

Communication from Public

Name: Alejandra Ponce de Leon

Date Submitted: 01/22/2024 03:27 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Reform: On behalf of OUR LA, please find the attached letter containing recommendations to include on the City IRC Charter and Administrative Code. Thank you for your consideration, Alejandra Ponce de Leon



January 22, 2024

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Recommendations to include in Charter & Administrative Code for the LA City IRC

Dear Council President Krekorian and members of the City Council:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership in moving forward LA City’s independent redistricting commission (IRC) and striving to incorporate perspectives and feedback from community stakeholders. In preparation for your upcoming Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform meeting on January 25th, [Organize | Unite | Reform LA \(OUR LA\)](#), respectfully recommends that the items below be included as part of the Charter or Administrative Code. We firmly believe these recommendations, rooted in feedback from over 3,000 residents we engaged throughout our community convenings and survey, will help you ensure an even more inclusive, representative, and equitable commission and IRC process for the City of Los Angeles:

Charter

- **Maximize Language Access:** Incorporate language that advances an all-inclusive approach, allowing anyone who requests an interpreter in any language to receive one, and a more expansive translation of materials in the languages and indigenous dialects spoken by LA City residents.
- **Eliminate Barriers to Apply for the Commission:** Explicitly state that citizenship status, voting history, and English proficiency will not be required to apply and be selected for the commission.

Administrative Code

- **Increase Public Oversight of Commissioner Applications:** Include language that directs the City Clerk to make public, in real-time, the demographic data of application submissions.
- **Amplify Compensate and Resource Commissioners:** Provide language that sets commissioner compensation equivalent to, at the very least, the California IRC and is



inclusive of reimbursement for other expenses, such as childcare and transportation, to enable commissioners to overcome financial hardships and serve their full term.

- **Achieve Meaningful & Abundant Community Engagement:** Incorporate language that calls for sufficient resources for community partnerships and co-hosting opportunities; a significantly higher baseline for the number of meetings held per region and percentage of meetings held in evenings and on weekends; and culturally-relevant and innovative designs for public hearings and meetings to effectively diversify and maximize community participation and engagement.
- **Equitably Fund and Resource CBOs:** Integrate language that sets an ample and equitable distribution of resources to CBOs, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and other trusted messengers to effectively educate and engage communities throughout the redistricting process, especially hard-to-reach communities across the City of LA. Additionally, language should be added to ensure a contract process that is equitable and accessible for small CBOs with a proven track record of success to apply.
- **Leverage Participation of Alternates:** Incorporate language that elevates the importance and benefit of including the participation of alternates in the discussion and deliberation of commissioners during all public meetings and hearings to further deepen and expand their collective knowledge, understanding, and learning of LA’s diverse communities and regions.

We are on the verge of making history in the City of Los Angeles by advancing the paramount model for an inclusive, equitable, representative, and meaningfully engaging IRC and redistricting process. We look forward to continuing partnering with you in this journey and are available to respond to any questions you may have of what we have outlined here. Please feel free to reach out to Alejandra Ponce de Leon, Senior Manager of Political Voice with Catalyst California at aponcedeleon@catalystcalifornia.org.

In community,



Communication from Public

Name: Alejandra Ponce de Leon

Date Submitted: 01/22/2024 03:30 PM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform: Attached is a letter from OUR LA with recommendations regarding the LAUSD IRC. Thank you,
Alejandra Ponce de Leon



January 22, 2024

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Recommendations for the LAUSD Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers,

On behalf of OUR LA, we urge the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform to establish an LAUSD independent redistricting commission that is inclusive of and engaging to youth, parents, and caretakers. We offer recommendations to center low-income BIPOC communities within the commission organization, the application and selection process, public hearings and meetings, and community and youth outreach. These recommendations would better ensure the meaningful participation of our communities and the success of the LAUSD IRC in engaging everyday Angelenos.

[Organize | Unite | Reform LA \(OUR LA\)](#) is a coalition of community-based organizations (CBOs) working to ensure that the governance reform process is informed by the voices, experiences, and needs of residents, particularly from low-income Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities impacted by racist systems in the City of Los Angeles. In the last year, OUR LA raised awareness and gathered feedback on governance reform from these communities by [surveying more than 2,500 Angelenos in eight languages](#) and organizing two online and 11 in-person convenings that reached more than 600 Angelenos across the city. This engagement culminated in a set of LAUSD [recommendations](#).

We know that more can and must be done to ensure the meaningful participation of our communities and the success of the LAUSD IRC in engaging everyday Angelenos. As the Committee considers the LAUSD IRC proposal, we urge Councilmembers to adopt the following recommendations:

- 1) Center youth by including 1 youth commissioner from each of the 7 LAUSD districts, leading to a total number of 7 youth commissioners and at least 7 adult commissioners.



- 2) Select youth commissioners, defined as active LAUSD students between the ages of 15-22, across various high school to adult education grade levels, and inclusive of students who were part of foster families, transitional youth, or formerly unhoused youth.
- 3) Prioritize youth engagement and participation through the design of youth public hearings that are accessible, inviting, and culturally relevant.
- 4) Support youth commissioners through a Community Outreach Team to ensure effective planning and outreach towards youth, parents/caretakers, and the general public.

The [Part II | LAUSD IRC Recommendations](#) document includes a full list of our outlined recommendation priorities. We know a new vision of city governance is needed, and that vision must be rooted in and shaped by the perspectives of low-income and BIPOC Angelenos, regardless of their age. As such, we respectfully request an integration of these recommendations before any proposal is finalized and voted on by the Committee.

In community,



Communication from Public

Name: Alejandra Ponce de Leon

Date Submitted: 01/24/2024 07:24 AM

Council File No: 22-1196-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, councilmembers: On behalf of OUR LA, and in anticipation to the Ad Hoc Committee's meeting for Jan 25th, I am submitting two letters for your consideration. The first letter provides recommendations for items to include as part of the City's IRC Charter and Administration Code language. The second letter provides our recommendations for an LAUSD IRC. We hope both of these letters provide valuable insights, rooted in the feedback from more than 3,000 Angelenos, and help further strengthen the foundation for the IRCs in our city and school district. Thank you, Alejandra Ponce de Leon Senior Manager of Political Voice, Catalyst California



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