

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Combining departments in the City of Los Angeles to save money for the 2028-2029 budget requires a strategic approach that prioritizes efficiency, eliminates redundancies, and maintains essential services. Below is a structured plan to consolidate departments while optimizing costs:

1. Consolidate Overlapping Functions Many departments share similar administrative, HR, IT, and procurement functions. Centralizing these services can reduce overhead. Shared Services Hub • Merge administrative functions (HR, IT, procurement, finance) under the City Administrative Officer (CAO) or a new "Central Operations Department." Includes: CAO, ITA, BCA, Office of Finance, Personnel Department
2. Merge Related Departments Combine departments with overlapping missions to reduce duplication.
 - Housing & Community Development • Merge Housing Authority (HACLA), LA Housing Department (LAHD), Community Investment for Families Department Goal: Streamline affordable housing programs, reduce bureaucratic delays.
 - Public Safety & Emergency Services • Merge Fire Department, Emergency Management Department (EMD), Office of Public Accountability (OPA) Goal: Improve disaster response coordination.
 - Infrastructure & Public Works • Merge Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Sanitation, Street Lighting, Street Services, Transportation, Public Works Goal: Unified maintenance and construction planning.
 - Economic & Workforce Development • Merge Economic & Workforce Development Department, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Tourism Department (CTD) Goal: Boost job creation, tourism, and arts under one umbrella.
 - Social & Equity Services • Merge Department of Aging, Department on Disability, Civil + Human Rights and Equity, Youth Development Department Goal: Improve equity-focused service delivery.
 - Regulatory & Compliance • Merge Department of Building and Safety, Cannabis Regulation (DCR), Port of Los Angeles (for permitting oversight) Goal: Simplify business regulations.
3. Privatize or Outsource Non-Core Functions • Los Angeles Zoo, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument ? Explore public-private partnerships. • LA World Airports (LAWA), Port of LA ? Keep as independent revenue-generating entities but streamline oversight.
4. Pension & Retirement Consolidation • Merge Fire & Police Pension

(LACERS) and City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) under one "City Retirement Authority." 5. Digital Transformation & IT Efficiency • Expand ITA's role to cover all city departments, reducing redundant software contracts. 6. Eliminate Low-Impact Departments • Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) ? Fold into Mayor's Office of Community Engagement. • Office of the City Clerk ? Shift some functions to digital platforms. Expected Savings • Administrative overhead reduction (HR, IT, finance consolidation): \$50M+ • Department mergers (eliminating redundant roles): \$30M+ • Privatization/outsourcing (Zoo, El Pueblo): \$10M+ • Pension consolidation: \$5M+ Implementation Steps • Audit all departments (2025-2026) to identify redundancies. • Pilot mergers (2026-2027) in select areas (e.g., Housing, Public Works). • Full consolidation by 2028, with continuous cost tracking. Potential Challenges • Union resistance (civil service protections) • Service disruptions if not managed carefully • Political pushback from department leaders By strategically consolidating overlapping functions and streamlining operations, Los Angeles could save over \$100M annually by the 2028-2029 budget while maintaining service quality.