 1 of ~~each~~ the year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

(c) For each fiscal year of a multi-year budget cycle, the Council, by resolution, shall set the amount appropriated in the budget for that fiscal year on or before June 1 of the preceding

fiscal year. The resolution shall be subject to veto by the Mayor and override of the Mayor's veto by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

Sec. 6. Section 311 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 311. Budget Estimates to Mayor; Statement of Budget Priorities.

(a) At the time the Mayor prescribes, but not later than the January 1 preceding each budget cycle ~~of each year~~, each board or officer at the head of any department or office, or other City governmental activity, other than those departments having control of their own funds, shall submit to the Mayor, with copies to the Council and the City Administrative Officer, on forms and in the manner prescribed by the Mayor, a detailed estimate of the money required for the next budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ for the proper operation of their departments and offices. These estimates shall contain uniform budget classifications and shall clearly set forth the functions performed and the items and services required for such performance. Summaries, schedules and supporting data shall be attached to the estimates. Any department head or officer requesting an increase over the prior budget cycle's ~~year's~~ appropriation shall indicate which classifications need the increase and rank the order of immediate need for each classification. After consultation with an officer or head of a department, the Mayor may refer the estimate back with instructions to prepare a revised estimate on the basis of a maximum sum for the department, office or activity, that maximum sum to be fixed by the Mayor, or with further qualification as the Mayor shall determine. The officer or head of department shall present the revised estimate to the Mayor, with a duplicate to the Council and to the City Administrative Officer, at a date fixed by the Mayor.

(b) On or before the February 1 preceding each budget cycle, the Mayor shall publish his or her budget priorities for the next budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ in order to facilitate public comment.

(c) On or before the March 1 preceding each budget cycle,~~of each year~~ the Controller shall submit to the Mayor, with a duplicate to the Council and ~~to~~ the City Administrative Officer, a detailed statement of the money that the Controller estimates will be required for the interest and sinking funds and for all outstanding bonded indebtedness and other lawful obligations of the City or of special districts and an estimate of the revenue to be derived from fines, licenses and other sources.

Sec. 7. Section 312 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 312. Mayor's Proposed Budget.

On or before the April 1 ~~April 20~~ preceding each budget cycle~~of each year~~, the Mayor shall submit to the Council a budget for the next ensuing budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ setting forth in summary and in detail:

(a) estimates of the expenditures and appropriations necessary for the support of the required work programs of the City government for the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~, including interest and sinking funds or payments of principal on the bonded indebtedness of the City and of special districts;

(b) detailed estimates of the receipts of the City during the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~, under laws existing at the time the budget is transmitted, and also under the revenue

proposals, if any, contained in the budget;

(c) the expenditures and receipts of the City government during the last completed budget cycle~~fiscal year~~;

(d) estimates of the expenditures and receipts of the City government during the budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ in progress;

(e) the amount of annual, permanent or other appropriations, including balances of appropriations for prior budget cycles~~fiscal years~~, available for expenditure during the budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ in progress~~, as of June 30 of such year~~;

(f) balanced statements of:

(1) the condition of the Treasury at the end of the last completed budget cycle~~fiscal year~~;

(2) the estimated condition of the Treasury at the end of the budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ in progress; and

(3) the estimated condition of the Treasury at the end of the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ in case the financial proposals contained in the budget are adopted.

(g) all essential facts regarding the bonds, notes and other lawful obligations of the City;

(h) other financial statements and data necessary or desirable in order to make known in all practical detail the financial condition of the City government;

(i) an Unappropriated Balance, which shall be available for appropriations later in the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ to meet contingencies as they arise; and

(j) a statement of resources of the Reserve Fund which shall be carried over to the next ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ to meet the cash requirements of the City for the portion of the next ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ prior to the receipt of taxes, or for appropriations to the Unappropriated Balance as provided in the Charter.

Sec. 8. Section 313 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 313. Council Consideration of Budget.

After receiving the budget submitted by the Mayor, and prior to taking action on the budget, the Council shall hold a noticed public hearing. On or before the June 1 preceding each budget cycle, the Council shall:

(a) approve the budget as submitted by the Mayor; or

(b) modify the budget by disapproving in whole or in part any items, or by increasing or decreasing any item, or by adding new items, and return the budget as modified by the Council to the Mayor. Any action taken by the Council under this section shall be taken by a majority vote of its members.

Upon failure of the Council to return the budget to the Mayor as provided in this section, the budget as submitted by the Mayor to the Council shall be signed by the City Clerk and

thereupon become the general City budget for the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~.

Sec. 9. Section 315 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 315. Council Consideration of Mayor's Veto Message; Final Adopted Budget.

Upon receipt by the Council of the budget veto message from the Mayor, the Council shall have five days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, within which to overcome the action of the Mayor relative to any item or items of the budget. Any item or items of the budget which shall have been vetoed, or otherwise changed by the Mayor, and which shall not be, by a two-thirds vote of all of the members of the Council, either readopted notwithstanding the objections of the Mayor or changed to an amount between that as originally adopted by the Council and that as changed by the Mayor, shall remain as modified by the Mayor.

Where the Mayor has changed any description or limitation applicable to an item, the Council, in its action pursuant to this section, shall have no power to alter the description or limitation other than to restore it to the condition in which it was originally adopted by the Council.

Upon the expiration of the Council's five-day period, or sooner if the Council by majority vote so directs, the budget as returned by the Mayor, and to the extent modified thereafter by the Council, shall become the general City budget for the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ and shall not be held for reconsideration but shall be promptly transmitted to the City Clerk, signed by the City Clerk and filed in the office of the Controller.

Sec. 10. Section 320 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 320. Expenditure Programs.

Each office and department provided for in the general City budget, and the Departments of Library and Recreation and Parks to the extent that they are assisted by appropriations from the General Fund, shall have authority to expend, in the manner provided by other provisions of the Charter, ordinance, and other applicable law, the funds appropriated for its support during the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~, but only in accordance with a program of planned expenditures which shall be prepared, filed and modified from time to time, as provided by law. No department, bureau, or office of the City government shall make expenditures or incur liabilities in excess of the amount appropriated therefor.

Sec. 11. A new Section 323 is added to the Charter of the City of Los Angeles to read as follows:

Sec. 323. Establishment of the Capital Infrastructure Plan.

A Capital Infrastructure Plan shall be established by ordinance, consistent with the requirements of the Charter. The ordinance shall establish the governance for the plan as well as the scope, timeframe, capital planning process, criteria for a project's inclusion in the plan, reporting requirements, and budgeting process for the plan.

Sec. 12. Section 341 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and transfers, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 341. Transfers from Reserve Fund; Appropriations from Unappropriated Balance.

Transfers may be made from the Reserve Fund after adoption of the ~~annual~~ budget to meet in whole or in part any appropriated item of the ~~annual~~ budget, or may be made to the General Fund or the Unappropriated Balance. These transfers and any appropriations from the Unappropriated Balance may be made after adoption of the budget, as follows:

(a) upon recommendation of the Mayor, approved by a majority vote of the Council;

(b) upon a majority vote of the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, or passage by the Council over the Mayor's veto by a two-thirds vote.

If any order making a transfer or appropriation is not returned to the City Clerk by the Mayor for presentation to the Council, with objections in writing, within ten days after it has been presented, it shall become effective and be as valid as if the Mayor had approved and signed it.

Sec. 13. Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 343 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and transfers, is amended to read as follows:

(a) **Departments Not Controlling Their Own Funds**. The head of any department not having control of its own funds may make application in writing to the Mayor for a transfer of amounts from one appropriated item to another in the budget allowance of the department or to a new item created after adoption of the ~~annual~~ budget. On the approval of the Mayor, the Controller shall make the transfer, but no transfer of an amount exceeding either thirty-five thousand dollars ($35,000) or other amount established by ordinance shall be made unless approved by a majority vote of the Council. Notwithstanding the above, for transfers within the Council's budget, the President of the Council shall be authorized to approve transfers.

(b) **Departments Controlling Their Own Funds**. The general manager of any department having control of its own funds may make application in writing to the board having control and management over the department for a transfer of amounts from one budget item to another in the ~~annual~~ budget of the department, or to a new item created after adoption of the ~~annual~~ budget. On the approval of the board, the Controller shall make the transfer, but no transfer of an amount exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars ($35,000) or other amount established by ordinance shall be made unless approved in writing by the Mayor.

Sec. 14. Subsection (e) of Section 371 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the competitive bidding of contracts, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Exceptions. The restrictions of this section shall not apply to:

(1) Contracts involving consideration reasonably valued at less than an amount specified by ordinance.

(2) Contracts, as determined by the contracting authority, for the performance of professional, scientific, expert, technical, or other special services of a temporary and occasional character for which the contracting authority finds that competitive bidding is not practicable or advantageous.

(3) Contracts for the furnishing of articles covered by letters patent granted by the government of the United States.

(4) Contracts for leasing as lessee or purchasing real property when approved by majority vote of the Council.

(5) Contracts for repairs, alterations, work or improvements declared in writing by the contracting officer or board, or its designee, to be of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property. The declaration shall give the reasons for the urgent necessity and must be approved by the Council or its designee. Approval may be conditioned upon compliance with one or more of the requirements of this section.

(6) Contracts entered into during time of war or national, state or local emergency declared in accordance with federal, state or local law, where the Council, by resolution adopted by two-thirds vote and approved by the Mayor, suspends any or all of the restrictions of this section or their applicability to specific boards, officers or employees.

(7) Contracts for equipment repairs or parts, or for software service or maintenance, obtained from the manufacturer of the equipment or software or its exclusive agent.

(8) Contracts for cooperative arrangement with other governmental agencies for the utilization of the purchasing contracts and professional, scientific, expert or technical services contracts of those agencies and any implementing agreements, even though the contracts and implementing agreements were not entered into through a competitive bid process.

(9) New, long-term concession agreements with the existing merchants as of the Adoption Date of the Charter on Olvera Street negotiated by the City department responsible for administering the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

(10) Subject to the requirements of Section 1022, contracts (including without limitation those, as determined by the contracting authority, for the performance of professional, scientific, expert, technical or other special services), where the contracting authority finds that the use of competitive bidding would be undesirable, impractical or impossible or where the common law otherwise excuses compliance with competitive bidding requirements.

(11) Contracts with qualified vendors, the qualification standards for which shall be specified by ordinance, for the design, development, procurement, or servicing of critical infrastructure, which shall include assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the City that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof.

Sec. 15. Subparagraph (H) of Subdivision (12) of Subsection (c) of Section 470 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding campaign contribution limitations and disclosures, is amended to read as follows:

(H) Every contract solicitation regarding a contract subject to this provision shall include notice of the prohibitions of this subdivision. At the time of submitting a bid or proposal for a contract subject to this section, the bidder or proposer must complete a form identifying the names of its principals, subcontractors of at least $100,000, the principals of those subcontractors, and certify that the bidder or proposer will comply with and notify its principals and subcontractors of the prohibitions in this subdivision; and provide any other information determined necessary. At the discretion of the contracting authority, any technical or administrative defect in completion of any forms subject to this provision may be waived as minor or inconsequential, or may be subject to cure, as further provided by ordinance. An error or omission of substantive information required by the Ethics Commission is not waivable but may be subject to cure prior

to the evaluation or scoring of the bid or proposal, as further provided by ordinance.

Sec. 16. Section 507 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 507. Chief Administrative Officers.

Other than the elected offices, each department and office established by the Charter or created by ordinance~~, and each of the Public Works bureaus of Contract Administration, Engineering, Sanitation, Street Lighting, and Street Services~~ shall have a chief administrative officer. In departments under the control and management of a board of commissioners, the chief administrative officer administers the affairs of the department. In departments and offices not under the control and management of a board of commissioners, the chief administrative officer has full charge and control of all work of the department or office. Elsewhere in the Charter and in the Los Angeles Administrative Code, chief administrative officers may have different position titles including general manager and director.

Sec. 17. Subsection (e) of Section 509 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and powers of chief administrative officers of departments, is amended to read as follows:

(e) recommend to the board of the department prior to the beginning of each budget cycle ~~fiscal year an annual~~ a departmental budget covering the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the department or bureau, conforming so far as practicable to the forms and dates provided in Article III in relation to the general City budget;

Sec. 18. Subsection (g) of Section 510 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and powers of chief administrative officers of departments, is amended to read as follows:

(g) prior to the beginning of each budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ submit ~~an annual~~ a budget covering the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the department, including, pursuant to the instructions of the board of commissioners, if any, the money required for the proper conduct of the board's affairs;

Sec. 19. Subsection (b) of Section 511 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and responsibilities of boards of departments, is amended to read as follows:

(b) prior to the beginning of each budget cycle~~fiscal year~~, adopt ~~an annual~~ a departmental budget and make ~~an annual~~ a department budget appropriation, covering the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the department. The departmental budget shall conform as far as practicable, to the forms and times provided in Article III for the general City budget. Each departmental budget shall contain a sum to be known as the Unappropriated Balance, which sum shall be available for appropriation by the board later in the ensuing budget cycle~~fiscal year~~ to meet contingencies as they may arise. A copy of the budget when adopted, and of every resolution subsequently adopted making appropriation from the Unappropriated Balance shall promptly be filed with the Mayor and Controller. No expenditure shall be made or financial obligations incurred by the department except as authorized by the ~~annual~~ departmental budget appropriation, or appropriations made after the adoption of the ~~annual~~ budget, or as otherwise provided in the Charter.

Sec. 20. Subsection (d) of Section 572 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding

the City's budget and powers and duties of the executive director of the Board of Police Commissioners, is amended to read as follows:

(d) recommend to the Board of Police Commissioners prior to the beginning of each budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ a budget covering the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the board and its staff, conforming so far as practicable to the forms and dates provided in the Charter in relation to the general City budget;

Sec. 21. Subsection (e) of Section 574 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and powers and duties of the Chief of Police, is amended to read as follows:

(e) recommend to the Board of Police Commissioners prior to the beginning of each budget cycle ~~fiscal year an annual~~ a departmental budget covering the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the department, except the anticipated revenues and expenditures under the control of the Executive Director, and conforming so far as practicable to the forms and dates provided in the Charter for the general City budget;

Sec. 22. Section 581 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Board of Public Works, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 581. Board of Public Works.

Members of the Board of Public Works shall devote their entire time to the duties of office unless otherwise provided by ordinance. Notwithstanding Section 514, the City Council may, by ordinance adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Council, subject to the veto of the Mayor or by a three-fourths vote of the Council over the veto of the Mayor, make any changes to the composition or existence of the Board of Public Works as well as add to, or remove, any of its powers and duties. Subject to the Charter and applicable ordinances and law, the board shall have the power and duty to:

(a) set policy for and manage the Department of Public Works;

(b) establish procedures for the examination, consideration and preparation of requests for proposals or bids, and for the advertisement and establishment of the amount of the required bond, all as provided by Sections 370 through 378 and related ordinances, for any work or improvements;

(c) approve the award of contracts;

(d) fix the time when work shall be commenced and completed in accordance with applicable law;

~~(e) exercise the power of eminent domain, subject to Council authorization, and lease or purchase property on behalf of the City for the construction and maintenance of public works projects;~~

(e)~~(f)~~ exercise the powers and duties imposed by law or delegated by the Council relating to the award of contracts for work specified in Section 580 and the determination of benefits, damages and costs incident to a proposed change or improvement of any public place, right-of-way or property belonging to the City and the making and levying of assessments upon property to cover the damages and costs;

(f)~~(g)~~ conduct hearings and hear appeals as authorized by ordinance relating to the work

of the department, including hearings pertaining to special assessments;

(g)~~(h)~~ on its own initiative or upon complaint, investigate departmental operations and acts of employees and report findings to the Director of Public Works, the Mayor and the Council;

(h)~~(i)~~ approve, in consultation with the Director of Public Works, specifications for public works construction projects;

~~(j) accept completed public works projects, provided that the board may delegate to the Director of Public Works the authority to accept projects involving less than one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) or such other amount prescribed by the board;~~

(i)~~(k)~~ make recommendations about short- and long-range public works plans and programs to the Director of Public Works, Mayor, and Council; and

(j)~~(l)~~ annually present to the Council at its meeting in the second week of July, a report for the previous fiscal year stating the amount of proceeds from the sale of bonds, the purposes for which those proceeds have been expended, the amount expended, the balance in each bond fund and other information and suggestions as it deems appropriate.

The Board of Public Works shall have power to proceed with all such construction and maintenance, and to carry out any of the purposes herein mentioned from any funds under its control and available for such purposes; provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge the power of the Council to order any work or improvements and to provide the manner of paying therefor, such work or improvement, however, to be done under the superintendence and control of the Board of Public Works.

Sec. 23. Section 582 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Director of Public Works, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 582. Director of Public Works

There shall be a chief administrative officer of the Department of Public Works, known as the Director of Public Works, who shall be appointed and removed as provided in Section 508. ~~Instead of~~ In addition to those powers and duties set forth in Section 509, the director shall have the power and duty to:

(a) enforce all orders, rules and regulations adopted by the board;

(b) administer contracts;

(c) supervise and manage construction and maintenance work authorized by the board;

(d) approve those public works contracts within the authority delegated to the Director by the board or by ordinance;

(e) grant street encroachment and other permits necessary for the temporary use of City rights-of-way;

(f) exercise the power of eminent domain, subject to Council authorization, and lease or purchase property on behalf of the City for the construction and maintenance of public works projects~~make recommendations to the board about short- and long-range public works plans and programs~~;

(g) make recommendations to the board, Mayor, and Council about short- and long-range public works plans and programs incorporating feedback from the board where relevant;

(h)~~(g)~~ oversee the functions of departmental accounting and management-employee services including any bureaus in the department charged with performing those functions, and ~~issue instructions to,~~ appoint, discharge, suspend and transfer the employees that perform those functions, all subject to the civil service provisions of the Charter;

(i) support the function of citywide capital infrastructure planning including, but not limited to, the public right-of-way, ground transportation, city-owned buildings, and public spaces;

(j) oversee technology systems procurement and implementation for the department and any bureaus, except as otherwise provided by ordinance;

(k) accept completed public works projects and recommend operating and maintenance funding at the time of project completion to ensure proper state of repair;

(l)~~(h)~~ recommend to the Mayor and Council ~~board~~ prior to the beginning of each budget cycle ~~fiscal year an annual~~ a departmental budget covering the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the department, conforming so far as practicable to the forms and dates provided in Article III in relation to the general City budget; ~~and~~

(m)~~(i)~~ file with the board and the Mayor a written report on the work of the department on a regular basis as requested by the Mayor or board.~~;~~ and

(n) oversee construction and maintenance, and to carry out any of the purposes herein mentioned from any funds under the Director's control and available for such purposes; provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge the power of the Council to order any work or improvements and to provide the manner of paying therefor, such work or improvement, however, to be done under the superintendence and control of the Director of Public Works subject to the instructions of the board.

Sec. 24. Section 610 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and Proprietary Departments, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 610. Debt Accountability and Capital Improvement Plan.

~~Every two years, in~~In conjunction with the submission of its budget~~submittal of its annual budget~~, each Proprietary Department shall submit a debt accountability and major capital improvement plan to the Mayor, Council, and Controller.

Sec. 25. Subsection (c) of Section 683 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and the executive director of the Office of Public Accountability, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The Executive Director shall (1) report directly to, but shall not be instructed by, the board; (2) have full charge and control of all work of the OPA; (3) be responsible for the proper administration of its affairs; (4) appoint, discharge, suspend, or transfer all of its employees, subject to the civil service provisions of the Charter; (5) issue instructions to OPA employees in the line of their duties, subject to the civil service provisions of the Charter; (6) prior to the beginning of each budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ and in accordance with a schedule prescribed by ordinance, submit to the City Administrative Officer a proposed ~~annual~~ budget covering the anticipated expenditures of the OPA; (7) expend the funds of the OPA (including, without

limitation, awarding contracts) in accordance with the provisions of the budget appropriations or of appropriations made after adoption of the budget; and (8) perform such other duties as may be prescribed by ordinance.

Sec. 26. Section 684 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and Board of Water and Power Commissioners, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 684. Submission of Budget to the City Council for Informational Purposes.

The Board of Water and Power Commissioners shall submit a preliminary budget for the upcoming budget cycle ~~fiscal year~~ to the City Council for informational purposes by no later than the March 31 preceding each budget cycle ~~of each year~~ and shall by May 31 of that year update the preliminary budget based on additional information received after March 31, including without limitation, additional information about revenue and expense projections. ~~This Section shall be operative on July 1, 2011.~~

Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of Section 1001 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1001. Exemptions.

Each of the following positions shall be exempt from this Article:

(a) Exempt Positions.

(1) All officers elected by the people.

(2) All members of the boards of commissioners.

(3) All chief administrative officers of the City's departments and offices and the Directors of any ~~the~~ Public Works Department~~'~~ Bureaus ~~of Contract Administration, Engineering, Sanitation, Street Lighting and Street Services~~.

(4) Two positions in the class of Assistant General Manager or Deputy Director in each City office or department, and two positions in the class of Assistant Director in each of any ~~the~~ Public Works Department Bureau~~s of Contract Administration, Engineering, Sanitation, Street Lighting and Street Services~~, and two positions in the class of Deputy Controller in the Office of Controller.

(5) All Deputy Chiefs of Police.

(6) All Deputy Chiefs of Fire.

(7) Positions in the Office of the Mayor.

(8) Positions established by the Council for the purpose of assisting the members of the Council in the performance of their duties, except for clerical personnel.

(9) All positions in the office of the City Attorney.

(10) The Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Water and Power.

(11) The Executive Director of the Board of Police Commissioners.

(12) The Inspector General of the Police Department.

(13) The Executive Director and all personnel of the City Ethics Commission.

(14) All Assistant Directors in the Office of the City Administrative Officer.

(15) The Traffic Manager and the Port Warden of the Harbor Department.

(16) Crossing Guards.

(17) All physicians and psychologists subject to Section 1040.

(18) All officers of election.

(19) Persons specially employed by the City Clerk, as authorized by the provisions of Section 405 of the Charter, to assist in the conduct of any election.

(20) Positions elsewhere specifically exempted by the Charter.

Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of Section 1160 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System, is amended to read as follows:

(a) **Transmittal of Budget**. The board shall ~~annually~~ prepare and transmit to the Mayor and Controller a budget for the upcoming budget cycle setting forth the estimated cost of maintaining the Retirement Fund. The budget shall include separate items as follows:

(1) *City Contributions.* A sum equal to a percentage of the salaries of all members of the retirement system, which percentage shall be the same as that shown in the last actuarial report rendered, as herein before provided to be the percentage required for members of departments with no past service.

(2) *Liquidation of Unfunded Liabilities.* A sum sufficient to liquidate, over a period of up to 30 years, any accrued unfunded liabilities assumed by the System.

(3) *Administrative Expenses.* At the discretion of the City Council, the administrative expenses of the System.

Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of Section 1210 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension Plan, is amended to read as follows:

(a) **Adoption of ~~Annual~~ Budget**. The Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners shall adopt a budget each budget cycle ~~year~~ setting forth the administration expense for each Tier of the Fire and Police Pension Plan. The budget shall be adopted at a meeting open to the public. At the discretion of the Council, administrative expense, which includes investment management expense, may be paid from the assets of the Plan.

Sec. 30. The first paragraph of Subsection (b) of Section 1210 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City's budget and Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension Plan, is amended to read as follows:

(b) **Separate Items of Budget**. The Board shall ~~annually~~ prepare and transmit to the Mayor, Council and Controller a budget for the upcoming budget cycle setting forth the estimated cost of maintaining the Fire and Police Pension Plan. The budget shall include each

of the following separate items, whether such item is a positive number or a negative number:

Sec. 31. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this Charter amendment or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, or applications of this Charter amendment shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Charter amendment are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this Charter amendment without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

PL CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT. CHARTER AMENDMENT PL.

Shall the City Charter be amended to: establish a Neighborhood Appeals Commission to replace Area Planning Commissions and establish a process for City Council review of Neighborhood Appeals Commission and City Planning Commission decisions; change the timing and process for City Council action on certain planning decisions; grant the Planning Department the authority to investigate, hear, and determine applications for quasi-judicial review; and allow for changes to floor area regulations by ordinance?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

This measure proposes changes to the City's planning and land use management. The measure would specify in the City Charter (Charter) the authorities and duties of the City Planning Department and Director of Planning, while concurrently modifying the authority of City Council to review planning and land use matters and replacing the seven Area Planning Commissions with a single new Neighborhood Appeals Commission.

The City governs planning and land use through the Charter (City's constitution) and ordinances (City laws). The Charter is the foundational document that establishes the powers and duties of key decisionmakers, which include the City Planning Department, City Planning Commission, Area Planning Commissions, Director of Planning, Office of Zoning Administration, the City Council and the Mayor. The Charter also establishes the processes and appeal rights for certain land use entitlements including General Plan Amendments, zone changes, variances, conditional use permits and similar quasi-judicial approvals.

This measure would:

- Replace the seven Area Planning Commissions (APCs) and their 35 Commissioners with a single, new Neighborhood Appeals Commission (NAC) with at least seven members, subject to qualification requirements concerning geographic or other representation to be defined by ordinance, and grant the NAC the power to hear administrative appeals and consider those appeals anew and without deference to earlier decisionmakers. This will eliminate the APC system that has been in place since the current Charter became effective in July 2000 and return the City to an oversight and decision-making structure that mirrors one that existed prior to 2000 which consisted of a single, five-member quasi-judicial body, the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Specify in the Charter the responsibilities of the City Planning Department and Director of Planning by amending the Charter's section on the Office of Zoning Administration to grant the Department authority over quasi-judicial applications and the Director of Planning authority to appoint staff beyond the Office of Zoning

Administration to perform the duties of quasi-judicial review, as authorized by ordinance.

- Remove Charter sections that establish the processes and appeal rights for certain land use entitlements including General Plan Amendments, zone changes, variances, conditional use permits and similar quasi-judicial approvals, and delegation of legislative authority, thereby authorizing such matters to be governed by ordinance.
- Make changes to the existing process for City Council to assert jurisdiction in planning and land use matters. This measure will: (1) create a 30-day time limit for the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission to concur with or dissent from City Council upon remand, after Council asserts jurisdiction; (2) require the Commissions' action on remand to be referred to City Council for a final vote; and (3) require City Council to act within 21 days or the action of the Commission becomes final. City Council's authority to assert jurisdiction in the planning and land use context is unique in that Council has the ability to act in place of the underlying Commission upon asserting jurisdiction.
- Deem General Plan Amendments automatically approved if City Council does not act within 75 days of approvals by the Mayor and City Planning Commission. This measure will: (1) replace current City law which provides for an automatic disapproval of the General Plan Amendment if the City Council does not take action on the matter, and (2) codify the 75-day time limit for City Council to act, which already exists in City law, in the Charter.
- Allow the City Council to change the Floor Area Restriction limitation by ordinance. The Charter currently imposes a floor area limit of 13 times the buildable area of a site.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure will establish one Neighborhood Appeals Commission to replace the seven Area Planning Commissions; establish a process for City Council review of Neighborhood Appeals Commission and City Planning Commission decisions; change the timing and process for City Council action on certain planning decisions; grant the Planning Department the authority to investigate, hear, and determine applications for quasi-judicial review; and, allow the City Council to make changes to floor area regulations by ordinance. This measure is not anticipated to impact revenue. The annual administrative costs for commission staffing and resources are estimated to be reduced by $360,000 from $1.1 million to $740,000. The cost reduction would positively impact the Planning Case Processing Special Fund, which is subsidized by the General Fund.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PL

Los Angeles has experienced the consequences of a planning system in which individual land-use decisions can become entangled with politics. When the rules are unclear or decisions depend too heavily on political discretion, it creates opportunities for special interests to seek preferential treatment and undermines public confidence in City Hall.

Measure PL is an important step toward changing that.

Measure PL modernizes Los Angeles' planning system by establishing clearer rules, more consistent procedures, and greater accountability for how planning decisions are made.

The measure replaces the existing Area Planning Commissions with a Neighborhood Appeals Commission, creating a more consistent citywide process for hearing planning appeals. It also establishes clearer procedures for when the City Council may review decisions of the Neighborhood Appeals Commission and City Planning Commission and improves the process and timelines for Council action on certain planning matters.

Measure PL also empowers professional Planning Department staff to investigate, hear, and decide appropriate quasi-judicial applications, helping streamline routine planning decisions while maintaining avenues for public review and oversight. It also allows building density to be updated by ordinance, giving Los Angeles greater flexibility to respond to changing housing, development, and neighborhood needs.

These reforms will make our planning system easier to understand and more efficient to navigate for any resident. Just as importantly, clearer lines of authority and consistent procedures make it harder for anyone to manipulate the system for preferential treatment.

Measure PL preserves public participation and oversight while creating a planning system that is more transparent, predictable, and accountable.

Los Angeles residents deserve to know who makes planning decisions, how those decisions are made, and that everyone plays by the same rules.

Streamline planning. Increase transparency. Strengthen accountability. Fight corruption.

Vote YES on Measure PL.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PL

RAYMOND MEZA
Chair
Charter Reform Commission

ROY SAMAAN
President
Engineers & Architects Association

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED.

Arguments printed are the opinions of the authors and are not checked for accuracy by any City agency. In addition, the title beneath a signer's name is for identification purposes only and does not indicate that the individual is signing on behalf of the organization.

New provisions or language added to the Charter or to existing Charter sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Charter or from existing Charter sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

CHARTER AMENDMENT PL
(CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT)

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. Subsection (e) of Section 104 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

(e) **Floor Area Restriction**. The total floor area contained in all the buildings on any one building site shall not exceed 13 times the buildable area of the site, unless as otherwise provided by Council. ~~as such buildable area is defined by ordinance~~. The Council, by ordinance, may define and implement the provisions of this subsection and may ~~further restrict and~~ regulate the total floor area, buildable area, and height or bulk of buildings or structures.

Sec. 2. Subsection (e) or Section 245 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding City Council veto of board actions, is amended to read as follows:

(e) **Exceptions for Actions of the City Planning Commission and Neighborhood Appeals Commission ~~Area Planning Commissions~~**. The Council shall not be limited to veto of actions of the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission ~~Area Planning Commissions~~, but, subject to the time limits and other limitations of this section, after voting to bring the matter before it, shall have the same authority to act on a matter as that originally held by the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission ~~Area Planning Commissions~~. If the Council vetoes and remands the matter, then the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission shall have 30 days to take up the item again and concur or dissent. The action of the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission on remand shall be presented to the Council in consideration of a final second vote on the matter by Council. Upon presentation of a final second vote, the Council shall have the same authority to act on a matter as that originally held by the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission and must act, within 21 calendar days of said presentation, or the action of the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission on remand becomes final. Calendar days that Council is in recess, arising from a Council-adopted recess schedule, shall be excluded from the 21 calendar days that Council has to act.

Sec. 3. Section 552 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 552. Neighborhood Appeals Commission. ~~Area Planning Commissions.~~

The Council shall adopt an ordinance creating a commission comprised of no fewer than seven members that considers appeals of quasi-judicial determinations made by the Department of City Planning. Members shall be appointed and removed in the same manner as members of the City Planning Commission, except that commissioner appointments shall be subject to qualification requirements concerning geographic or other representation as defined by ordinance. The Neighborhood Appeals Commission is a quasi-judicial agency, and shall have and exercise power to:

(a) hear and determine appeals of quasi-judicial determinations de novo, subject to procedures prescribed by ordinance; and

(b) hear and determine other matters delegated to it by ordinance.

~~The Council shall adopt an ordinance creating not less than five separate bodies to be known as Area Planning Commissions. The ordinance shall establish the boundaries of the area to be served by each Area Planning Commission, which shall be drawn so that all areas of the City are served by an Area Planning Commission. Each Area Planning Commission shall consist of five members. Members shall be appointed and removed in the same manner as members of the City Planning Commission, except that residency in the area served by the Area Planning Commission shall be a qualification for appointment. Except as provided in subsection (d), Area Planning Commissions are quasi-judicial agencies.~~

~~Each Area Planning Commission, with respect to matters concerning property located in the area served by the Area Planning Commission, shall have and exercise the power to:~~

~~(a) hear and determine appeals where it is alleged there is error or abuse of discretion in any order, requirement, decision, interpretation or other determination made by a Zoning Administrator;~~

~~(b) hear and make determinations on any matter normally under the jurisdiction of a Zoning Administrator when that matter has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Area Planning Commission because the Zoning Administrator has failed to act within the time limits prescribed by ordinance;~~

~~(c) hear and determine applications for, or appeals related to, conditional use permits and other similar quasi-judicial approvals, in accordance with procedures prescribed by ordinance;~~

~~(d) make recommendations with respect to zone changes or similar matters referred to it from the City Planning Commission pursuant to Section 562; and~~

~~(e) hear and determine other matters delegated to it by ordinance.~~

Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of Section 555 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding procedures for adoption the City's General Plan, is amended to read as follows:

(e) **Votes Necessary for Adoption**. If both the City Planning Commission and the Mayor recommend approval of a proposed amendment, the Council may adopt the amendment by a majority vote. If either the City Planning Commission or the Mayor recommends the disapproval of a proposed amendment, the Council may adopt the amendment only by a two-thirds vote. If both the City Planning Commission and the Mayor recommend the disapproval of a proposed amendment, the Council may adopt the amendment only by a three-fourths vote. If the Council proposes a modification of an amendment, the recommendations of the Commission and the Mayor on the modification shall affect only that modification. If the Council has not acted within 75 days of the Mayor's recommendation, and the proposed General Plan Amendment has received a recommendation of approval from both the City Planning Commission and the Mayor, then the amendment shall be deemed approved.

Sec. 5. Section 560 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 560. Hearings and Investigations.

The City Planning Commission and Neighborhood Appeals Commission ~~Area Planning~~

~~Commissions~~ may authorize the Director of Planning or his or her designee to conduct hearings on behalf of the commission. The Director of Planning shall make investigations relative to all matters provided for in Sections 555 and 558 as the City Planning Commission may direct and shall file reports with the City Planning Commission.

Sec. 6. Section 561 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 561. Quasi-Judicial Review ~~Office of Zoning Administration~~.

The Department of City Planning shall be responsible for the independent review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of quasi-judicial applications. The duties of quasi-judicial review shall be performed by designated City Planning staff, which shall include, but not be limited to, the Office of Zoning Administration, a Deputy Advisory Agency, and Hearing Officers, as authorized by ordinance, all of whom shall be appointed by the Director of Planning, subject to the civil service provisions of the Charter. Subject to rules and regulations as may be prescribed by ordinance, the Department of City Planning shall investigate, hear, and determine all applications for quasi-judicial review, and shall have other powers and duties with respect to zoning and land use determinations as prescribed by ordinance.

There shall be a quasi-judicial agency known as the Office of Zoning Administration. The duties of this office shall be performed by one or more Zoning Administrators as authorized by the Council, who shall be appointed by the Director of Planning subject to the civil service provisions of the Charter. If more than one Zoning Administrator is authorized, a position of Chief Zoning Administrator shall be established, the appointment to which shall be made by the Director of Planning, and the others shall be Associate Zoning Administrators. Subject to rules and regulations as may be prescribed by ordinance, the Office of Zoning Administration shall investigate and determine all applications for variances from any of the regulations and requirements of the zoning ordinances, and shall have other powers and duties with respect to zoning and land use as prescribed by ordinance.

The Council shall by ordinance provide time limits within which the Department of City Planning ~~a Zoning Administrator~~ must act for each type of case under its ~~his or her~~ jurisdiction. If no determination is made ~~by a Zoning Administrator~~ within the prescribed time, the applicant may request that the matter be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Neighborhood Appeals Commission ~~an Area Planning Commission~~ or other board as prescribed by ordinance.

The Chief Zoning Administrator may adopt rules necessary to carry out the requirements prescribed by ordinance and which are not in conflict or inconsistent with those ordinances. ~~All rules and regulations shall be available for inspection in accordance with the requirements of the California Public Records Act.~~

Sec. 7. Section 562 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

~~**Sec. 562. Variances.**~~

~~The Council shall prescribe by ordinance the procedures for the granting of variances subject to the following:~~

~~(a) Initial Hearing and Determination. All applications for variances shall be heard and determined by a Zoning Administrator except as otherwise provided in Section 564.~~

~~(b) Appeals Process. An aggrieved person may appeal a variance decision of the Zoning Administrator to the Area Planning Commission. The grant of a variance by the Area~~

~~Planning Commission may be further appealed to the City Planning Commission or Council as prescribed by ordinance. There shall be no further appeal from the decision of the Area Planning Commission to deny a variance. However, that action of the Area Planning Commission is subject to Council review pursuant to Section 245.~~

~~(c) Findings for Granting a Variance. The following findings shall be made before a variance may be granted:~~

~~(1) that the strict application of the provisions of the zoning ordinance would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purposes and intent of the zoning regulations;~~

~~(2) that there are special circumstances applicable to the subject property such as size, shape, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity;~~

~~(3) that the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other property in the same zone and vicinity but which, because of the special circumstances and practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships, is denied to the property in question;~~

~~(4) that the granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare, or injurious to the property or improvements in the same zone or vicinity in which the property is located; and~~

~~(5) that the granting of the variance will not adversely affect any element of the General Plan.~~

~~The grant of a variance may include conditions that will remedy a disparity of privileges and that are necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare and assure compliance with the objectives of the General Plan and the purpose and intent of the zoning ordinance. A variance shall not be used to grant a special privilege or to permit a use substantially inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the same zone and vicinity. The Zoning Administrator may deny a variance if the conditions creating the need for the variance were self-imposed.~~

Sec. 8. Section 563 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

~~Sec. 563. Conditional Use Permits and Other Approvals.~~

~~(a) Subdivisions. The procedure for the approval of parcel maps, subdivision maps and other approvals granted pursuant to the State Subdivision Map Act shall be prescribed by ordinance.~~

~~(b) Conditional Use Permits and Other Similar Quasi-Judicial Approvals. The Council shall prescribe by ordinance the procedure for the granting of conditional use permits and similar quasi-judicial approvals subject to the following:~~

~~(1) Initial Determination. Applications for conditional use permits and similar quasi-judicial land use approvals shall be heard and determined either by the Zoning Administrator or Area Planning Commission as provided by ordinance. However, the City Planning Commission may adopt rules and regulations, subject to approval by ordinance, that identify classes or categories of quasi-judicial approvals that have citywide impact, and provide for those approvals to be heard and determined by the City Planning Commission instead of an Area Planning Commission.~~

~~(2) Appeals Process. An aggrieved person may appeal a decision of the Zoning Administrator with respect to a conditional use permit or similar quasi-judicial approval to the Area Planning Commission. Decisions of an Area Planning Commission, except those decisions made by the Area Planning Commission on appeal from a decision of the Zoning Administrator, may be appealed either to the City Planning Commission or Council, as provided by ordinance. However, the process for the approval of conditional use permits and similar quasi-judicial approvals may not include more than one level of appeal from the decision of a decision-making official or body. For purposes of this restriction:~~

~~(A) The use of hearing examiners or other methods by which recommendations are made to a decision-making official or body does not preclude an appeal from the decision of the decision-making official or body.~~

~~(B) If the Council is acting as the appellate body, the Council's action may be subject to Mayoral approval and Council override of Mayoral disapproval by a two-thirds vote of the Council, if so provided by ordinance.~~

~~(C) Council review of an action under Charter Section 245 shall not be considered an appeal for purposes of this section.~~

~~(D) The restrictions on appeals do not apply to any legislative actions.~~

Sec. 9. Section 564 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

~~Sec. 564. Projects Requiring Multiple Approvals.~~

~~If a project requires approvals by both the Zoning Administrator and either an Area Planning Commission or the City Planning Commission, those approvals that would otherwise be heard and determined by the Zoning Administrator shall be heard and determined by the Area Planning Commission or City Planning Commission, whichever has jurisdiction over the other approvals required for the project. Approvals for a project that requires both quasi-judicial and legislative actions shall be heard and determined by the City Planning Commission, except as provided in Section 565.~~

Sec. 10. Section 565 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

~~Sec. 565. Delegation of Legislative Authority to Area Planning Commissions.~~

~~The City Planning Commission may adopt rules and regulations, subject to approval by ordinance, identifying classes or categories of legislative actions for projects determined not to have citywide impact, and provide for action on those projects to be taken by an Area Planning Commission in lieu of the City Planning Commission.~~

Sec. 11. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this Charter amendment or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, or applications of this Charter amendment shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Charter amendment are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this Charter amendment without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

EE CITY ETHICS, ELECTIONS, AND GOVERNANCE. CHARTER AMENDMENT EE.

Shall the City Charter be amended to: increase the authority of the Police Department Inspector General and Fire Department Independent Assessor; prohibit Ethics Commissioners from running for certain elected offices for five years; increase penalties for campaign finance violations; require City Council to meet at least weekly rather than the currently required three days per week; increase referendum petition signature requirements; and make other changes regarding ethics, elections and governance?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The City Charter establishes the structure, powers, functions, processes and responsibilities of City government. The City is proposing various changes and clarifications to the City Charter regarding City ethics, elections, and governance.

The measure would amend the City Charter as follows:

- Prohibit the Executive Director and Commissioners of the Ethics Commission from running for any City elected office or Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education office for at least five years after leaving their positions, thereby establishing a five-year post-service ban on running for City or Los Angeles Unified School District elected office;
- Increase the maximum monetary penalty for campaign finance violations to the greater of $15,000, adjusted annually for inflation, or three times the amount improperly reported or unlawfully contributed, expended, given, or received, per violation;
- Increase the number of signatures required to qualify a referendum petition for presentation to the City Council from 10 percent to 15 percent of the total number of votes cast in the last Mayoral election, the same percentage of signatures required for initiative petitions;
- Strengthen the independence of the Police Department Inspector General by removing the authority of the Board of Police Commissioners to direct the Inspector General not to commence or continue an investigation or audit;
- Strengthen the independence of the Fire Department Independent Assessor by removing the authority of the Board of Fire Commissioners to direct the Independent Assessor not to commence or continue an assessment or audit;
- Clarify language such that the Police Department and Fire Department would remain exempt from transfers or consolidation of departmental powers if it significantly alters or affects the primary purpose of the departments;
- Require that the City Council hold regular meetings at least weekly rather than meet at least three days per week, as currently required;

- Change the timing requirement for boards of commissioners actions to become final after 15 calendar days during which the City Council has convened in regular session rather than five meeting days of the City Council, as currently required in the Charter;
- Change the timing requirement associated with the City Council's ability to act before an action of the Board of Police Commissioners to remove the Chief of Police becomes final to 21 calendar days during which the City Council has convened in regular session rather than ten meeting days of the City Council, as currently required in the Charter;
- Clarify that the City shall adopt and maintain ordinances and policies to ensure that City services are accessible across various languages; and
- Incorporate several technical and terminology-related changes to provisions concerning Neighborhood Councils and indicate that the definition of Neighborhood Council stakeholder shall be defined by ordinance.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This City Charter amendment pertains to various governance areas including: facilitating language accessibility; reducing the minimum requirement for regularly held City Council meetings; increasing the required signatures for a referendum petition; updating Charter Section 470 to align with the campaign finance penalties in Section 706; prohibiting Ethics Commissioners from running for certain offices for five years; and, allowing assessments and audits of the Fire and Police departments by the Independent Assessor or Inspector General, respectively, without oversight of their boards. The reduction in Council meetings may result in General Fund cost savings from reduced translation and closed captioning services. The changes to the Fire and Police commissions may require hiring new investigators, retaining external auditors, or expanding investigative staff depending on case volume resulting in costs that cannot be determined at this time. The other governance changes are not anticipated to have a financial impact.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

VOTE YES ON MEASURE EE to strengthen ethics, accountability, independent oversight, and effective governance at Los Angeles City Hall.

Measure EE strengthens the institutions responsible for holding City government accountable. It expands the authority of the Police Department Inspector General and Fire Department Independent Assessor, providing stronger independent oversight of two of the City's most critical public safety departments. It also strengthens campaign finance enforcement by increasing penalties for violations and establishes a five-year cooling-off period before Ethics Commissioners may seek certain elected City offices.

Measure EE also modernizes how the City Council conducts its work. The City Charter currently requires Council to meet at least three days each week–an unusual mandate that makes Los Angeles an outlier among major American cities and limits the time Councilmembers have to work in their districts, meet directly with constituents, implement policy and programs, and address neighborhood needs. Measure EE requires regular weekly Council meetings while allowing additional meetings as needed, providing greater flexibility to meet at times and places that accommodate the needs of residents across the City and allow Council to conduct the public's business efficiently and effectively. Los Angeles is a city of nearly four million people, and effective representation requires Councilmembers to work in their communities, respond to constituent concerns as they arise, and tackle complex policy challenges citywide.

Measure EE also updates referendum and election procedures and advances additional reforms developed through the City's Charter review process.

Together, these reforms strengthen oversight, raise ethical standards, and modernize City government while preserving transparency and public accountability.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE EE for a more ethical, accountable, and effective City government.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

TIM MCOSKER
Councilmember, District 15
City of LA

DIEGO ANDRADES
Charter Reform Commissioner

EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, District 1
City of LA

KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, District 5
City of LA

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, District 8
City of LA

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ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

Charter Amendment EE is presented as an ethics reform measure, but buried within is a proposal to reduce Los Angeles City Council meetings from three times a week to once a week. Its primary effect is to reduce the number of public meetings where residents can watch proceedings, provide public comment, and hold elected officials accountable.

After years of corruption scandals and ethics failures at City Hall, Los Angeles needs more transparency not less. Fewer public meetings mean fewer opportunities for public scrutiny and greater potential for important decisions to be shaped outside the public eye.

The San Fernando Valley currently hosts City Council meetings at most once a month. If Measure EE passes, those meetings would likely occur less frequently, further limiting Valley residents' access to their elected officials.

Charter reform should expand transparency, public access, and accountability not reduce them.

Vote NO on Charter Amendment EE.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Los Angeles City Councilwoman, District 7
City of Los Angeles

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REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

VOTE YES ON MEASURE EE. Among other reforms, EE makes the Council more efficient and transparent, and increases access to elected representatives. EE allows Council business to be conducted in one meeting per week, making public participation in the process more predictable and certain. In addition, with business conducted in one meeting per week, councilmembers can spend more time in community, providing the services and doing the work for which they were elected.

The opposition argument for an arbitrary number of meetings perpetuates an ineffective, inefficient, and wasteful system. The opposition also ignores Measure EE's additional reforms: independent oversight of the Police and Fire Departments, increased penalties for campaign finance violations, and a five-year cooling-off period for Ethics Commissioners seeking certain elected offices.

EE creates meaningful public access and strong independent oversight–and eliminates an antiquated, arbitrary, and wasteful practice of the City Council. **VOTE YES ON MEASURE EE.**

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHARTER AMENDMENT EE

TIM MCOSKER
Councilmember, District 15
City of LA

KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, District 5
City of LA

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, District 8
City of LA

DIEGO ANDRADES
Charter Reform Commissioner

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CHARTER AMENDMENT EE
(CITY ETHICS, ELECTIONS, AND GOVERNANCE)

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. Section 103 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Every City office and department, and every City official and employee, is expected to perform their functions with diligence and dedication on behalf of the people of the City of Los Angeles. In the delivery of City services and in the performance of its tasks, the government shall endeavor to perform at the highest levels of achievement, including efficiency, accessibility, accountability, quality, use of technologically advanced methods, and responsiveness to public concerns within budgetary limitations. Every analysis and review of the performance of the government and its officers shall seek to ascertain whether these high standards are being met, and if not, shall recommend methods of improvement. The City shall adopt and maintain ordinances and policies to reasonably ensure that its communications, programs, and public engagement are accessible across the languages spoken by its residents, and that outreach reflects the cultural and linguistic communities of the City.

Sec. 2. Section 242 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City Council's conduct of business, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 242. Conduct of Business.

The Council shall be the sole judge of the election and qualification of its members. Meetings and records of the proceedings of the Council and of the committees of the Council shall be open to the public, except that closed sessions may be held as permitted by law. The Council shall have the exclusive power to organize its business, prescribe the rules of its proceedings and preserve order at its meetings, subject to the following:

(a) The Council shall hold regular meetings at least weekly ~~at least three days each week~~. Meetings may be held in City Hall or elsewhere in the City. By resolution, the Council may establish periods during which the Council or its committees will be in recess. The Council and its committees may also each hold special meetings with proper notice.

(b) The Council, by ordinance or resolution, shall establish a sufficient number of committees to enable it to carry out its duties. The duty of the Council and its committees is to become fully informed of the business of the City so as to oversee all the functions of the City government, and to report to the Council any information or recommendations necessary to enable the Council to properly legislate. Committees shall have the power of investigation, but shall have no administrative control over the various functions of the City government. The administration of the City government shall be vested in the officials designated in the Charter to perform those functions. The President of the Council shall appoint the members and the chair of the committees and each Council member shall be appointed to at least one committee.

Sec. 3. The first paragraph of Section 245 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles,

regarding the timing of City Council veto of board actions, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 245. City Council Veto of Board Actions.

Actions of boards of commissioners shall become final at the expiration of the next 15 calendar days ~~five meeting days of the Council~~ during which the Council has convened in regular session, unless the Council acts within that time by two-thirds vote to bring the action before it or to waive review of the action, except that as to any action of the Board of Police Commissioners regarding the removal of the Chief of Police, the time period within which the Council may act before the action of the Board shall become final shall be 21 calendar days ~~ten meeting days~~ during which the Council has convened in regular session.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of Section 461 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding referendary petitions, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The referendary petition circulated for signature shall contain the full text of the subject ordinance. All names signed to a petition must have been secured within 30 days after publication of the ordinance. Any signature affixed outside of this time period shall not be counted in determining the sufficiency of the petition. To qualify for presentation to the Council, a referendary petition must be signed by registered voters of the City in an amount equal to 15% ~~10%~~ of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of Mayor at the last general municipal election, or primary nominating election at which a Mayor was elected prior to the filing of the petition.

Sec. 5. Subparagraph (A) of Subdivision (2) of Subsection (o) of Section 470 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding enforcement of the City's campaign finance laws, is amended to read as follows:

> (A) Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any provision of this section shall be liable in a civil action brought by the City Attorney or by a person residing within the City. Where no specific civil penalty is provided, a person may be liable for each violation for an amount up to the greater of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) ~~two thousand dollars ($2,000) for each violation~~, adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index, or three times the amount which the person improperly reported or unlawfully contributed, expended, gave, or received.

Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of Section 514 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the transfer of powers of departments, offices, and boards, is amended to read as follows:

(b) **Exceptions**. The power of the Mayor and Council to act as provided in this section shall not extend to:

(1) Elected Offices;

(2) Proprietary Departments;

(3) Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System;

(4) Department of Fire and Police Pensions;

(5) City Ethics Commission;

(6) The disciplinary functions of the Fire Department and the Police Department as contained in Sections 1060 and 1070; and

(7) The Police Department and the Fire Department, if the transfer or consolidation would significantly alter or affect the primary purpose ~~or character~~ of the departments.

(8) Independent Redistricting Commission.

Sec. 7. Section 523 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Fire Department Independent Assessor, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 523. Independent Assessor.

The Independent Assessor shall report to the Board of Fire Commissioners and shall have the same access to Fire Department information as the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Independent Assessor shall have the power and duty to:

(a) under rules established by the Board of Fire Commissioners, audit, assess and review the Fire Department's handling of complaints of misconduct committed by employees, sworn or civilian, of the Fire Department;

(b) conduct any audit or assessment requested by majority vote of the board;

(c) initiate any assessment or audit of the Fire Department or any portion of the Fire Department with prior notice to the Board of Fire Commissioners~~, and subject to the authority of the board by majority vote to direct the Independent Assessor not to commence or continue an assessment or audit~~;

(d) keep the board informed of the status of all pending assessments and audits; and

(e) appoint, discharge, discipline, transfer and issue instructions to employees under his or her direction.

Sec. 8. Section 573 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Police Department Inspector General, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 573. Inspector General.

The Inspector General shall report to the Board of Police Commissioners and shall have the same access to Police Department information as the Board of Police Commissioners. The Inspector General shall have the power and duty to:

(a) under rules established by the Board of Police Commissioners, audit, investigate and oversee the Police Department's handling of complaints of misconduct by police officers and civilian employees and perform other duties as may be assigned by the board;

(b) conduct any audit or investigation requested by majority vote of the board;

(c) initiate any investigation or audit of the Police Department without prior authorization of the Board of Police Commissioners~~, subject to the authority of the board by majority vote to direct the Inspector General not to commence or continue an investigation or audit~~;

(d) keep the board informed of the status of all pending investigations and audits; and

(e) appoint, discharge, discipline, transfer and issue instructions to employees under his or her direction.

Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of Section 700 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the City Ethics Commission, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Qualifications. Each member of the commission shall be a registered voter of the City. A member or former member of the commission shall not be a candidate for any City office or Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education office unless the election for that office is to be held at least five years after the last date of service of the commissioner. An Executive Director or former Executive Director of the commission shall not be a candidate for any City office or Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education office unless the election for that office is to be held at least five years after the last date of service of the Executive Director. ~~Neither a member of the commission nor its Executive Director shall seek election to any City office or Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education office concerning which the commission has made a decision during the term of the commissioner or Executive Director unless the election for that office is to be held at least two years following the expiration of the term of office of the commissioner or Executive Director.~~ During their tenure, neither a member of the commission nor its Executive Director shall:

(1) hold any other public office;

(2) participate in or contribute to a City election campaign;

(3) participate in or contribute to an election campaign for a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education;

(4) participate in or contribute to a City official or member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education running for any elective office;

(5) employ or be employed as a person required to register as a lobbyist with the City of Los Angeles;

(6) have an ownership interest in a business (other than stock in a publicly traded company) that contracts with or seeks discretionary approvals from the City; or personally provide compensated services to the City under a contract;

(7) provide compensated advice or services to a political campaign or to a committee controlled by a City officeholder; or

(8) contribute to committees such that the individual qualifies as a major donor as provided under the Political Reform Act.

Sec. 10. The amendments made to Subsection (d) of Section 700 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles shall apply only to a member or executive director of the City Ethics Commission whose last date of City service is on or after the effective date of this Charter amendment.

Sec. 11. Sections 900 through 914 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding Neighborhood Councils, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 900. Purpose.

To promote more civic ~~citizen~~ participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs, a citywide system of Nneighborhood Ceouncils, and a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is created. Neighborhood Ceouncils shall include representatives of the many diverse interests in communities and shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood.

Sec. 901. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall have the duties and responsibilities set forth in this Article and elsewhere in the Charter to implement and oversee the ordinances and regulations creating the system of Nneighborhood Ceouncils enacted pursuant to Section 905. Duties and responsibilities shall include:

(a) prepare a plan for the creation of a system of Nneighborhood Ceouncils to ensure that every part of the City is within the boundary of a Nneighborhood Ceouncil, and has an opportunity to form a Nneighborhood Ceouncil (Plan);

(b) assist neighborhoods in preparing petitions for recognition or certification, identifying boundaries that do not divide communities, and organizing themselves, in accordance with the Plan;

(c) arrange Congress of Neighborhood meetings if requested to do so by recognized Nneighborhood Ceouncils;

(d) assist Nneighborhood Ceouncils with the election or selection of their board members ~~officers~~;

(e) arrange training for Nneighborhood Ceouncils' officers and staff;

(f) assist Nneighborhood Ceouncils to share resources, including offices, equipment, and other forms of support for them to communicate with constituents, other Nneighborhood Ceouncils and with government officials; and

(g) perform other duties as provided by ordinance.

Sec. 902. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

(a) There shall be a board of seven commissioners to be known as the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (board). Commissioners shall be appointed by the Mayor, and shall be from diverse geographic areas, as further specified by ordinance. Appointment and removal of commissioners shall otherwise be in accordance with Section 502.

(b) The board shall be responsible for policy setting and policy oversight, including the approval of contracts and leases and the promulgation of rules and regulations, but shall not be responsible for day-to-day management.

(c) The board shall operate in accordance with Sections 503 through 508 and 510 of the Charter.

Sec. 903. General Manager.

(a) There shall be a general manager of the Department of Neighborhood

Empowerment who shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council, and may be removed as provided in Section 508.

(b) The general manager shall have those powers and duties set forth in Section 510.

(c) The general manager shall appoint, discharge and prescribe the duties of staff, consistent with the civil service provisions of the Charter.

Sec. 904. Development and Maintenance of the Neighborhood Council Plan.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall develop a Plan for a citywide system of Nneighborhood Ceouncils, in conformance with the following:

(a) The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall seek public input in the formulation of the Plan.

(b) The Plan shall contain a statement of goals, policies and objectives of the Neighborhood Council system, and shall contain specific regulations, in draft ordinance format (Regulations) which, if adopted by ordinance, would be sufficient to implement the Plan.

(c) The Regulations shall establish the method by which boundaries of Nneighborhood Ceouncils will be determined. The system for determining boundaries shall maintain neighborhood boundaries to the maximum extent feasible, and may consider community planning district boundaries where appropriate.

(d) The Regulations must ensure that all areas of the City are given an equal opportunity to form Nneighborhood Ceouncils.

(e) The Regulations shall establish the procedure and criteria for recognition or certification of Nneighborhood Ceouncils.

(f) The Regulations shall not restrict the method by which the members of a Nneighborhood Ceouncils are chosen, if the process otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Article.

(g) The Regulations shall require that Nneighborhood Ceouncils adopt fair and open procedures for the conduct of their business.

(h) The Mayor and City Council shall provide for the creation of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and appointment of the general manager within 120 days of the effective date of this Article.

Sec. 905. Initial Implementation of the Plan.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall complete development of the Plan and present the Plan and all necessary Regulations for a system of Nneighborhood Ceouncils to the City Council and Mayor within one year of the establishment of the department and commission. The City Council shall consider the Regulations, and within six months after presentation of the Plan to City Council may adopt ordinances to implement the Regulations as proposed, or as modified by the City Council consistent with the requirements of the Plan set forth in Section 904. If implementing ordinances are not adopted within this time period, the

Regulations shall become effective, and to the extent not inconsistent with law shall be binding upon all City departments and offices.

Sec. 906. Certification of Neighborhood Councils.

(a) **By-laws**. Each Nneighborhood Ceouncil seeking official certification or recognition from the City shall submit an organization plan and by-laws to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment showing, at a minimum:

(1) the method by which their board members ~~officers~~ are chosen;

(2) Nneighborhood Ceouncil membership will be open to all stakeholders, as defined by ordinance ~~everyone who lives, works or owns property in the area (stakeholders)~~;

(3) assurances that the members of the Nneighborhood Ceouncil will reflect the diverse interests within their area;

(4) a system through which the Nneighborhood Ceouncil will communicate with stakeholders on a regular basis;

(5) a system for financial accountability of its funds; and

(6) guarantees that all meetings will be open and public, and permit, to the extent feasible, every stakeholder to participate in the conduct of business, deliberation and decision-making.

(b) **Petitioning for Certification and Approval**. Nneighborhood Ceouncils may petition for certification or recognition in accordance with rules and procedures set forth in the Plan.

Sec. 907. Advance Notice and Opportunities for Input ~~Early Warning System~~.

The Regulations shall establish procedures for receiving input from Nneighborhood Ceouncils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees and boards and commissions. The procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, notice to Nneighborhood Ceouncils as soon as practical, and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. Notices to be provided include matters to be considered by the City Council, City Council Committees, and City boards or commissions.

Sec. 908. Powers of Neighborhood Councils.

Subject to applicable law, the City Council may delegate its authority to Nneighborhood Ceouncils to hold public hearings prior to the City Council making a decision on a matter of local concern.

Sec. 909. Annual City Budget Priorities.

Each Nneighborhood Ceouncils may present to the Mayor and City Council an annual list of priorities for the City budget. The Mayor shall inform certified Nneighborhood Ceouncils of the deadline for submission so that the input may be considered in a timely fashion.

Sec. 910. Monitoring of City Services.

Nneighborhood Ceouncils shall monitor the delivery of City services in their respective

areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments, subject to their reasonable availability.

Sec. 911. Appropriation.

The Mayor and City Council shall appropriate funds for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and for the startup and functioning of Nneighborhood Ceouncils for the first two years after the effective date of this Article. Funds shall be appropriated into a special fund to be established by ordinance. The Mayor and City Council shall thereafter appropriate funds for the department and Nneighborhood Ceouncils at least one year in advance of each subsequent fiscal year.

Sec. 912. Review.

The Mayor and City Council shall appoint a commission as prescribed by ordinance to evaluate the provisions of this Article, the Regulations adopted pursuant to this Article, and the efficacy of the system of Nneighborhood Ceouncils no later than seven years after the adoption of the Charter. The commission shall make recommendations to the City Council regarding changes to the Charter or the Regulations, as it deems appropriate.

Sec. 913. Transfer of Powers.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Charter, the Mayor and City Council shall not transfer powers, duties or functions of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to any other department, office or agency pursuant to Section 514 during the first five years after implementation of the Plan pursuant to Section 905.

Sec. 914. Effect of Ordinances.

The City Council may adopt ordinances concerning Nneighborhood Ceouncils consistent with requirements for the Plan set forth in Section 904 at any time, which ordinances shall supersede any inconsistent Regulations that have become effective pursuant to Section 905.

Sec. 12. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this Charter amendment or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, or applications of this Charter amendment shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Charter amendment are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this Charter amendment without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

PRK CITY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS BUDGET. CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK.

Shall the City Charter be amended to increase the minimum budget allocated to the Department of Recreation and Parks, phased in over ten years until it is double the current minimum budget allocation, with exceptions for fiscal emergencies?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. General Fund revenue is used to fund City services such as police, fire, public works, transportation, libraries, and parks. General Fund revenues are derived from taxes, licenses, permits, fees, fines, and other sources.

The City Charter establishes a minimum budget allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks from the General Fund. That minimum budget is an amount equal to 0.0325% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes. The current City Charter allocation percentage rate and the resulting budget allocation has not kept pace with the growing population, expanding park system, and increasing costs of maintenance and operations. This has contributed to reductions in Recreation and Parks services over time.

In 1996, voters approved the passage of the Proposition K: LA for Kids Program (Proposition K) which created a citywide assessment that has generated $25 million annually for the acquisition, development, improvement and restoration of parks and recreational facilities. The Proposition K program will expire in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and will result in the loss of funding to support parks and recreational facilities.

This measure would increase the minimum amount of General Fund money allocated to Recreation and Parks. These additional resources would help restore Recreation and Parks service levels, address park equity gaps, and allow the Department to cover the cost of operations and programs. The percentage would gradually increase from the current 0.0325% to 0.065% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes, phased in over a ten year period as follows:

- Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and prior: 0.0325%;
- Fiscal Year 2027-2028: 0.03575%;
- Fiscal Year 2028-2029: 0.039%;
- Fiscal Year 2029-2030: 0.04225%;
- Fiscal Year 2030-2031: 0.0455%;
- Fiscal Year 2031-2032: 0.04875%;
- Fiscal Year 2032-2033: 0.052%;
- Fiscal Year 2033-2034: 0.05525%;
- Fiscal Year 2034-2035: 0.0585%;
- Fiscal Year 2035-2036: 0.06175%;

- Fiscal Years 2036-2037 and thereafter: 0.065%

This measure would not create a new tax or generate additional City revenue. It would require more General Fund money to be provided to Recreation and Parks. Consequently, the amount of General Fund revenue available for other City services will be reduced.

During a declared fiscal emergency, the City Council could reduce the increased funding required in this measure by up to 30 percent for the duration of the fiscal emergency. However, Recreation and Parks' minimum budget allocation could not be reduced below the current level of 0.0325% of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure doubles the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) property value based appropriation from 0.0325 to 0.065 percent over ten years. Assuming average property value growth, RAP's funding increases from $303 million to $995 million by 2036-37, with estimated annual increases attributed to the measure as follows: 2027-28 ($32 million), 2028-29 ($66 million), 2029-30 ($105 million), 2030-31 ($147 million), 2031-32 ($193 million), 2032-33 ($244 million), 2033-34 ($299 million), 2034-35 ($359 million), 2035-36 ($426 million), and 2036-37 ($497 million). All increases during this period are subject to actual assessed property value growth.

Because this measure does not raise new revenues, the City must reallocate resources from other services, including public safety, public works, and homeless services to meet the increased funding mandate. The City may suspend the mandated increase during a declared fiscal emergency. RAP remains responsible for reimbursing the General Fund for employee benefits and other related costs.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK

Charter Amendment PRK will keep our parks, waters, and beaches clean; repair and maintain park facilities; and keep recreation and senior centers open without raising taxes by a single penny.

LA's parks department runs over 500 parks, 123 recreation and senior centers, and 52 pools. These are affordable places for kids to play sports and stay safe after-school and in summer, for seniors to find services, and for families to gather. Parks and recreation centers host violence-intervention programs and provide services and shelter during wildfires and emergencies.

LA's parks dropped to 93rd of America's 100 largest cities in Trust for Public Land's 2026 ParkScore ranking. The City's parks assessment found LA funds parks two-thirds less than similar cities. Large staffing cuts mean parks are less safe and clean. Facilities need almost $3 billion in repairs, and pools, recreation, and senior centers have cut hours. Without action, more may close. One-third of Angelenos lack a park within a ten-minute walk of home.

Parks are critical services for Angelenos.

Protected parks funding has not increased since 1937, and money going directly to parks was reduced further since 2009.

PRK increases parks funding over 10 years, with protections for fiscal emergencies.

PRK will clean and improve parks, restrooms, pools and facilities; rebuild the parks and ranger workforce; protect beaches and coastal waters; build new parks where they're needed; restore natural areas; and invest in shade trees, wildfire prevention and nature-based solutions to protect our water.

It keeps pools and recreation and senior centers open and activates community school parks.

This funding requires strict fiscal accountability, and must be used only for eligible park purposes, with annual expenditure plans and reporting reviewed at public meetings and posted online.

Join community and environmental leaders to vote YES on PRK to fix parks without raising taxes.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

KENNETH MEJIA
Controller
City of Los Angeles

FATHER GREGORY BOYLE
Founder
Homeboy Industries

TEFARAI BAYNE
Commissioner
LA Department of Recreation and Parks

BRUCE SAITO
Founder
Conservation and Youth Workforce Development Leader

NICOLE CHASE
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley

TORI KJER
Executive Director
LA Neighborhood Land Trust

BRUCE REZNIK
Executive Director
LA Waterkeeper

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED.

Arguments printed are the opinions of the authors and are not checked for accuracy by any City agency. In addition, the title beneath a signer's name is for identification purposes only and does not indicate that the individual is signing on behalf of the organization.

REBUTTAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK

Charter Amendment PRK is a responsible investment in parks, without raising taxes. Over 10 years, PRK will increase dedicated funding for parks while requiring strict accountability for every dollar spent.

Parks are a good investment.

Parks keep Angelenos healthy, active and connected. Physical inactivity accounts for 12.6% of healthcare costs. Research shows communities investing in parks have lower rates of stroke, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. Every $1 spent on park programming lowers healthcare costs by $11.

Additionally, every $1 spent maintaining parks returns at least $3 in broader economic benefits. Tourism generated $35.1 billion in spending last year in Los Angeles, supporting over 224,000 jobs. Griffith Park and Venice Beach, both city parks, are among our biggest draws.

PRK will create good, local jobs, improve public health, maintain safe children's play areas, fully re-open recreation and senior centers, keep beaches clean, and repair restrooms citywide.

Vote YES on PRK.

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
LA City Councilwoman

IMELDA PADILLA
LA City Councilmember

YSABEL JURADO
LA City Councilmember

KENNETH MEJIA
LA City Controller

LUIS A SANCHEZ
President
LA Rec and Parks Board of Commissioners

JIMMY KIM
General Manager
LA Department of Recreation and Parks

JON CHRISTENSEN
Adjunct Assistant Professor
UCLA

AMBER MARTINEZ
President & CEO
Los Angeles Parks Foundation

DEBORAH COHEN, MD, MPH
Public Health & Preventative Medicine

MONA FIELD
Past President
Greater Los Angeles League of Women Voters

Arguments printed are the opinions of the authors and are not checked for accuracy by any City agency. In addition, the title beneath a signer's name is for identification purposes only and does not indicate that the individual is signing on behalf of the organization.

New provisions or language added to the Charter or to existing Charter sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Charter or from existing Charter sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

CHARTER AMENDMENT PRK
(CITY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS BUDGET)

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. Section 593 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 593. Financial Support.

(a) For the financial support of the Department of Recreation and Parks, there shall be appropriated an annual sum of not less than the following percentage ~~0.0325%~~ of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes:~~.~~

Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and prior: 0.0325%
Fiscal Year 2027-2028: 0.03575%
Fiscal Year 2028-2029: 0.039%
Fiscal Year 2029-2030: 0.04225%
Fiscal Year 2030-2031: 0.0455%
Fiscal Year 2031-2032: 0.04875%
Fiscal Year 2032-2033: 0.052%
Fiscal Year 2033-2034: 0.05525%
Fiscal Year 2034-2035: 0.0585%
Fiscal Year 2035-2036: 0.06175%
Fiscal Years 2036-2037 and thereafter: 0.065%

(b) Additional appropriations may be made from the General Fund.

(c) All money derived from (a) or (b), plus all other sums received by the department shall be placed to the credit of the Recreation and Parks Fund.

(d) Except as provided in Section 342 with regard to funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Recreation and Parks Fund, money in the Recreation and Parks Fund shall be used only for the financial support of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

(e) In the event the City Council, by two-thirds vote, declares a fiscal emergency by resolution, the financial support required under subsection (a) may be reduced by up to thirty percent (30%) of the total amount of the stated percentage of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes following such declaration and such reduction may remain effective until the expiration of the fiscal emergency, provided that at no time shall such reduction decrease the total financial support otherwise required under subsection (a) to lower than 0.0325% of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes.

Sec. 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this Charter amendment or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, or applications of this Charter amendment shall remain in full force and effect,

and to this end the provisions of this Charter amendment are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this Charter amendment without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

PRT CITY AIRPORTS, HARBOR, AND WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENTS. CHARTER AMENDMENT PRT.

Shall the City Charter be amended to: require the Harbor Department to allocate funds for waterfront public access projects; require disclosure of workforce impacts for certain Harbor Department leases and agreements; increase maximum terms for certain leases; and change the composition requirement for the Airport Commission?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

City Charter Section 607 places limitations on franchises, concessions, permits, licenses and leases for each Proprietary Department (Airports Department, Harbor Department, and the Department of Water and Power). Section 607(a) provides that the City Council may authorize a lease term of up to 50 years for the Airports Department and Department of Water and Power, and 66 years for the Harbor Department.

City Charter Section 630 provides that the Board of Airport Commissioners shall consist of seven members, and that one member shall reside in the area surrounding Los Angeles International Airport and one member shall reside in the area surrounding Van Nuys Airport. These areas are defined by ordinance.

City Charter Section 651 provides that the Board of Harbor Commissioners shall have possession, management, and control of Harbor Department assets. It further specifies that the lands and waters under possession, management, and control of the Board of Harbor Commissioners shall be known as the Harbor District. City Charter Section 651 also reserves water frontage for public use, and prohibits the sale of the tidelands and submerged lands of the Harbor District. City Charter Section 652 states the powers and duties of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, including the power and duty to establish rules and regulations related to the Harbor District.

State law requires a Coastal Development Permit for many developments within the Harbor District. This includes construction projects and projects that meaningfully increase or change the level or type of activity on a site or in the water, or that change public access to it, even if nothing is built.

This measure would amend the City Charter to:

- Allow the City Council to authorize Airports Department and Department of Water and Power leases for a term up to 66 years, or the maximum length allowed by any federal or state law, whichever is less, if the City Council makes a finding that a term longer than 30 years would be in the best interest of the City. The City Charter already allows the City Council to authorize Harbor Department leases for a term up to 66 years.

- Increase local residency requirements for the Board of Airport Commissioners by requiring that three of the seven members of the Board of Airport Commissioners reside in the area surrounding the Los Angeles International Airport and that two of the seven members reside in the area surrounding Van Nuys Airport. The measure would also allow the City Council to, by ordinance, further divide these areas into subareas and establish commissioner residency requirements.
- Require the Board of Harbor Commissioners to annually allocate a portion of the operating income of the Harbor Department for waterfront public access projects and other public serving projects and programs developed with public input as part of a Public Access Investment Plan. The Board of Harbor Commissioners would have the sole authority to determine the amount to allocate each year.
- Require all applicants seeking approval of a lease, lease extension, or lease amendment, or any proposed development of property within the Harbor District that requires a Coastal Development Permit, to submit a workforce impact disclosure that provides an assessment of estimated workforce effects associated with the proposed action, including employment and economic impacts. The Board of Harbor Commissioners may exempt small businesses and nonprofit organizations from providing an economic impact analysis.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure amends the City Charter as follows:

Lease Length - Extends maximum lease terms for Los Angeles World Airports and Department of Water and Power from 50 to 66 years, aligning them with the Harbor Department. This amendment is cost-neutral.

Airport Board Composition – Increases the local residency representation from one to three members and one to two members for the areas surrounding LAX and Van Nuys Airport, respectively. This amendment is cost-neutral.

Harbor Public Access Investment Plan (PAIP) - Codifies the Harbor Department's annual practice of allocating 10 percent of its operating income to the PAIP for waterfront projects and programs. The historical annual allocation to the PAIP is approximately $28.6 million.

Workforce Impacts - Mandates all applicants seeking Harbor District lease approvals, extensions, amendments, or Coastal Development Permits to submit a self-funded workforce impact disclosure assessing regional economic and employment effects. This amendment is cost-neutral.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PRT

VOTE YES ON MEASURE PRT to strengthen community representation, protect local investments, and ensure greater accountability from Los Angeles' proprietary departments.

From East Los Angeles to the Westside, from the Port to the Valley, representation matters deeply to the communities we serve–and especially to those who live and work alongside our airports and waterfront.

Measure PRT ensures that the neighborhoods most affected by airport operations have a stronger voice in local decisions. By increasing the number of geographically representative Airport Commissioners from two to five, the measure gives residents impacted by aircraft noise, traffic, and congestion the direct representation they deserve on the Airport Commission.

At the Port of Los Angeles, Measure PRT memorializes important existing commitments in the City Charter. It codifies requirements to consider and disclose how leases and agreements may impact local jobs and our workforce, ensuring those consequences remain part of the public decision-making process. It also protects the Port's commitment to investing in waterfront public access by codifying existing investment plans in the Charter. These investments help ensure that communities hosting one of the nation's busiest ports continue to share in the benefits of our working waterfront.

Measure PRT also modernizes leasing authority for the Department of Water and Power and the Los Angeles World Airports, providing greater flexibility for responsible long-term investments and critical infrastructure while maintaining public oversight.

Communities that host our airports and port operations contribute enormously to Los Angeles. They deserve representation, transparency, and a lasting commitment to local investment.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE PRT–from East Los Angeles to the Westside, from the Port to the Valley, representation and community accountability matter.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PRT

TIM MCOSKER
Councilmember, District 15
City of LA

TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, District 11
City of LA

PAULA GEREZ
President
Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council

IMELDA PADILLA
Councilwoman, District 6
City of LA

GINA MARTINEZ
Wilmington Community Advocate

DAVID YANOWITZ
Van Nuys Community Advocate

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED.

Arguments printed are the opinions of the authors and are not checked for accuracy by any City agency. In addition, the title beneath a signer's name is for identification purposes only and does not indicate that the individual is signing on behalf of the organization.

New provisions or language added to the Charter or to existing Charter sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Charter or from existing Charter sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

CHARTER AMENDMENT PRT
(CITY AIRPORTS, HARBOR, AND WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENTS)

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. Subsection (a) of Section 607 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding limitations on Proprietary Department franchises, concessions, permits, licenses and leases, is amended to read as follows:

(a) **Length.** The term shall not exceed 30 years or the term specified by applicable federal or state law, whichever is less. If Council makes a finding that a term longer than 30 years would be in the best interest of the City, Council may, by a two-thirds vote, subject to Mayoral veto, or three-fourths vote over the veto of the Mayor, authorize ~~a term up to 50 years for the Airports Department and Department of Water and Power and~~ a term up to 66 years for the Department of Airports, Harbor Department, and the Department of Water and Power, or the maximum period allowed by any federal or state law, whichever is less.

Sec. 2. Section 630 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Board of Airport Commissioners, is amended to read as follows:

The Board of Airport Commissioners shall consist of seven members appointed and removed as provided in Section 502. At least three members ~~one member~~ shall reside within the area surrounding Los Angeles International Airport and at least two members ~~one member~~ shall reside within the area surrounding Van Nuys Airport, as those areas are defined by ordinance. The Council may, by ordinance, further divide the areas surrounding Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport into subareas, establishing commissioner residency requirements among those subareas.

Sec. 3. A new Subsection (d) is added to Section 651 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the possession, management, and control of Harbor Department assets, to read as follows:

(d) **Public Access Investment Plan.** The Board of Harbor Commissioners shall annually allocate a portion of the operating income of the Harbor Department to invest in waterfront public access projects and other public serving projects and programs developed with public input as part of a Public Access Investment Plan. The Board of Harbor Commissioners shall have the sole authority to determine the appropriate amount to allocate to the Public Access Investment Plan each fiscal year consistent with its fiduciary duties under California Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6009.1, and 6306 and other applicable law.

Sec. 4. A new Subsection (g) is added to Section 652 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the Board of Harbor Commissioners, to read as follows:

Sec. 652. Powers and Duties of the Board.

The board shall have the power and duty to:

(a) **Rules and Regulations**. Make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations

governing the maintenance, operation and use of the Harbor District, and enforce penalties for the violation of those rules and regulations.

(b) **Harbor Traffic**. Regulate and control the piloting, anchoring, mooring, towing and docking of all vessels and watercraft in the Harbor District.

(c) **Control Over Harbor Facilities**. Regulate and control the construction, maintenance, operation and use of any railroad, wharf, warehouse or other facility, utility, structure or improvement used in connection with the Harbor District.

(d) **Dredging**. Regulate and control all dredging, filling and excavating in the Harbor District.

(e) **Rates**. Fix and collect rates and charges for the use of the Harbor Assets, pilotage and towage, and any other service provided by the department.

(f) **Development of the Harbor District**. Acquire, provide for, construct, maintain and operate all improvements, utilities, structures, watercraft, facilities and services for Departmental Purposes and to acquire and take, by purchase, lease, condemnation or otherwise, in the name of the City, any property, real or personal, or any interest therein, and to designate the site for any public buildings, structures or facilities in the Harbor District. The power of condemnation shall only be exercised with the approval of Council.

(g) **Workforce Impacts**. Require all applicants seeking approval of a lease, lease extension, or lease amendment, or any proposed development of property within the Harbor District that requires a Coastal Development Permit, submit a workforce impact disclosure that provides an assessment of estimated workforce effects including, but not limited to, the potential impact on employment associated with the premises and the estimated economic impact on the greater Los Angeles region to the extent known. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations, as defined by the Board of Harbor Commissioners, may be exempt from providing an economic impact analysis. The Board of Harbor Commissioners shall consider disclosures submitted by an applicant under this subsection consistent with the Board's fiduciary duties under California Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6009.1, and 6306 and other applicable law.

Sec. 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this Charter amendment or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, or applications of this Charter amendment shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Charter amendment are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this Charter amendment without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

SC CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES RELATED TO BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS. CHARTER AMENDMENT SC.

Shall the Los Angeles City Charter be amended to clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education elections and allow for changes by ordinance?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

City Charter Section 803 establishes the campaign finance rules that candidates for the Board of Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District must follow during the election process. City Charter Sections 470 and 471 and Article 9.7 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code establishes the campaign finance rules that candidates for Mayor must follow during the election process. These rules supplement the California Political Reform Act of 1974. The campaign finance rules for candidates for the Board of Education and Mayor are similar, but are contained in different parts of the City Charter as well as the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

This measure would clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates by amending the City Charter to remove repetitive language in Charter Section 803 and requiring Board of Education candidates to follow the campaign finance rules for Mayoral candidates, as specified in City Charter Sections 470 and 471 and Article 9.7 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. This measure would apply the same provisions for Mayoral candidates to candidates for the Board of Education, with the exception of those provisions that apply only to candidates for City elected offices, such as the Office of the Mayor, and limitations on contributions from City contractors and lobbyists.

If this amendment is approved, the existing campaign rules for both the Board of Education candidates and Mayoral candidates would be as follows:

- Candidates and their donors would be restricted by contribution limits that may be periodically adjusted, with the baseline for these limits maintained at $1,000 for any individual office, and no limit on candidates to contribute personal funds to their candidacy;
- Treasury and financial accountability requirements, such as training, filing deadlines, public disclosures, monitored campaign accounts, and petty cash funds;
- Time limits on contributions and expenditures, including fundraising windows and acceptable uses of funds received in those time frames; and
- Audit and investigative powers of the City Ethics Commission, including criminal and civil enforcement provisions.

This measure would allow for additional restrictions or exceptions to be established by ordinance.

This measure will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure amends the existing campaign finance provisions for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education, by applying the same provisions to school board candidates that mayoral candidates for the City of Los Angeles must follow. Candidates for the LAUSD Board of Education shall not be subject to certain provisions regarding contributions and fundraising (Sections 470(c)(11) and 470(c)(12)), the provisions regarding public matching funds (Section 471), and as otherwise exempted by ordinance. This measure is not anticipated to have a financial impact on the City.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT SC

VOTE YES ON CHARTER AMENDMENT SC

The City of Los Angeles requires candidates for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education to follow campaign finance rules - such as contribution limits, donor disclosure, and oversight by the City Ethics Commission. These rules apply to LAUSD Board of Education candidates similarly to how they apply to candidates for other elected City offices.

The difference does not necessarily lie in the rules themselves but rather in where those rules appear in the City's Charter. Today, the rules governing candidates for the Board of Education are established in a separate section of the City Charter. They appear on their own rather than in the same section of the Charter that governs candidates for other elected offices, such as the Mayor.

Charter Amendment SC is a good governance reform that simplifies the Charter and reduces bureaucratic bloat and redundancy. It eliminates duplicative campaign finance provisions for Board of Education elections and clarifies that those candidates are subject to the same general campaign finance framework that already governs candidates for Mayor.

This is a straightforward good-government reform, and it is worth supporting for exactly that reason.

Vote YES on Charter Amendment SC.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT SC

ADRIN NAZARIAN
Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 2

NICK MELVOIN
LAUSD Board Member

DIEGO ANDRADES
Former Charter Reform Commissioner

CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
GREATER LOS ANGELES

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED.

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New provisions or language added to the Charter or to existing Charter sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Charter or from existing Charter sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

CHARTER AMENDMENT SC
(CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES RELATED TO LAUSD ELECTIONS)

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE

Section 1. Section 803 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, regarding the election of members of the Board of Education, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 803. Election of Board Members.

The election of Members of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District shall be conducted in accordance with Sections 400 through 440 of the Charter and applicable ordinances consistent with the Charter. In order to encourage a broader participation in the political process by placing limits on the amount any person may contribute or otherwise cause to be available to candidates for election to the Board of Education, candidates for the Board of Education shall be subject to the same campaign finance provisions that apply to candidates for Mayor, including in Section 470 and any ordinances adopted in accordance with Section 470(c) or other sections of the Charter, as applicable, except that candidates for the Board of Education shall not be subject the provisions regarding contributions and fundraising in Sections 470(c)(11) and 470(c)(12), the provisions regarding public matching funds in Section 471, and as otherwise excepted by ordinance.~~the following campaign finance provisions apply to elections of the members of the Board of Education. This section is intended to supplement the Political Reform Act of 1974.~~

~~(a) Definitions.~~

~~(1) "Behested" means and will be treated in the following manner for purposes of this section:~~

~~(A) An expenditure behested by a candidate or candidate's controlled committee is not an independent expenditure and shall be treated as a contribution to the candidate or committee that behests the expenditure. A payment is behested if it is made:~~

~~(i) at the request or suggestion of the candidate, committee, or the candidate or committee's agent;~~

~~(ii) in concert with, with the cooperation of, or in consultation with, the candidate, committee, or the candidate or committee's agent; or~~

~~(iii) under any arrangement, coordination, or direction between the candidate, committee, or the candidate or committee's agent.~~

~~(B) An expenditure is behested without limitation under the following circumstances:~~

~~(i) active involvement or participation by a candidate in the creation or design of a communication financed by the spender, including consultation~~

between the spender and the candidate about content;

(ii) solicitation by the spender and/or provision by the candidate of materials specifically for use in the communication or procuring the candidate's consent to include specific materials in the communication; or

(iii) arranging with the candidate for preparation of any materials used in the communication.

(C) There is a rebuttable presumption that an expenditure is behested, and therefore not independent, if:

(i) it is made by or through any agent of the affected candidate or member of the candidate's controlled committee in the course of his/her involvement in the current campaign;

(ii) in the election cycle during which the expenditure is made, both the spender or the spender's agent and the candidate on whose behalf the expenditure is made retain the same individual or entity to provide non-ministerial, campaign related professional services (non-ministerial, campaign related professional services include, but are not limited to: polling or other campaign research, media consulting or production, direct mail consultation, and fundraising);

(iii) the expenditure finances a communication that replicates, reproduces, republishes, distributes, or disseminates, in whole or substantial part, a broadcast, written, graphic, or other form of campaign material designed, produced, paid for, or distributed by the affected candidate, his or her committee, or agent;

(iv) the expenditure is based on information about a candidate's campaign plans, projects, or needs not generally available to the public; or information provided directly or indirectly by that candidate, committee, or their agents to the spender or spender's agent, with an express or tacit understanding that the expenditure was being considered;

(v) the spender or spender's agent discusses or negotiates the content, timing, location, mode, intended audience, volume of distribution, or frequency of placement of a communication financed by the spender with the candidate whose election or nomination is advocated by the spender or whose opponent's defeat is advocated by the spender;

(vi) in the election cycle during which the expenditure is made, the spender or spender's agent is serving or has served in a formal executive, policy-making, or advisory position with the candidate's campaign or has participated in strategic or policy-making discussions with the candidate's campaign relating to that candidate's pursuit of nomination or election to office, and the candidate is pursuing the same office as a candidate whose nomination or election the expenditure is intended to influence;

(vii) the expenditure is made after a request to the spender or spender's agent by the candidate, the candidate's controlled committee, or

their agents for an expenditure on the candidate's behalf; or

(viii) the expenditure is made in connection with or as a consequence of fundraising events or campaign activities co-sponsored by the candidate and the spender or the spender's agent.

(D) An expenditure will not be deemed behested merely when:

(i) a spender or spender's agent interviews a candidate on legislative or policy positions or issues affecting the spender or discusses campaign-related issues with the candidate, such as platforms, polling information, which organizations support the candidate and which support his/her opponent, or the identity of the consultants the candidate plans to hire, provided that prior to making a subsequent expenditure based on that information, the spender or his agent has not communicated with the candidate, candidate's controlled committee, or their agents concerning the expenditure;

(ii) the spender solicits and/or obtains a photograph, biography, position paper, press release, or similar material from the candidate, candidate's controlled committee, or their agents and, without the prior knowledge, control, or involvement of the candidate, candidate's controlled committee, or their agents, subsequently utilizes or incorporates that information to create a communication in support of the candidate or in opposition to his or her opponent;

(iii) the spender made prior contributions to the candidate;

(iv) the spender communicates to the candidate, the candidate's controlled committee, or the agent of either, the intent to make an independent expenditure without discussing any of the items mentioned in Subparagraph (C)(v) of this section;

(v) a member of an organization that makes an expenditure renders volunteer personal services to or works for the affected candidate's campaign, unless the volunteer or campaign worker was also involved in the activities of the spender-organization's political action committee or makes payments on behalf of the spender-organization, or is serving or has served the affected candidate's campaign in one of the capacities described in Subparagraph (C)(vi) of this section;

(vi) the expenditure was made in response to an unsolicited request from political party leaders or their agents that the committee "support" the candidate or make an expenditure relating to the candidate;

(vii) the expenditure finances the cost of preparing or disseminating candidate evaluations to voters or conducting a political survey; or

(viii) the spender employs or is under contract with a political consultant or pollster who rendered services to a candidate in prior years.

(2) "Board of Education office" means the office of a member of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

(3) "Candidate or Committee Agent" means any person who has express or implied authority to make or to authorize the making of expenditures on behalf of the candidate. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the following have that authority: current or former officers of the candidate-controlled committee, employees of the campaign, persons who have received compensation or reimbursement from the campaign, or any person who has been placed in a position within the campaign organization where it would reasonably appear that in the ordinary course of campaign-related activities he or she may authorize expenditures. A candidate's agent is also any person who is serving or has served in an advisory, decision-making, or strategic role with a candidate's campaign, with or without compensation, where that person's duties and/or actions reflect or require direct knowledge of the candidate's campaign strategy, plans, or needs.

(4) "Election" means any primary nominating election, a general election, a special election and a recall election.

(5) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure made by any person in connection with a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate; or, taken as a whole and in context, unambiguously urges a particular result in an election, but which is not made to or at the behest of the affected candidate or committee.

(6) "Loan" means and will be treated in the following manner for purposes of this section:

(A) A loan shall be considered a contribution from the maker and the guarantor of the loan and shall be subject to the contribution limitations of this section.

(B) The proceeds of a loan made to a candidate by a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business on the same terms available to members of the public and which is secured or guaranteed shall not be considered to be a contribution within the meaning of the contribution limitations of this section.

(C) Extensions of credit (other than loans referred to in Subdivision (6) (B)) for a period of more than 30 days are subject to the contribution limitations of this article.

(7) "Member communications" means payments made pursuant to Government Code Section 85312.

(A) For purposes of this article, payments for member communications that are behested by candidates, with the exception of payments for a regularly published newsletter or periodical limited solely to individual members not exceeding the amount of payments regularly made to publish a regular newsletter or periodical, shall be considered contributions to that candidate or candidate controlled committee for purposes of the contribution limits reporting requirements contained in this article.

(B) For purposes of this article, member communications that are not behested by a candidate, a candidate's controlled committee, or an agent of a candidate or a candidate's controlled committee are not considered contributions

to a candidate.

(C) Member communications that are not behested by a candidate, a candidate's controlled committee, or an agent of a candidate or a candidate's controlled committee and are not payments for a regularly published newsletter or periodical limited solely to individual members and do not exceed the amount of payments regularly made to publish a regular newsletter or periodical, are considered expenditures and are required to be reported pursuant to Subsection (s).

(8) "Non-Candidate Spending" means any combination of independent expenditures and/or member communications that are not behested by a candidate.

(b) Campaign Contribution Limitations.

(1) No intended candidate for the Board of Education, and no committee acting on behalf of such candidate, shall solicit or accept, or cause to be solicited or accepted, any contribution for use in any election for such office unless and until such candidate shall have filed a Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Receive Contributions in connection with candidacy for a specific Board of Education office. That declaration shall be filed with the City Ethics Commission on a form prescribed by the City Ethics Commission. Once the election takes place, the declaration is thereafter void. No person may have on file at the same time more than one declaration for any single election. A candidate may, however, file a form canceling one declaration and may thereafter file a new declaration.

(2) The candidate and the treasurers of the candidate's controlled committees shall file with the City Ethics Commission on a form prescribed by the City Ethics Commission a statement under oath that the candidate and the treasurers have read and understood Section 803. This statement shall be filed concurrent with the filing of the Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Receive Contributions.

(3) No person shall contribute a total of more than $1,000 to any candidate for the Board of Education and to his or her controlled committee for a single election. A candidate for the Board of Education shall not accept any contribution or contributions totaling more than $1,000 from any person for a single election. Nothing in this section is intended to limit the amount a candidate can contribute to his or her candidacy for the Board of Education from his or her personal funds.

(4) [Repealed.]

(5) No person shall make a contribution in connection with a single election for a Board of Education office, which would cause the aggregate amount of such contributions by that person to exceed a sum equal to $1,000 multiplied by the number of Board of Education offices appearing on the ballot at that election, but in no case less than $2,000, in connection with all candidates in that election seeking election to all Board of Education offices; provided, however, that a candidate shall not be limited by this Subdivision (5) in the amount he or she may contribute or expend in connection with his or her own campaign.

(6) No person shall make, and no person or candidate shall solicit or accept any loan of more than $1,000 for use in connection with an election for the Board of Education. Further, no person shall make, and no person or candidate shall solicit or accept any loan for use in connection with an election for a Board of Education office for a period of more than 30 days. Loans to a candidate or to a candidate's controlled committees shall be

~~counted against the contribution limitations applicable to the candidate. A candidate is not prohibited from obtaining a personal loan of any amount from a licensed financial lending institution in the regular course of business, unless the loan is made for political purposes. Every loan to a candidate or the candidate's controlled committee shall be by written agreement, which shall be filed with the candidate's or committee's campaign statement on which the loan is first reported. This Subdivision (6) shall not limit the amount or duration of loans from the candidate to his or her own campaign.~~

~~(7) Any contributions solicited or accepted pursuant to this section shall be expended only in connection with the candidacy for the office specified in the candidate's Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Receive Contributions. Contributions solicited or accepted pursuant to this section for one individual shall not be expended for the candidacy of any other individual seeking another Board of Education office or in support of or in opposition to any Los Angeles Unified School District ballot measure. No candidate, committee controlled by a candidate, or elected member of the Board of Education shall use contributed funds to make any contribution to any other candidate running for office or to any committee supporting or opposing a candidate for office. Provided, however, a candidate shall not be prohibited from making a contribution from his or her own personal funds to his or her own candidacy, to the candidacy of any other candidate or in support of or in opposition to any Los Angeles Unified School District ballot measure.~~

~~**(c) Adjustment of Limits.** Every four years, the City Ethics Commission shall review whether the contribution limitations contained in this section should be adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area. The first review shall begin at the end of the calendar year 2011. If the contribution limitations are not adjusted during any review period, the limitations may be adjusted in a subsequent four-year review period, up to the overall increase in the CPI since the last adjustment. Any change to the contribution limitations shall be effective for any subsequent election for which the fundraising period has not yet opened as provided in Subsection (q). The City Ethics Commission shall forward a report with its findings to the Council by March 1, following each review. Within 60 days after the City Ethics Commission forwards its report to the Council, the Council shall hold a public hearing concerning the matter and act to approve or disapprove the report. If the Council fails to disapprove within the 60 day period, the report shall be presented to the Mayor for approval or veto, and to the Council for override of the Mayor's veto. If approved by the Mayor, or if the Mayor fails to act, or if approved by the Council on override of the Mayor's veto, the amount specified in the report shall have the force of law as the contribution limitations applicable to this section, subject to all penalties and remedies in this section.~~

~~**(d) Cash Contributions and Anonymous Contributions.** No person shall make, and no candidate or committee shall solicit or accept, any cash contribution in excess of $25. Total anonymous contributions to a candidate or committee which exceed in the aggregate $200 with respect to a single election shall not be used by the candidate or committee for whom such contributions were intended, but instead, such excess shall be paid promptly to the City Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund of the City.~~

~~**(e) Campaign Contribution Checking Account.** No more than one campaign contribution checking account shall be established by each candidate for a Board of Education office, and by each committee supporting or opposing such candidate. The account shall be established at an office of a bank or savings and loan institution located in the City of Los Angeles. Upon~~

opening such account, the candidate shall file with the City Ethics Commission within ten days of opening the campaign bank account, the name of the bank or savings and loan institution and the account number. Funds shall only be disbursed from such account by checks signed by the candidate, treasurer or designated agent of the treasurer. A candidate, treasurer or designated agent of the treasurer shall deposit into the campaign checking account all contributions received in connection with a Board of Education election. A candidate, treasurer or designated agent of the treasurer shall pay all campaign expenditures for a Board of Education election with monies from this campaign checking account.

If a candidate has other controlled committees and such committees have checking accounts, the candidate shall notify the City Ethics Commission in writing of these committees and the names and addresses of the banks or savings and loan institutions and the account numbers of any such accounts. A candidate shall notify the City Ethics Commission of these committees, the banks or savings and loan institutions, and the account numbers concurrent with the filing of the Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Receive Contributions. If committees are thereafter formed or accounts thereafter opened, then the candidate shall notify the City Ethics Commission on the next regular business day on which the City Ethics Commission office is open. No contribution shall be commingled with the personal funds of the candidate or any other person.

This subsection shall not prohibit the establishment of savings accounts or certificates of deposit, provided that no campaign expenditures may be made therefrom.

(f) Treasurer. A candidate having campaign committees for election to the Board of Education shall appoint a treasurer of each committee. No expenditure shall be made by or on behalf of a committee without the authorization of the treasurer or that of his or her designated agents. No contribution or expenditure shall be accepted or made by or on behalf of a committee at a time when there is a vacancy in the office of treasurer. It shall be the duty of the candidate and the treasurer to approve and authorize such payments and to retain such authorizations, detailed accounts, records, bills and receipts.

(g) Training for Candidates and Treasurers. Every candidate for the Board of Education, and every treasurer of such candidate's controlled committee, shall attend a training program conducted or sponsored by the City Ethics Commission prior to the election at which the candidate's name will appear on the ballot.

(h) Accountability. The candidate and the treasurer shall maintain such detailed accounts, records, bills and receipts as are necessary to prepare campaign statements. The candidate and the treasurer shall retain the detailed accounts, records, bills and receipts for the periods specified in the Political Reform Act of 1974 as amended. Every candidate and committee shall make available on demand to any public officer having legal authority to enforce this section, details of checking and financial accounts of each committee controlled by the candidate and all records supporting such details.

(i) Petty Cash Fund. Subsection (e) notwithstanding, a candidate, campaign treasurer and other designated agents authorized to issue checks on a campaign contribution checking account may disburse to the candidate or committee establishing the checking account an amount not greater than $50 per week to be used for petty cash purposes by the candidate or committee.

(j) Assumed Name Contributions. No contribution shall be made, directly or indirectly,

by any person or combination of persons, acting jointly in a name other than the name by which they are identified for legal purposes, nor in the name of another person or combination of persons. No person shall make a contribution in his, her or its name of anything belonging to another person or received from another person on the condition that it be used as a contribution. In the event it is discovered by a candidate or committee treasurer that a contribution has been received in violation of this subsection, the candidate or treasurer shall promptly pay the amount received in violation of this subsection to the City Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund of the City.

(k) Campaign Expenditures - Uncontrolled by Candidate or Committee. Persons or organizations not subject to the control of a candidate or committee but who make independent expenditures for or against a candidate or committee shall indicate clearly on any material published, displayed or broadcast that it was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.

(l) Recall Petition. In the event a recall petition is filed, the committee or individual filing the petition shall be subject to the same campaign disclosure provisions as are applicable to candidates for the Board of Education.

(m) Suppliers of Goods and Services - Disclosure of Records Required. No person who supplies goods or services or both goods and services to a candidate or committee for use in connection with the campaign for a Board of Education office shall knowingly refuse to divulge or disclose to the City Ethics Commission or to any public officer having legal authority to enforce this section, the details and the records supporting such details of any expenditures made by the candidate or committee in payment for such goods or services or both.

(n) Aggregation of Payments. For the purposes of the contribution limitations contained in this section, contributions and/or expenditures from two or more persons will be aggregated and considered to be made by a single person for the purposes of the contribution limitations and reporting provisions contained in this section, if any of the circumstances listed below is applicable:

(1) Contributions and/or expenditures from a person will be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any other person that controls his, her, or its contribution or expenditure activity;

(2) Contributions and/or expenditures from a sponsored committee, as defined in Government Code Section 82048.7, shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from its sponsoring organization;

(3) Contributions and/or expenditures from an entity shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any other entity that has the same individuals constituting a majority of the members of each entity's board of directors;

(4) Contributions and/or expenditures from an entity shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any other entity that has the same officers or with whom it shares a majority of officers. For the purposes of this subdivision, an officer does not include an individual who serves only as a member of the entity's board of directors;

(5) Contributions and/or expenditures from a corporation or limited liability company shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any other corporation or limited liability company that has the same majority shareholder and/

or member or that holds a majority of voting rights in that corporation or limited liability company;

(6) Contributions and/or expenditures from a corporation shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any parent or subsidiary corporation, provided that at least one of the corporations is not publicly traded;

(7) Contributions and/or expenditures from an individual shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any corporation, limited liability company, firm, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company or other business entity not described in Subdivisions (8) or (9) below, in which the individual owns an investment of 50% or more or holds a majority of voting rights;

(8) Contributions and/or expenditures from an individual shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any sole proprietorship the individual owns; or

(9) Contributions and/or expenditures from a general partner shall be aggregated with contributions and/or expenditures from any general or limited partnership in which the general partner owns an investment of 50% or more or in which the general partner holds a majority of voting rights.

(o) Family Contributions. Contributions by a husband and wife shall be treated as separate contributions. Contributions by children under eighteen years of age shall be treated as contributions by their parents and attributed proportionately to each parent (one-half to each parent or the total amount to a single custodial parent).

(p) Return of Contributions. A contribution shall not be considered to be received if it is not negotiated, deposited, or utilized, and is returned to the donor within 14 days of receipt.

(q) Restrictions on When Contributions May Be Received. No candidate for the Board of Education, or the controlled committee of that candidate, shall solicit or accept or cause to be solicited or accepted any contribution more than 18 months before the date of the election at which the candidate seeks office. No candidate for the Board of Education, or his or her controlled committee, shall solicit or receive or cause to be solicited or received a contribution to his or her own campaign committee from any person later than nine months after the date of the election. Contributions solicited or received or caused to be solicited or received by a candidate for the Board of Education, or his or her controlled committee, following his or her election shall be used to retire campaign debt.

(r) Campaign Disclosure, Reporting and Recordkeeping.

(1) In addition to the campaign statements required to be filed pursuant to the Political Reform Act, commencing with Government Code Section 81000, as amended, candidates for the Board of Education, their controlled committees and committees primarily formed to support or oppose these candidates shall file a pre-election statement on the Friday before the election. This statement shall have a closing date of the Wednesday before the election and shall cover activity and payments occurring through that day. Candidates for the Board of Education, their controlled committees and committees primarily formed to support or oppose these candidates shall also file campaign statements as follows in connection with a primary nominating election held in March:

(A) For the period ending September 30 of the year prior to the election,

~~a statement shall be filed no later than October 10, for the period from July 1 through September 30.~~

~~(B) For the period ending December 31 of the year prior to the election, a statement shall be filed no later than January 10, of the year of the election for the period from October 1 through December 31.~~

~~(2) No contribution shall be deposited into a campaign checking account of a candidate for the Board of Education unless the name, address, occupation and employer of the contributor is on file in the records of the recipient of the contribution.~~

~~(3) Each candidate, and each committee making independent expenditures or member communications in support of or opposition to a candidate, who sends a mailing or distributes more than 200 substantially similar pieces of campaign literature, shall send a copy of the mailing or other literature to the City Ethics Commission at the same time the mailing or other literature is given to the post office or otherwise distributed. During the election campaign, the Commission shall merely serve as a repository for this literature and shall not judge or comment on the contents of the literature.~~

~~(4) Any candidate for the Board of Education and the candidate's controlled committee required to file campaign statements with the City Ethics Commission shall file those campaign statements online, using the Commission's Electronic Filing System (EFS), after the candidate and/or committee has received contributions or made expenditures of $25,000 or more in connection with election to a Board of Education office.~~

~~(A) Once a candidate or committee is required to file campaign statements online, that candidate or committee shall continue to file statements online until the committee has officially terminated. Committees and other persons not required to file online by this subsection may do so voluntarily.~~

~~(B) A person required to file online shall continue to file a paper copy of each campaign statement, as required by the California Political Reform Act and this article, until the person is no longer required to file campaign statements with the City Ethics Commission. The paper copy shall continue to be the original campaign statement for audit and other legal purposes.~~

~~(C) In addition to any late filing penalties that may be imposed for a late filing of a paper copy pursuant to the California Political Reform Act or this article, any person who fails to comply with the online filing requirement of this subsection will, in addition, be subject to an additional late filing penalty of $25 per day after the deadline for the late filing of the online copy.~~

~~(D) The information contained on a campaign statement filed online shall be the same as that contained on the paper copy of the same statement that is filed with the City Ethics Commission.~~

~~(s) Disclosure of Payments for Independent Expenditures and Non-Behested Member Communications.~~

~~(1) Any person, including any committee, who makes or incurs independent expenditures of $1,000 or more in support of or in opposition to any candidate for the Board of Education, or one or more payments for member communications as defined by this~~

~~section, totaling $1,000 or more in support of or in opposition to a candidate for the Board of Education, shall notify the City Ethics Commission within 24 hours by certified mail or fax or e-mail each time one or more payments, which meet this threshold, are made.~~

~~(2) The notification shall consist of a declaration specifying each candidate supported or opposed by the expenditure, the amount spent to support or oppose each candidate, whether the candidate was supported or opposed, and that the expenditure was not behested by the candidate or candidates who benefited from the expenditure. This declaration shall be made under penalty of perjury and signed by the person or officer and the treasurer of the group making the expenditure. In addition, the date and amount of the payment, a description of the type of communication for which the payment was made or incurred, the name and address of the person making the payment, the name and address of the payee, and a copy of the mailing or advertisement, or a copy of the script or recording of the call, transmission, or advertisement, shall also be provided to the City Ethics Commission. The notification also shall include disclosure of contributions of $100 or more received by the committee since the day after the closing date of the committee's last campaign disclosure report filed within the Commission or since the first day of the current calendar year, whichever date occurs later; however, contributions that are received, but earmarked for any other candidate outside the Los Angeles Unified School District need not be disclosed. The notification also shall include disclosure of contributions of $100 or more made in the current calendar year by the person to Board of Education candidates or their controlled committees.~~

~~(3) City Ethics Commission staff will notify all candidates by phone, fax or e-mail in the affected race within one business day after receiving the notice of payments for independent expenditures and uncoordinated member communications of $1,000 or more. The notification will indicate the candidate who was supported or opposed by the expenditure as indicated on the signed declaration and include a copy of the communication provided by the person or group making the expenditure.~~

~~(4) For purposes of the notification required in Subdivision (1), payments by an organization for its regularly published newsletter or periodical, if the circulation is limited to the organization's members, employees, shareholders, other affiliated individuals and those who request or purchase the publication, shall not be required to be reported.~~

~~(5) Any committee, including but not limited to a candidate controlled committee and an independent expenditure committee, that makes or incurs payments for 1,000 or more recorded telephone calls or any other forms of electronic or facsimile transmission of substantially similar content, or that makes or incurs expenditures of $1,000 or more for a radio or television advertisement, in support of or opposition to any candidate(s) for Board of Education office, shall send a copy of the script or recording used for each communication to the Ethics Commission within 24 hours of the first time the calls, transmissions, or advertisements are made or aired.~~

~~**(t) Verification.** All declarations, reports and statements filed under this section shall be signed and verified by the filer under penalty of perjury. The candidate and any person signing declarations, reports and statements under this provision shall read, know and understand the contents of all these declarations, reports and statements.~~

~~**(u) Duties of City Ethics Commission.** The City Ethics Commission shall administer the provisions of this section. In addition to other duties required under the terms of this section, the~~

City Ethics Commission shall:

(1) Conduct audits and investigations of reports and statements filed by candidates and committees supporting or opposing candidates for Board of Education offices as required under the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, and Article VII and this section of the Charter. The City Ethics Commission shall employ investigators where necessary to fully investigate any person subject to this section.

(2) Enforce or cause to be enforced the provisions of this section pursuant to Section 90002(c) of the Government Code, in accordance with Article VII of the Charter.

(3) Report apparent violations of this section and applicable state law to the City Attorney or another appropriate law enforcement agency.

(v) Enforcement.

(1) **Criminal Enforcement -** Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who knowingly or willfully causes any other person to violate any provision of this section, or who aids and abets any other person in the violation of any provision of this section, shall be liable under the provisions of this section. Prosecution for violation of any provision of this section must be commenced within four years after the date on which the violation occurred. No person convicted of a misdemeanor under this section shall act as a lobbyist or as a City contractor for a period of four years following the date of the conviction unless the court at the time of sentencing specifically determines that this provision shall not be applicable. For purposes of this section, a plea of nolo contendere shall be deemed a conviction.

(2) **Civil Enforcement.**

(A) Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any provision of this section shall be liable in a civil action brought by the City Attorney, the City Ethics Commission or by a person residing within the boundaries of the Los Angeles Unified School District for an amount not more than $5,000 per violation, or for more than three times the amount the person failed to report properly or unlawfully contributed, gave or received.

(B) Any person who intentionally or negligently makes or receives a contribution, or makes an expenditure, in violation of any provision of this section shall be liable in a civil action brought by the City Attorney or by a person residing within the City for an amount up to three times the amount of the unlawful contribution or expenditure.

(C) If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.

(D) Any person, other than the City Attorney, before filing a civil action pursuant to this subsection, shall first file with the City Ethics Commission a written request for the City Ethics Commission to commence the action. The request shall contain a statement of the grounds for believing a cause of action exists. The City Ethics Commission shall respond within 40 days after receipt of the request, indicating whether it intends to file a civil action. If the City Ethics Commission indicates in the affirmative, and files suit within 40 days thereafter,

~~no other action may be brought unless the action brought by the City Ethics Commission is dismissed without prejudice.~~

~~(E) Not more than one judgment on the merits with respect to any violation may be obtained under this subsection. Actions brought for the same violation or violations shall have precedence for purposes of trial in the order of the time filed. Such actions shall be dismissed once judgment has been entered or a settlement approved by the court in a previously filed action. The court may dismiss a pending action without prejudice to any other action for failure of the plaintiff to proceed diligently and in good faith. The action may be so dismissed on motion by the City Attorney or any plaintiff in an action based on the same violation.~~

~~(F) In determining the amount of liability under this subsection, the court may take into account the seriousness of the violation and the degree of culpability of the defendant. If a judgment is entered against the defendant or defendants in an action, a private plaintiff shall receive 50% of the amount recovered. The remaining 50% shall be deposited into the City's General Fund. In an action brought by the City Attorney or the City Ethics Commission, the entire amount shall be paid to the General Fund.~~

~~(G) No civil action alleging a violation of this section shall be filed more than four years after the date the violation occurred.~~

~~(H) Any person residing within the Los Angeles Unified School District, including the Los Angeles City Attorney, may sue for injunctive relief to enjoin violations or to compel compliance with the provisions of this section. The court may award to a party, other than an agency, who prevails in any civil action authorized by this article, his or her costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however, that no such award may be granted against the City of Los Angeles.~~

~~(w) Effect of Violation on Outcome of Election.~~

~~(1) If a candidate is convicted of a misdemeanor violation of any provision of this section, the court shall make a determination as to whether the violation had a material effect on the outcome of the election. If the court finds such a material effect, then:~~

~~(A) if such conviction becomes final before the date of the election, the votes for such candidate shall not be counted, and the election shall be determined on the basis of the votes cast for the other candidates in that race;~~

~~(B) if such conviction becomes final after the date of the election, and if such candidate was declared to have been elected, then such candidate shall not assume office, the office shall be deemed vacant and shall be filled as otherwise provided in the Charter;~~

~~(C) if such conviction becomes final after the candidate has assumed office, then the candidate shall be removed from office, the office shall be deemed vacant and shall be filled as otherwise provided in the Charter; and~~

~~(D) the person so convicted shall be ineligible to hold any elected City~~

~~office or the office of a member of the Board of Education for a period of five years after the date of such conviction.~~

~~(2) The City Clerk shall not issue any certificate of nomination or election to any candidate until his or her pre-election campaign statements required by the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, or if no campaign statement is required, the written declaration permitted under Section 84205 of the Government Code, have been filed in the form and at the place required by the Political Reform Act of 1974.~~

~~**(x) Late Filing Penalties.** If any person files an original statement or report after any deadline imposed by this article, he or she shall, in addition to any other penalties or remedies established by the article, be liable to the City Ethics Commission in the amount of $25 per day after the deadline until the statement or report is filed. Liability need not be enforced by the Commission if on an impartial basis it determines that the late filing was not willful and that enforcement of the liability will not further the purposes of the article, except that no liability shall be waived if a statement or report is not filed within 30 days.~~

~~**(y) Severability.** If any provision or portion of this section, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid by any court, the remainder of this section or the application of such provisions to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected.~~

Sec. 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or application of this Charter amendment or any portion thereof is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, or applications of this Charter amendment shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Charter amendment are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, subsections, clauses, sentences, phrases, portions, and applications of this Charter amendment without the section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, portion, or application held unconstitutional or invalid.

FD FUNDING FOR THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES TAX. INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD.

Shall an ordinance providing funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department, including for hiring firefighters, paramedics, and other staff, purchasing and maintaining vehicles and equipment, building and upgrading fire stations, and brush clearance; by imposing a one-half percent (0.5%) sales tax in the City of Los Angeles; with annual audits and a citizen's oversight committee; generating approximately $345 million annually until ended by voters; be adopted?

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

This citizen-sponsored ballot initiative, if approved, would require the City to adopt an ordinance to impose a new one-half percent (0.5%) retail transactions and use tax (Sales Tax) in the City of Los Angeles. The proceeds generated by this new Sales Tax would be used to provide supplemental funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). The City's current Sales Tax rate is 10.25%. This new tax would remain in place unless repealed by the voters, or if City budget obligations are not met, as specified in the initiative.

Currently, the LAFD is funded primarily through the City's General Fund. The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City, and receives revenues from various taxes, permits, fees, fines and other sources that are available for discretionary uses. The General Fund has limited resources and is used to fund the majority of City departments that provide services to the public.

If adopted, the additional revenue will be deposited into a new Special Fund. These funds would be used for LAFD-specific purposes, including but not limited to:

- Hiring and retaining firefighters, paramedics and civilian LAFD staff;
- Purchasing and maintaining vehicles to support firefighting and rescue needs, such as fire trucks, fire engines, ambulances, aircraft and helicopters;
- Purchasing and maintaining equipment to support firefighting and rescue services;
- Replacing, upgrading or building new fire stations and emergency medical services facilities, the construction of which would be subject to project labor agreements and prevailing wage requirements;
- Purchasing and maintaining emergency communications systems; and
- Improving brush clearance and wildfire preparedness.

In order to collect this tax, the City would be required to maintain the LAFD discretionary budget at the average percentage provided for the ten years preceding the operative date of the ordinance. The measure would also establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) to monitor the expenditure of revenue generated by this Sales Tax. The COC would consist of five members, drawn from residents of the City. The Mayor, Fire Chief, City Controller, City Administrative Officer and the Chair of the City Council Public Safety Committee would each

have authority to appoint one member to the COC. The COC would be required to review expenditures and issue reports to the Mayor, Board of Fire Commissioners, City Council and the public at least annually.

The City Council's authority to amend the ordinance without voter approval is limited to amendments that are strictly necessary to implement or administer the ordinance; do not alter the rate or duration of the sales tax; or furthers the purpose of the ordinance. Any Council-initiated amendments would require approval by two-thirds of the Council after a 30-day public notice.

The one-half percent sales tax proposed by this initiative would be imposed approximately 110 days after voter approval.

This measure would become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This measure increases the City's sales tax by 0.5 percent (from 10.25 to 10.75 percent). It generates roughly $345 million annually for a special fund dedicated exclusively to support the operation and services of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), inclusive of its core functions: hiring and retaining staff; purchasing and maintaining firefighting vehicles and equipment; building new and upgrading existing fire stations; and, enhancing wildfire readiness and brush management. Revenues and expenditures will be monitored by a citizens' oversight committee and audited annually. The measure requires a "maintenance of effort" whereby the City must fund LAFD at a baseline level equal to the average percentage of total discretionary funding to LAFD during the ten fiscal years immediately preceding the operative date of the measure. Should this funding level not be met, the tax cannot be levied during that fiscal year.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

Every time you call 911, you expect us to be there. So do we.

As Los Angeles Fire Department Firefighters and Paramedics, we've dedicated our lives to protecting this city. We respond to your worst days: house fires, heart attacks, car accidents, hazardous materials incidents, rescues, and increasingly destructive wildfires. Every second matters and can mean the difference between life and death.

But right now, due to a lack of firefighters, paramedics, equipment, and resources, it's taking us nearly twice as long as it should to arrive in an emergency. When we're delayed, we know what can happen. We've watched fires grow beyond control, fought to save patients whose chances of survival dropped with every passing minute, and stood beside families knowing a faster response could have changed the outcome.

To see if LAFD Firefighters & Paramedics can get to you in time, visit FundLAFire.com.

After decades of neglect, we can't trust City Hall to fix the LAFD. That's why LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics wrote Measure FD: to ensure faster 911 emergency response, prevent wildfires, and protect our communities.

911 Emergency Response Times

More than 80% of all LAFD 911 calls are medical emergencies, such as heart attacks, strokes, and car accidents. The national standard for a paramedic to arrive at a medical emergency is four minutes; in Los Angeles, it often takes nearly twice that long.

When a person is in cardiac arrest, they only have 4-6 minutes before irreversible brain damage occurs. These extra minutes due to staffing shortages lead to tragic outcomes we carry with us. That's why we wrote Measure FD.

Measure FD will allow the LAFD to hire more paramedics and reduce 911 emergency response times.

Wildfire Protection

Wildfire risk in Los Angeles is at an all-time high. Measure FD is vital to minimizing this risk: it will increase funding for the department's brush clearance and wildfire prevention programs while modernizing water-dropping helicopters, acquiring specialized aircraft, and providing the firefighters needed to combat these blazes.

1965 LAFD Resources for a 2026 City

Since 1965, LA's population has increased more than 50%; there's been no increase in firefighters or paramedics, and the city has fewer neighborhood fire stations today, making it impossible to respond effectively to 500,000 annual calls for service.

With Measure FD, the LAFD will be able to hire at least 1,000 additional firefighters and paramedics so that we can arrive on time when you need us the most.

All Funds Dedicated to the LAFD

Measure FD provides a dedicated, locally controlled funding source, requiring 100% of funds to go to core LAFD services that cannot be diverted for any other purposes.

This funding is critical because we're stretching every resource we have: moving from one emergency to the next without stopping, sending engines across town because the closest ones are already committed, and running short on ambulances as demand outpaces staffing - all while our stations and equipment keep aging.

Where do Measure FD tax funds go?

By law, 100% of the money goes to core LAFD services, including recruiting and retaining well-qualified firefighters and paramedics, increasing brush clearance and wildfire prevention programs, and providing firefighters with up-to-date equipment. It's deposited into a dedicated, locked fund, and City Hall politicians are legally prohibited from redirecting a single dollar anywhere else.

How is Measure FD different from other Los Angeles tax measures?

Because Measure FD is built differently. It creates a single, locked fund that can only be spent on LAFD staffing, vehicles, equipment, and stations. It requires public spending disclosure, independent annual audits, and is monitored by a citizens' oversight committee. There's no ambiguity about where the money goes, because the ordinance doesn't allow it to be diverted for any other purposes.

Does Measure FD prevent City Hall from cutting existing LAFD funding?

Measure FD prohibits city politicians and bureaucrats from redirecting any existing LAFD funding. Measure FD includes a Maintenance of Effort requirement: the City must continue funding the LAFD at least at its average share of the discretionary budget over the past ten years. If the City fails to meet that baseline, it's legally barred from collecting the new tax that year. This funding must supplement, not replace, existing LAFD resources.

How much will Measure FD cost taxpayers?

Measure FD is a half-cent sales tax: five cents on a $10 purchase. That nickel means help gets there faster when someone you love calls 911.

What specific LAFD programs and equipment does Measure FD fund?

Hiring additional firefighters and paramedics to reduce 911 emergency response times and expanding brush clearance and wildfire prevention. In 2025, wildfires cost LA taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in damaged infrastructure, equipment, emergency response, and lost revenue; it costs far less to prevent a wildfire than to recover from one. The measure also allows the LAFD to meet national staffing standards, upgrade fire stations, provide protective equipment like fire-resistant clothing and radios, and modernize our 911 communications technology.

Measure FD comes with enforceable accountability built directly into the law: independent audits, public reporting, and citizen oversight, so taxpayers know exactly how every dollar is spent. That's why Measure FD is supported by your local firefighters and paramedics, emergency room doctors, and small business owners.

Every year we wait is another year of response times that run nearly double the national standard, another year of firefighters and paramedics stretched to cover a city that outgrew them decades ago. LA has grown. It's time the LAFD did too.

In Los Angeles, it's not a matter of if - but when - you call 911 for someone you love.

When you vote yes on Measure FD, you're investing in something every resident depends on, whether they realize it today or not, because someday, the life we save could be yours.

Join LAFD Firefighters & Paramedics, the LAFD Chief Officers Association, California Professional Firefighters, and the International Association of Fire Fighters in voting YES on Measure FD.

For more information, visit FundLAFire.com.

PERSON SIGNING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

DOUG COATES
President
United Firefighters of LA City

JAIME MOORE
Fire Chief
Los Angeles Fire Department

ERIC GONZALEZ
Firefighter
LAFD, Pacific Palisades

OMAR VELASQUEZ
Firefighter/Paramedic
LAFD, Boyle Heights

LEON DUNN
Captain
LAFD, Skid Row

DAVID RILES
Captain
LAFD, Chatsworth

GERARDO PUGA
Captain
LAFD, Panorama City

MIRANDA MCOSKER
Firefighter
LAFD, Lincoln Heights

KIMBERLY HERRING
Firefighter/Paramedic
LAFD, South Los Angeles

CHRIS MIYASATO
Firefighter
LAFD, Echo Park

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REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

MEASURE FD IS A SALES TAX INCREASE. IT RAISES THE SALES TAX TO 10.75%

If Measure FD passes, **it would raise the sales tax in the City of Los Angeles to 10.75%.** It would be the third sales tax increase in two years after county sales tax increases for homelessness (Measure A in 2024) and health care (Measure ER in June). Measure FD alone will cost taxpayers about $345 million per year. Divided by L.A.'s population of about 4 million, that averages out to more than $86 per person per year in additional sales taxes, **$345 for a family of four.** Every year.

THIS TAX INCREASE IS AN INITIATIVE ORDINANCE, TO GET THROUGH A LOOPHOLE.

The state constitution says special taxes, where the money is earmarked for a specific purpose, require a two-thirds vote – 66.67% – to pass. However, courts have recently ruled that a special tax needs fewer votes – only 50% plus one – if it is placed on the ballot by a citizens' initiative. The proponents of this tax increase wrote it themselves, decided where the money will go, collected signatures, and now can raise the sales tax without needing a two-thirds vote. **It isn't right that courts have made it easier to raise taxes.**

THE LOOPHOLE WILL BE CLOSED IF VOTERS PASS PROPOSITION 43 IN NOVEMBER

Initiative Ordinance FD is a special tax that may squeeze through the loophole to pass with fewer votes than the 66.67% the constitution requires. If voters pass Proposition 43 in November, the loophole will be closed on January 1 and all future special taxes will require a two-thirds vote to pass.

CITY LEADERS SHOULD FULLY FUND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT A TAX INCREASE

In the 2025-26 budget year, the city's total General Fund revenue was more than $8.1 billion. Why is a sales tax increase needed to pay for the most essential city services? What is in the budget that's a higher priority than fully funding the Fire Department?

HOMELESSNESS STRAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES, THE BUDGET SHOULD REFLECT THAT

In 2025-26, the city spent approximately $350 million from the General Fund on homelessness. That was only about a third of the total city budget for homelessness, which was approximately $1 billion. Given the number of fires related to homeless encampments, the city could be spending part of the homelessness budget to fully fund the Fire Department, without a tax increase.

WHY IS REMODELING THE CONVENTION CENTER PRIORITIZED ABOVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

In a September 18, 2025, letter to the City Council, the City Controller warned that the $2.7 billion upgrade of the Convention Center would require "an additional average of $116 million

from the General Fund each year for the next 28 years....” That’s $116 million per year that could have been used to hire firefighters.

SALES TAXES ARE ALREADY TOO HIGH, VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

You pay enough in taxes. The city wastes money. **Vote no on Measure FD.**

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

HOWARD JARVIS TAX PAYERS ASSOCIATION
Jon Coupal
President

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ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD. IT RAISES THE SALES TAX TO 10.75%

As of October 1, the sales tax in the city of Los Angeles is 10.25%. If INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD passes, the sales tax in L.A. will be **10.75%.** This would be the third sales tax increase in two years for Los Angeles city residents, following county sales tax increases for homelessness (Measure A in 2024) and health care (Measure ER in June).

INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD TRIES TO SQUEEZE THROUGH A LOOPHOLE THAT VOTERS MAY CLOSE

The California Constitution requires special taxes (when the money is earmarked for a special purpose) to be approved by two-thirds of voters in order to pass. However, since 2017, state courts have carved a loophole in this important Proposition 13 protection. Judges have allowed some earmarked taxes to pass with fewer votes if they are placed on the ballot by collecting signatures on petitions. This loophole may be closed by voters with Proposition 43 on the November ballot, restoring the two-thirds vote to pass special taxes. Proposition 43 would take effect in January, 2027. The INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD sales tax increase would squeeze through the loophole to evade the two-thirds vote requirement.

CITY LEADERS SHOULD FULLY FUND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT A TAX INCREASE

INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD is a **sales tax increase** to raise approximately $345 million annually for the Fire Department. In the 2025-26 budget year, the city's total General Fund revenue was more than $8.1 billion. Why is a sales tax increase the only way to pay for this essential service? What is in the budget that's a higher priority than fully funding the Fire Department?

HOMELESSNESS STRAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES, THE BUDGET SHOULD REFLECT THAT

In 2025-26, the city spent approximately $350 million from the General Fund on homelessness. That was only about a third of the total city budget for homelessness, which was approximately $1 billion. Given the number of fires related to homeless encampments, it's worth asking whether a significant portion of the General Fund spending on homelessness should instead be spent on the Fire Department, without a tax increase.

THE CITY'S SPENDING PRIORITIES ARE RECKLESS

In a September 18, 2025, letter to the City Council, the City Controller warned against approving a $2.7 billion upgrade of the Convention Center. "If this plan goes through, the City is projected to need an additional average of $116 million from the General Fund each year for the next 28 years starting in [Fiscal Year] 2029. $116 million is the equivalent of nearly 1,000 City jobs," the controller wrote. He ended his letter by stating, "as long as the City fails to fundamentally change the way it handles its finances and continues to inadequately fund City services for our

nearly four million residents, we can't recommend taking on this project at this time." The City Council approved the costly project anyway. That's $116 million per year that could have been used to hire firefighters.

SALES TAXES ARE ALREADY TOO HIGH, OVER THE CAP THAT IS WRITTEN IN STATE LAW

California law limits local sales taxes to a total of 2% on top of the state sales tax of 7.25%. However, state lawmakers routinely pass new laws to exempt new and higher sales taxes from the cap. This important taxpayer protection has been gutted. Sales taxes are becoming a greater and greater burden on Californians who are at least able to afford higher prices.

VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

Do not let the city government get away with wasting money that should be spent on the highest priorities first. There's no higher priority than fully funding first responders. Vote NO on INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD and tell city leaders to get their priorities straight.

PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENT AGAINST INITATIVE ORDINANCE FD

HOWARD JARVIS TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Jon Coupal
President

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REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

The opponents are right about one thing: City Hall should fully fund the Fire Department. We agree. As LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics, we've made that case for decades in City Hall, under mayors and councils of every political stripe. It never happens.

Since the 1960s, Los Angeles has grown by more than 50%, over 1.4 million more residents, while the number of firefighters hasn't grown at all, and there are fewer neighborhood fire stations today than there were then. That isn't one bad budget year. That's more than 60 years of City Hall refusing to make the LAFD a priority. Waiting for politicians to "get their priorities straight" is a plan we've already tried. People died waiting.

That's why LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics wrote Measure FD and why voters, not politicians, placed it on the ballot.

We also understand the cost of living is high. We pay taxes too. That's why Measure FD is a half-cent: a nickel on a $10 purchase. Even if Measure FD passes, LA City would still have a lower tax rate than our neighbors in Long Beach, Santa Monica, Pasadena, Burbank, and most LA County cities.

That nickel buys something no City budget has delivered in generations. At least 1,000 additional firefighters and paramedics, faster 911 response, and real wildfire prevention: brush clearance and modern water-dropping helicopters.

More than 80% of LAFD calls are medical emergencies, and it now takes nearly twice the national four-minute standard for a paramedic to reach you. In cardiac arrest, brain damage begins in 4 to 6 minutes. The opponents offer no proposal to fix that.

The opponents warn the City wastes money on other priorities. Again, we agree. That's precisely why Measure FD was written by us - so City Hall can't touch a dime of it. By law, 100% of the funds go into a locked, dedicated account that can only be spent on LAFD Firefighters & Paramedics, equipment, and stations, enforced by independent annual audits and public spending disclosures. And Measure FD includes a Maintenance of Effort guarantee: if City Hall cuts the LAFD's existing share of the budget, it is legally barred from collecting this tax at all.

Politicians can't divert this money to anything else. That's more accountability than the City's own budget process has ever provided, and it's why the opponents' real argument is with City Hall, not with your firefighters.

The opponents say to tell city leaders to get their priorities straight. We've told them for 60 years. Now it's your turn to be heard.

One day you WILL call 911 - a fire, a crash, a medical emergency involving you or someone you love. When that day comes, you need us there fast. Nothing else matters. Measure FD helps us get there faster.

Vote YES on Measure FD.

PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

BRENT KNEISLER
Inspector
LAFD Brush Clearance & Wildfire Prevention

TANYA CRABBE
President
Los Angeles Women in the Fire Service

MARK MCLEAN
Firefighter
LAFD, San Pedro

ANGELO PITILLO
Firefighter/Paramedic
LAFD, West Adams

DAVID RILES
Captain
LAFD, Chatsworth

LUCIA LIMA
Firefighter
LAFD, Watts

JAVIER HONLES
Captain
LAFD, Encino

GARY IZQUIERDO
Firefighter/Paramedic
LAFD, Hollywood

KYLE CAWDREY
Firefighter
LAFD, Pico-Robertson

FERNANDO PIZANO
Firefighter
LAFD, North Hollywood

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New provisions or language added to the Municipal Code or to existing Municipal Code sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Municipal Code or from existing Municipal Code sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

INITIATIVE ORDINANCE FD

FUNDING FOR THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES TAX. INITIATIVE ORDINANCE.

The proposed ordinance would impose an additional one-half percent (0.5%) sales tax in the City of Los Angeles. Tax proceeds would be used to provide additional funding dedicated to support the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), including for: hiring firefighters, paramedics, and other staff; purchasing and maintaining vehicles and equipment; building and upgrading fire stations and other facilities; and brush clearance. The ordinance states that its intent is to supplement, not replace, the City's current funding for LAFD, that the additional funding will be maintained in a separate account for that exclusive purpose, and that the tax would not be imposed if the City fails to maintain LAFD funding at historic budgetary levels. The ordinance would require annual audits and establish a citizen's oversight committee to monitor and report on expenditures of tax revenues. The ordinance would require that fire station construction and replacement projects receiving funding from this tax be subject to a project-labor agreement and comply with prevailing wage requirements.

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance proposed by initiative petition to add Article 1.20 to Chapter II of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, establishing the "Los Angeles Fire and Emergency Preparedness and Response Ordinance."

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Name

This measure shall be known as the "Los Angeles Fire and Emergency Preparedness and Response Ordinance."

SECTION 2. Article 1.20 is added to Chapter II of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read:

Sec. 21.20.1 - Title.

This article shall be known as the "Los Angeles Fire and Emergency Preparedness and Response Ordinance" (the "Ordinance"). The City of Los Angeles hereinafter shall be called "City." For purposes of this article, the Los Angeles City Fire Department hereinafter shall be referred to as "LAFD." This Ordinance shall be applicable in the incorporated territory of the City.

Sec. 21.20.2 - Purpose.

This Ordinance is adopted to achieve the following, among other purposes, and directs that the provisions hereof be interpreted in order to accomplish those purposes:

A. To establish a supplemental funding source for the LAFD for the purposes and uses set forth in this Ordinance.

B. To impose a retail transactions and use tax in accordance with the provisions of Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and Section 7285.91 of Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, which authorizes the City of Los Angeles ("City") to adopt this tax ordinance provided that a majority of the electors voting on the measure vote to approve the imposition of the tax at an election called for that purpose.

C. This ordinance is further adopted under the City's home-rule authority as a charter city (Cal. Const., art. XI, § 5), which permits municipal taxation for local purposes consistent with applicable law.

D. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that incorporates provisions identical to those of the Sales and Use Tax Law of the State of California insofar as those provisions are not inconsistent with the requirements and limitations contained in Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

E. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that imposes a tax and provides a measure therefor that can be administered and collected by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration on behalf of the City in a manner that adapts itself as fully as practicable to, and requires the least possible deviation from, the existing statutory and administrative procedures followed by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in administering and collecting the California State Sales and Use Taxes.

F. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that can be administered in a manner that will be, to the greatest degree possible, consistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, minimize the cost of collecting the transactions and use taxes, and at the same time, minimize the burden of record-keeping upon persons subject to taxation under the provisions of this Ordinance.

G. To ensure that the revenues generated by this Ordinance shall be used exclusively for the purposes and uses approved by the voters, consistent with the City Charter, the California Constitution, and applicable law, and that such revenues shall be subject to annual independent audit and oversight.

Sec. 21.20.3 - Contract with State.

Prior to the operative date, the City shall contract with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to perform all functions incident to the administration and operation of this transactions and use tax ordinance; provided, that if the City shall not have contracted with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration prior to the operative date, it shall nevertheless so contract and in such a case the operative date shall be the first day of the first calendar quarter following the execution of such a contract.

Sec. 21.20.4 - Transactions tax rate.

For the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail, a tax is hereby imposed upon all retailers in the incorporated territory of the City at the rate of 0.50 percent (0.50%) of the gross

receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in said territory on and after the operative date of this Ordinance.

Sec. 21.20.5 - Place of sale.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to an out-of-state destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-state destination. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the state sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the State or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

Sec. 21.20.6 - Use tax rate.

An excise tax is hereby imposed on the storage, use or other consumption in the City of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer on and after the operative date of this Ordinance for storage, use or other consumption in said territory at the rate of 0.50 percent (0.50%) of the sales price of the property. The sales price shall include delivery charges when such charges are subject to state sales or use tax regardless of the place to which delivery is made.

Sec. 21.20.7 - Adoption of provisions of State law.

Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance and except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, all of the provisions of Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code are hereby adopted and made a part of this Ordinance as though fully set forth herein.

Sec. 21.20.8 - Limitations on adoption of State law and collection of use taxes.

In adopting the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code:

A. Wherever the State of California is named or referred to as the taxing agency, the name of this City shall be substituted therefor. However, the substitution shall not be made when:

   1. The word “State” is used as a part of the title of the State Controller, State Treasurer, State Treasury, or the Constitution of the State of California;

   2. The result of that substitution would require action to be taken by or against this City or any agency, officer, or employee thereof rather than by or against the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, in performing the functions incident to the administration or operation of this Ordinance.

   3. In those sections, including, but not necessarily limited to sections referring to the exterior boundaries of the State of California, where the result of the substitution would be to:

      a. Provide an exemption from this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which

would not otherwise be exempt from this tax while such sales, storage, use or other consumption remain subject to tax by the State under the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or;

b. Impose this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not be subject to tax by the state under the said provision of that code.

4. In reference to Sections 6701, 6702 (except in the last sentence thereof), 6711, 6715, 6737, 6797 or 6828 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

B. The word "city" shall be substituted for the word "state" in the phrase "retailer engaged in business in this state" in Section 6203 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and in the definition of that phrase in Section 6203.

1. "A retailer engaged in business in the district" shall also include any retailer that, in the preceding calendar year or the current calendar year, has total combined sales of tangible personal property in this state or for delivery in the State by the retailer and all persons related to the retailer that exceeds $500,000.00. For purposes of this section, a person is related to another person if both persons are related to each other pursuant to Section 267(b) of Title 26 of the United States Code and the regulations thereunder.

Sec. 21.20.9 - Permit not required.

If a seller's permit has been issued to a retailer under Section 6067 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, an additional transactor's permit shall not be required by this Ordinance.

Sec. 21.20.10 - Exemptions and exclusions.

A. There shall be excluded from the measure of the transactions tax and the use tax the amount of any sales tax or use tax imposed by the State of California or by any city, city and county, or county pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law or the amount of any state-administered transactions or use tax.

B. There are exempted from the computation of the amount of transactions tax the gross receipts from:

1. Sales of tangible personal property, other than fuel or petroleum products, to operators of aircraft to be used or consumed principally outside the county in which the sale is made and directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property under the authority of the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government.

2. Sales of property to be used outside the City which is shipped to a point outside the City, pursuant to the contract of sale, by delivery to such point by the retailer or his agent, or by delivery by the retailer to a carrier for shipment to a consignee at such point. For the purposes of this paragraph, delivery to a point outside the City shall be satisfied:

a. With respect to vehicles (other than commercial vehicles) subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section

21411 of the Public Utilities Code, and undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code by registration to an out-of-City address and by a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, stating that such address is, in fact, his or her principal place of residence; and

b. With respect to commercial vehicles, by registration to a place of business out-of-City and declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, that the vehicle will be operated from that address.

3. The sale of tangible personal property if the seller is obligated to furnish the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this Ordinance.

4. A lease of tangible personal property which is a continuing sale of such property, for any period of time for which the lessor is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by the lease prior to the operative date of this Ordinance.

5. For the purposes of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, the sale or lease of tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

C. There are exempted from the use tax imposed by this Ordinance, the storage, use or other consumption in this City of tangible personal property:

1. The gross receipts from the sale of which have been subject to a transactions tax under any state-administered transactions and use tax ordinance.

2. Other than fuel or petroleum products purchased by operators of aircraft and used or consumed by such operators directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property for hire or compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government. This exemption is in addition to the exemptions provided in Sections 6366 and 6366.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California.

3. If the purchaser is obligated to purchase the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this Ordinance.

4. If the possession of, or the exercise of any right or power over, the tangible personal property arises under a lease which is a continuing purchase of such property for any period of time for which the lessee is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by a lease prior to the operative date of this Ordinance.

5. For the purposes of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, storage, use, or other consumption, or possession of, or exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or

lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

6. Except as provided in paragraph (7), a retailer engaged in business in the City shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchaser of tangible personal property, unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the City or participates within the City in making the sale of the property, including, but not limited to, soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a place of business of the retailer in the City or through any representative, agent, canvasser, solicitor, subsidiary, or person in the City under the authority of the retailer.

7. "A retailer engaged in business in the City" shall also include any retailer of any of the following: vehicles subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, or undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code. That retailer shall be required to collect use tax from any purchaser who registers or licenses the vehicle, vessel, or aircraft at an address in the City.

D. Any person subject to use tax under this Ordinance may credit against that tax any transactions tax or reimbursement for transactions tax paid to a district imposing, or retailer liable for, a transactions tax pursuant to Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code with respect to the sale to the person of the property the storage, use or other consumption of which is subject to the use tax.

Sec. 21.20.11 - Amendments.

All amendments subsequent to the effective date of this Ordinance to Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to sales and use taxes and which are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and all amendments to Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, shall automatically become a part of this Ordinance, provided, however, that no such amendment shall operate so as to affect the rate of tax imposed by this Ordinance.

Sec. 21.20.12 - Enjoining collection forbidden.

No injunction or writ of mandate or other legal or equitable process shall issue in any suit, action or proceeding in any court against the State or the City, or against any officer of the State or the City, to prevent or enjoin the collection under this Ordinance, or Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected.

Sec. 21.20.13 – Purpose and use of tax.

A. The purpose of the special tax authorized by this Ordinance is to provide funding support for the LAFD. All revenues generated by the special tax shall be used for purposes that support the core functions of the LAFD, including, but not limited to these priorities: hiring and maintaining sufficient firefighters and paramedics and civilian LAFD staff to meet the fire safety/rescue needs of the City; purchasing and maintaining vehicles to support firefighting and rescue needs, such as fire trucks, fire engines, ambulances, aircraft, and helicopters; purchasing and maintaining

equipment to support firefighting and rescue services; to replace, upgrade, and build additional fire stations and EMS facilities to meet the growing demand for service; purchasing and maintaining emergency communication systems; and improving brush clearance and wildfire readiness.

B. All proceeds of the tax levied and imposed hereunder shall be deposited into a special fund or account and used only for purposes authorized by this Ordinance. Unexpended balances shall remain in the fund or account and shall continue to be available for authorized uses in subsequent fiscal years until fully expended.

Sec. 21.20.14 - Citizens' oversight committee.

A. Committee Established. There is hereby established in the City a citizen's oversight committee to monitor the expenditures of revenue collected pursuant to this Ordinance only and shall provide reports to the people, the Board of Fire Commissioners, the City Council, and Mayor.

B. Selection of Members. The committee shall consist of five members. One member of the committee shall be appointed by each of the following officials: (1) the Mayor, (2) the LAFD Fire Chief, (3) City Controller, (4) City Administrative Officer, and (5) the Chair of the City Council Public Safety Committee. Citizens' oversight committee members must be City residents and shall not be current City employees, officials, contractors, or vendors of the City. Past employees, officials, or vendors shall be eligible to serve on the committee, provided that there are no conflicts of interest as determined by the City Attorney.

Of the members of the committee first appointed, the members appointed by the Mayor, the LAFD Fire Chief, the City Controller, the City Administrative Officer and the Chair of the City Council Public Safety Committee shall be appointed for terms of three years. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

C. Purpose and Jurisdiction. The citizens' oversight committee shall review expenditures of revenue collected pursuant to this Ordinance only to determine whether such funds are expended for the purposes specified in Section 21.20.13 and shall issue reports on their findings to the Mayor, City Council, Board of Fire Commissioners, and public at least annually. Committee members may also review the annual financial or performance audits performed by an independent auditor. The committee shall confine its oversight specifically to revenues generated under this Ordinance. Revenue generated through other sources shall be outside the jurisdiction of the citizens' oversight committee.

In order to preserve the integrity and independence of the oversight process, committee members will not play a formal role in contracting, project management, or any other aspect of LAFD management or funding.

The committee is not charged with decision-making on spending priorities, schedules, project details, funding source decisions, financing plans, or tax rate assumptions. The committee shall serve in an advisory-only role only. The committee shall have no jurisdiction other than that delegated to it pursuant to this Ordinance.

The Mayor or designee shall provide any reasonable administrative or technical

assistance required by the committee to fulfill its responsibilities or publicize its findings.

D. Meetings. The citizens' oversight committee shall meet three times each fiscal year (or as otherwise provided for in approved or amended bylaws) with specific meeting dates to be determined by committee members. Citizens' oversight committee meetings are subject to the Brown Act. Meetings shall be agendized and open to the public. Committee minutes and reports are a matter of public record and shall be posted on a website provided by the City. Additional meetings may be scheduled by the committee, as necessary. All committee members shall attend a training and orientation session prior to attending their first regular committee meeting.

Committee members are expected to attend all regular meetings. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings may result in removal from the committee at the discretion of the City officer who appointed the committee member.

E. Committee Operations and Funding. The citizens' oversight committee will select members to serve as chair and vice chair of the committee. A City staff person will be appointed by the Mayor or designee to serve as secretary. The secretary will be responsible for preparing, posting, and distributing agendas and taking minutes at each meeting. Approved minutes shall be made available to the public. Committee decisions, positions, findings, and procedures shall require a simple majority vote of those members in attendance. The quorum requirement for any meeting shall be a minimum of three members. The ongoing cost of the citizens' oversight committee shall be paid using revenue generated from the special tax authorized by this Ordinance.

F. Vacancies. Committee members may be removed from the committee by the City official who appointed them for repeated absence (see subsection D of this section), for malfeasance, for failing to meet the qualifications set forth in this section or for inability or unwillingness to fulfill the duties of a member. In the event of removal, resignation, or death, the City official that appointed the committee member whose seat has been vacated shall appoint a person to fill the vacant seat.

G. Miscellaneous. With the exception of those items specifically addressed in these guiding principles, the committee may draft and adopt its own standard procedures and bylaws by majority vote. All citizens' oversight committee procedures and bylaws remain subject to review and approval by the City Council and Mayor. Citizens' oversight committee reports and audits are subject to review and approval of the City Council and Mayor.

H. Duration. The Citizens' oversight committee will remain in place until a vote of the City Council, subject to approval from the Mayor, takes place to disband the committee. This disbandment cannot take place within the first 10 years of the implementation of this Ordinance.

Sec. 21.20.15 - Fiscal accountability provisions.

The amount generated by this special purpose revenue source and how it was used shall be included in the annual audit of the City's financial operations by an independent certified public

accountant. The cost of this annual audit shall be paid using revenue generated from the special tax authorized by this Ordinance.

Sec. 21.20.16 – Duration of tax.

The authority to levy the tax imposed by this Ordinance shall remain in effect until repealed by the voters.

Sec. 21.20.17 – Severability.

If any provision, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is rendered or declared invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional by any final action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason or any preemptive legislation, such unconstitutionality illegality or invalidity shall only affect such provision, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word and shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions, sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or words, or the application of this Ordinance to any other person or circumstance, and to that end, the provisions hereof are severable. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the People of the City that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional illegal or invalid provision, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word not been included herein.

Sec. 21.20.18 – Amendments.

The City Council shall have no authority to amend this Ordinance except as expressly provided herein. An amendment may be enacted without a vote of the people only if it: (1) is strictly necessary to implement or administer the Ordinance; (2) does not alter the amount, rate, or duration of the tax; (3) furthers the purposes of this Ordinance; and (4) is approved by a two-thirds vote of all members of the City Council following at least 30 days of public notice and review.

Sec. 21.20.19 – Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

A. It is the intent of the People that revenues collected under this Ordinance shall supplement and not supplant existing expenditures by the City for LAFD services. To that end, the City shall maintain, at a minimum, the average percentage of total discretionary budget funding to the LAFD during the ten fiscal years immediately preceding the operative date of this Ordinance (the "baseline period"). The baseline period shall be fixed as of the operative date of this Ordinance and shall not be recalculated downward in subsequent years.

B. If at any time, the City fails to budget to meet the funding level provided by this section, the City shall not impose and levy the special tax established pursuant to this Ordinance during that fiscal year.

C. To promote transparency and accountability, the City shall annually certify its compliance with this Maintenance of Effort requirement as part of the budget process, and such certification shall be made available to the public.

D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the City from increasing General Fund support to the LAFD above the average percentage for the baseline period.

Sec. 21.20.20 – New Construction and Local Hiring Opportunities.

A. All new fire station construction and replacement fire station projects that receive funding from this Ordinance shall be subject to the operative City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Project Labor Agreement ("Department of Public Works PLA"). The City Council may, at its discretion, include within the Department of Public Works PLA other construction, rehabilitation, and replacement projects that receive funding from this Ordinance.

B. If a specific Project Labor Agreement ("PLA") is approved by the City Council to apply to fire facilities construction, rehabilitation, and replacement projects that receive funding from the Ordinance, contractors performing construction, rehabilitation, and replacement work on such fire facilities projects shall be required to comply with such specific PLA, rather than the Department of Public Works PLA.

C. Any fire station construction, rehabilitation, and replacement project receiving funding from this Ordinance shall constitute public works for which prevailing wages shall be paid commensurate with the California Labor Code.

D. For LAFD projects that receive funding from this Ordinance, the City Council may require the establishment of a workforce development program to increase access to construction careers for local Los Angeles City residents. Any such program shall promote the use of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, job fairs, and other workforce development initiatives to ensure that LAFD projects aim to create pathways to good middle-class jobs for City residents.

SECTION 3. Conflicting Measures.

This measure is intended to operate within the limitations of state law governing transactions and use taxes. If this measure and any other City measure appearing on the same ballot each impose a transactions and use tax, and the combined adoption of such measures would cause the total district tax rate applicable within the City to exceed the limitation established by Section 7251.1 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or any successor statute, then the provisions of this measure shall be deemed to conflict with such other measure(s) to that extent.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 10(b) of the California Constitution, if this measure and any conflicting measure are approved by the voters at the same election, the measure receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall prevail in all respects as to the conflicting portions. If this measure receives a majority of affirmative votes but fewer than any such other conflicting measure, it shall take effect to the extent it may do so without exceeding the statutory limitation or conflicting with the prevailing measure.

SECTION 4. Effective Date; Operative Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after the City Council or other governing body certifies that this Ordinance has been duly approved by the voters voting in the election of the measure enacting this Ordinance. The transactions and use tax imposed hereunder shall be operative the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing more than one hundred ten (110) days after the adoption of this Ordinance ("Operative Date") or as otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 5. Legal Defense.

If approved by a simple majority of voters, and thereafter challenged in court of competent jurisdiction, the City shall defend this Ordinance in such court of competent jurisdiction. The People of the City by approving this Ordinance by a simple majority of voters hereby declare that the proponent(s) of this Ordinance have a direct and personal stake in defending this Ordinance from constitutional or statutory challenges to this Ordinance's validity or implementation. In the event the City fails to defend this Ordinance, or the City fails to appeal an adverse judgment against this Ordinance, in whole or in part, in any court of competent jurisdiction, this Ordinance's proponent(s) shall be entitled to assert his, her, or their direct personal stake by defending this Ordinance's validity and implementation in any court of competent jurisdiction and shall be empowered by the People through this Ordinance to act as agents of the People of the City, and the City shall indemnify the proponent(s) for reasonable attorneys' fees.

SECTION 6. Codification; Numbering; Non-substantive Edits.

If approved by the voters, this Ordinance shall be codified in the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code. The chapter, article, and section numbers set forth in this Ordinance are for reference only and the City Clerk is authorized to assign alternative chapter, article, and section numbers, and to make non-substantive formatting, typographical, and cross-reference corrections as necessary to effectuate this Ordinance without changing its substance.

Voter Bill of Rights

YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS

1. **The right to vote if you are a registered voter.** You are eligible to vote if you are:
   - ★ a U.S. citizen living in California
   - ★ at least 18 years old
   - ★ registered where you currently live
   - ★ Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and
   - ★ not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
2. **The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list.**
   You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if elections officials determine that you are eligible to vote.
3. **The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close.**
4. **The right to cast a secret ballot** without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.
5. **The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake,** if you have not already cast your ballot. You can:
   Ask an elections official at a polling place for a new ballot,
   Exchange your vote-by-mail ballot for a new one at an elections office, or at your polling place, or
   Vote using a provisional ballot.
6. **The right to get help casting your ballot** from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.
7. **The right to drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at any polling place** in California.
8. **The right to get election materials in a language other than English** if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.
9. **The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures** and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.
10. **The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity** to an elections official or the Secretary of State's office.

If you believe you have been denied any of these rights, call the Secretary of State's confidential toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

On the web at **www.sos.ca.gov**
By phone at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**
By email at **elections@sos.ca.gov**

Voter Accessibility Information

Accessibility and other assisted devices
(800) 815-2666, Option 4 (LA County Hotline)

LA County Vote Centers provide wheelchair accessibility and/or curbside voting. Inside the Vote Center you may find devices to assist you in your voting experience.

Audio Recordings (213) 978-0444
Audio equipment is available at all Vote Centers to assist you.

Audio recordings of the measures included in this booklet are available in English, Armenian, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. These recordings are available on our website: clerk.lacity.gov/elections/multilingual-services and at the following locations:

Braille Institute Library
741 North Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(323) 660-3880

Central Library
630 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 228-7000

Voters may also request a copy of the audio recordings from our office:

Office of the City Clerk-Election Division
Attn: Audio Recordings
555 Ramirez Street, Space 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

TTD Phone Number (562) 462-2259
A TTD phone number is provided for voters who are hearing impaired.

Language Assistance (213) 978-0444
The City also provides voting materials in Armenian, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Your City. Your Voice. Your Neighborhood Council!

Want to do something about potholes? Have an idea for a community beautification initiative? Looking for meaningful ways to connect with your community?

Get involved with your Neighborhood Council!

Neighborhood Councils are made up of people in YOUR community who work to ensure the City of Los Angeles is responsive to the needs, challenges, and aspirations of your neighborhood. As elected volunteer advisory bodies, Neighborhood Councils serve as **YOUR voice in City Hall**.

Neighborhood Councils serve an important role in the Los Angeles City government by:

- Advising City leaders and advocating on local issues,
- Setting priorities for community & capital improvement projects,
- Monitoring and making recommendations on City services such as street and sidewalk repair, public safety, and trash collection,
- Funding events, projects, and initiatives in their community,
- And more!

Los Angeles has 99 Neighborhood Councils.
Considered the nation's largest grassroots civic engagement model, each one serves the Angelenos who live, work, study, worship, own property or a business, or volunteer within the neighborhood.

Get Involved Today

Neighborhood Council Elections are taking place in 2027. As an Angeleno, you can become a community leader by running for a seat on your Neighborhood Council and by being a voter in this important election.

Visit www.99NCs.com to find your Neighborhood Council and learn about the 2027 Neighborhood Council Elections, or contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at EmpowerLA@LACity.org or (213) 978-1551.