

Communication from Public

Name: Coalition Letter re: Ethics
Date Submitted: 11/30/2023 02:48 PM
Council File No: 22-1232
Comments for Public Posting: Coalition letter attached

November 30th, 2023

RE: Gov. Reform Committee Agenda Item # 1 & The Need for Comprehensive Ethics Charter Reforms - Council Files 23-1010 & 22-1232

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge the committee to schedule Council File 22-1232.¹ In the wake of last fall's scandal, Councilmembers Koretz, Krekorian, O'Farrell, Raman, Harris-Dawson, Hutt, & Rodriguez introduced the motion, seeking comprehensive ethics charter reforms necessary to strengthen the power and independence of the Ethics Commission. The item has subsequently gone unheard for 13 months.

We appreciate the committee scheduling Council File 23-1010,² a motion which seeks to establish an independent budget process for the Ethics Commission. However, this motion should serve to supplement, and not to replace, the comprehensive motion contained in Council File 22-1232.

Council must act on this motion with urgency if it is going to have sufficient time to navigate outstanding issues that were left unresolved in the original proposal before the June deadline to place measures on the November 2024 ballot. Other reforms, not touched upon in the motion, also need to be considered, like ensuring greater independence in the appointment process. Those concerns have been echoed by a number of the 13 Neighborhood Council's who have submitted CIS statements, and the LA Times Editorial Board.³

Now is the time for meaningful changes to the way City Hall works. A protected budget alone will do little to meet the moment or restore trust in City Hall. The other reforms being advanced on redistricting and council size are important, but full implementation of those measures is unlikely to happen until 2032. LA residents rose up last year demanding *immediate* change, and we ask this council to deliver comprehensive charter ethics reforms to the 2024 ballot. We look forward to hearing the committee's discussion of these items.

Sincerely,

California Clean Money Campaign
Green Party of Los Angeles County
Ground Game LA
League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles
Los Angeles for Democracy Vouchers
Represent Los Angeles
Unrig LA
West Valley People's Alliance

¹ Council File 22-1232:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1232>

² Council File 23-01010:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-1010>

³ September 2023 LA Times Editorial: A nominee to L.A. Ethics Commission raises, well, ethical questions

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2023-09-19/editorial-l-a-s-ethics-commission-needs-an-overhaul> |