



CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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August 27, 2024

Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk  
200 North Spring Street, Room 360 City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wolcott:

Pursuant to your letter dated August 8, 2024, attached please find the Chief Legislative Analyst's Impartial Summaries for the following ballot measures for the November 5, 2024 General Election:

- Independent Redistricting Commission for the City of Los Angeles – Charter Amendment;
- Independent Redistricting Commission for the Los Angeles Unified School District – Charter Amendment;
- City Ethics Commission Authority and Operational Independence – Charter Amendment;
- City Governance, Appointments, and Elections – Charter Amendment;
- City Administration and Operations – Charter Amendment; and
- Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions; Peace Officers – Charter Amendment.

Electronic copies have been sent to Amife Milo of your staff. Please do not hesitate to call me or Karen Kalfayan if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Tso  
Chief Legislative Analyst

Attachments: Impartial Summaries

**INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.  
CHARTER AMENDMENT \_\_\_\_.**

**IMPARTIAL SUMMARY  
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

The City of Los Angeles (City) Charter (Charter) establishes the process by which Council District boundaries in the City are drawn every ten years and adopted by ordinance following the federal census. Subsequently, those Council District boundaries are used for Council member elections, recalls, and for filling Council vacancies. Currently, an appointed advisory commission recommends to the Council changes to those boundaries during the redistricting process. Final District boundary decisions are made by the Council and Mayor.

This measure would amend the Charter by requiring the establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) with the powers, duties, and responsibilities to adopt Council District boundaries every ten years following each federal census. The Commission would be required to draw Council District boundaries in compliance with the United States Constitution, California Constitution, and federal Voting Rights Act, as well as follow the redistricting criteria and process set forth in the Charter and by other City law.

The Commission would be required to act in an impartial manner in the development of Council District boundaries without involvement by elected officials. The final Council District boundaries would be approved solely by the Commission. The Commission would also educate and inform the public about redistricting; conduct public meetings and hearings; receive and consider public input; make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and Ethics Commission regarding the redistricting process; and perform other redistricting functions as set forth by City law. A Commission member would be prohibited from communicating with an individual or organization regarding redistricting matters outside of a public meeting.

The Commission would be selected without involvement by elected officials and consist of 16 members and four alternates. The Commission would be established every ten years after each federal census and no later than April 1 of each year ending in the number zero. Each member of the Commission would begin their term on the date of selection and expire upon the selection of the succeeding Commission's first member. The qualifications and restrictions of Commission members include the following:

- Be at least 18 years old and a resident of the City at the time of selection;
- Have resided in the City for at least five years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application;
- Demonstrate collaborative skills, experience in civic engagement, and the ability to analyze complex data;
- A person is not required to be a registered voter or a citizen of the United States;

- A person cannot be an employee of the City or a City Commissioner for at least two years preceding submission of an application;
- A person or person's spouse or family cannot be engaged in prior political lobbying activities described in the California Elections Code provisions regarding eligibility requirements for independent redistricting commissions;
- Commission members are required to file a statement of economic interests and other financial disclosures;
- While serving on the Commission, a person cannot endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a campaign contribution to, any elected City officer or candidate for elective City office, or serve on a redistricting commission for any other governing body;
- A Commissioner may be removed for substantial neglect of duty or other misconduct in office by a two-thirds vote of the Commission, which may be appealed to the City Ethics Commission;
- A City Data Bureau would be established to prepare and manage demographic and geographic data for the Commission and other City departments; and
- The City Clerk would manage the Commission application process, with the Ethics Commission providing oversight.

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

**INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT. CHARTER AMENDMENT \_\_\_\_.**

**IMPARTIAL SUMMARY  
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

The City of Los Angeles (City) Charter (Charter) establishes the process by which Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education (Board) District boundaries are drawn every ten years and adopted by ordinance following the federal census. Subsequently, those Board District boundaries are used for all Board member elections, recalls, and for filling Board vacancies. Currently, an appointed advisory commission recommends to the Council changes to those boundaries during the redistricting process. Final District boundary decisions are made by the Council and Mayor.

This measure would amend the Charter by requiring the establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) with the powers, duties, and responsibilities to adopt the Board District boundaries every ten years following each federal census. The Commission would be required to draw Board District boundaries in compliance with the United States Constitution, California Constitution, and federal Voting Rights Act, as well as follow the redistricting criteria and process set forth in the Charter and by other City law.

The Commission would be required to act in an impartial manner in the development of Board District boundaries without involvement by elected officials. The final Board District boundaries would be approved solely by the Commission. The Commission would also educate and inform the public about redistricting; conduct public meetings and hearings; receive and consider public input; make recommendations to the City regarding the redistricting process; and perform other redistricting functions as set forth by City law. A Commission member would be prohibited from communicating with an individual or organization regarding redistricting matters outside of a public meeting. The Commission may allow individuals under 18 years of age to participate on the Commission, as authorized by City law.

The Commission would be selected without involvement by elected officials and consist of 14 members and four alternates. The Commission would be established every ten years after each federal census and no later than April 1 of each year ending in the number zero. Each member of the Commission would begin their term on the date of selection and expire upon the selection of the succeeding Commission's first member. The qualifications and restrictions of Commission members include the following:

- Be at least 18 years old and a resident of the LAUSD at the time of selection;
- Have resided in the LAUSD for at least three years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application;
- Demonstrate collaborative skills, experience in civic engagement, and the ability to analyze complex data;

- A person is not required to be a registered voter or a citizen of the United States;
- A person cannot be an LAUSD employee or LAUSD commissioner for at least four years preceding the submission of an application;
- A person or person's spouse or family cannot be engaged in prior political lobbying activities described in the California Elections Code provisions regarding eligibility requirements for independent redistricting commissions;
- Commission members are required to file a statement of economic interests and other financial disclosures;
- While serving on the Commission, a person cannot endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a campaign contribution to, any elected member of the Board of Education or candidate for elective Board of Education office, or serve on a redistricting commission for any other governing body;
- A Commissioner may be removed for substantial neglect of duty or other misconduct in office by a two-thirds vote of the Commission, which may be appealed to the City Ethics Commission; and
- The City Clerk would manage the Commission application process, with the Ethics Commission providing oversight.

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

**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION AUTHORITY AND OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.  
CHARTER AMENDMENT \_\_\_.**

**IMPARTIAL SUMMARY  
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

The Ethics Commission was established in the City of Los Angeles to ensure that the City is conducting business with efficiency, transparency, and fairness, while also working to build public confidence in City government and election processes. The Ethics Commission is required by law to administer City and State laws related to campaign finance, City contracts as it relates to prospective contractors and developers, governmental ethics, and lobbying.

In 2023, the Council initiated a process to reform the City Charter. As part of this effort, the Ethics Commission submitted several recommendations to the City Council that would update the City Charter to expand the Commission's authority and operational independence, as well as update administrative provisions related to the Commission's policies and processes.

The measure would amend the City Charter to:

- Add prohibitions on individuals who can be appointed to the Ethics Commission, which would prevent the nomination of an appointing authority's relative or relative of other elected City officials, a political campaign consultant, or a major donor to a political campaign;
- Add qualifications for members of the Commission and the Executive Director during their tenure, including limitations on having an ownership interest in a business that contracts with or seeks discretionary approval from the City, participating as a major donor to campaigns, or providing compensated advice or services to campaigns;
- Allow for appointed members of the Ethics Commission to be removed by their appointing authorities, and increase the time frame to fill a vacancy on the Commission from 30 to 90 days;
- Increase the monetary penalty of ethics-related violations from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and adjust this penalty annually according to the Consumer Price Index;
- Allow the Executive Director's designee to determine whether there is probable cause concerning a violation of provisions within the City Charter or City ordinances;
- Require the City Council to hold a public hearing on a policy proposal from the Ethics Commission within 180 days;
- Allow the Ethics Commission to retain outside legal counsel under limited circumstances, including on matters involving the City Attorney, the City Attorney's Office, the City Attorney's campaign, or on specific investigative and enforcement matters;
- Increase the Commission's budget for a special prosecutor from \$250,000 to \$500,000, and update provisions that would authorize the Commission to select a special prosecutor from an approved list when the City Attorney declares a conflict of interest;
- Appropriate a minimum of \$7 million per year beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 for the Ethics Commission's annual operating budget, and adjust this appropriation each year based on the City's prior year revenues, unless the Council finds that circumstances exist not to do so;

- Authorize expenditures by the Ethics Commission without prior approval from City offices or personnel when the expenditures are within the Commission's budget, unless the Council finds that circumstances exist not to do so;
- Authorize the Ethics Commission to set the salary of the Commission's Executive Director, and align the salary range to be consistent with the salary ranges of other City General Managers;
- Exempt employees of the Ethics Commission from civil service employment provisions; and
- Exempt the Ethics Commission from hiring freezes if the Commission operates within its approved budget.

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

**CITY GOVERNANCE, APPOINTMENTS, AND ELECTIONS.  
CHARTER AMENDMENT \_\_\_\_.**

**IMPARTIAL SUMMARY  
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

The basic law of the government of the City of Los Angeles is found in the City Charter. The City Charter establishes the structure, responsibilities, functions, processes, and powers of the City government. The City is proposing various changes and clarifications to the City Charter regarding City governance, appointments, and elections. The City Charter can only be amended by a majority vote of the City's voters.

The measure would amend the City Charter to make various changes and clarifications regarding City governance, appointments, and elections, including the following:

- Allow a City Council member to serve on the board of a joint powers authority if they do not receive compensation for that service;
- Clarify City Council voting rules regarding disapproval of a proposed action;
- Clarify the City Controller's auditing authority to access the records and personnel of contractors and subcontractors that receive or manage City funds;
- Expand the City Attorney's subpoena power to include the authority to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and affirmations, and require the production of records in the course of investigating violations of State or local law, but not include the power to investigate City offices, departments, officers, or employees;
- Delete obsolete language regarding City election dates;
- Clarify signature gathering timeframes and deadlines for initiative petitions;
- Provide a process and timeframe for City offices and departments to report on the impacts of an ordinance proposed by an initiative or referendum petition before City Council decides to adopt or repeal the ordinance, or submit it to the voters;
- Allow a proponent to withdraw a referendum petition;
- Require that a City board or commission appointee file financial disclosure statements with the Ethics Commission and submit the disclosures to the City Council before the appointee can be confirmed by the City Council;
- Require that two members of the Board of Harbor Commissioners reside within the Harbor area, one from the community of San Pedro and one from the community of Wilmington;
- Establish a method for appointing a temporary executive director of the Office of Public Accountability in case of a vacancy; and
- Establish a method for appointing a temporary general manager of a pension or retirement system in case of a vacancy.

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

**CITY ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS.  
CHARTER AMENDMENT \_\_\_\_\_.**

**IMPARTIAL SUMMARY  
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

The basic law of the government of the City of Los Angeles is found in the City Charter. The City Charter establishes the structure, responsibilities, functions, processes, and powers of the City government. The City is proposing various changes and clarifications to the City Charter regarding City administration and operations. The City Charter can only be amended by a majority vote of the City's voters.

The measure would amend the City Charter to make various changes and clarifications regarding City Administration and operations, including the following:

- Clarify explicitly that departments are able to engage in revenue generating concession activities, such as selling merchandise or food, to raise funds that support department operations;
- Include gender identity and gender expression in the Charter section regarding non-discrimination in City employment;
- Change the name of the "Director of the Office of Administrative and Research Services" and the "Office of Administrative and Research Services" to the "City Administrative Officer" and "Office of the City Administrative Officer" in various Charter sections to be consistent with current practice. This change does not otherwise modify the affected Charter sections;
- Clarify that each City office and department, including the Departments of Library and Recreation and Parks, has the authority to expend funds appropriated for its support during the ensuing fiscal year in accordance with the rules provided by the Charter, ordinances, and other applicable law;
- Clarify that an inspection of the rules and regulations of the Office of Zoning Administration shall be available in accordance with the California Public Records Act;
- Allow the Department of Recreation and Parks to lease sites to the Los Angeles Unified School District for the construction and maintenance of public buildings consistent with public park purposes;
- Clarify explicitly that El Pueblo Historical Monument and the Los Angeles Zoo remain dedicated park property even after being removed from the control of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners;
- Allow the use of an alternate title for a general manager of the Harbor Department, the Department of Airports, and the Department of Water and Power;
- Clarify that electronic signatures may be used in connection with revenue bonds issued by the Harbor Department, the Department of Airports, and the Department of Water and Power;
- Clarify the Board of Airport Commissioners' ability to establish fees, rules, and regulations for the use of and access to airport property by commercial and private owners for aeronautical and ground transportation purposes;

- Allow the use of the term “Los Angeles World Airports” as an official name of the Department of Airports;
- Provide flexibility regarding the official responsible for providing notice of civil service examinations to allow for posting on the Personnel Department’s website and social media; and
- Clarify that civil service certifications may be utilized concurrently by multiple departments.

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

**LOS ANGELES FIRE AND POLICE PENSIONS; PEACE OFFICERS.  
CHARTER AMENDMENT \_\_.**

**IMPARTIAL SUMMARY  
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) provides that certain City employees who are sworn peace officers and perform peace officer duties for the City's Police, Airports, Harbor and Recreation and Parks Departments are members of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (herein, referred to as LACERS Peace Officers). Previous Charter amendments have authorized eligible groups of sworn peace officer employees to transfer from LACERS into the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension Plan (LAFPP). The vast majority of the City's other sworn peace officer employees are members of LAFPP. Tier 6 of LAFPP is the pension plan for eligible LAFPP members.

This measure would amend the Charter to authorize the City Council to provide a process whereby LACERS Peace Officers, who are actively employed on January 12, 2025, may make a one-time election to transfer into LAFPP. This includes LACERS Peace Officers who did not previously elect to transfer into LAFPP pursuant to prior Charter amendments.

This measure is consistent with Letters of Agreement executed between the City and bargaining units represented by the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers' Association. This measure is also consistent with actions taken by the City's Executive Employee Relations Committee to include sworn employees of the City's Police and Harbor Departments who are current LACERS members. The proposed measure amends certain sections of Article XI, Part 3 of the Charter. The measure also authorizes the City Council to adopt an implementing ordinance and amend relevant provisions of the LACERS plan codified in the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

The measure's four key components are:

- Authorize the City Council to provide a process whereby LACERS Peace Officers who are actively employed on January 12, 2025, may make a one-time irrevocable election to transfer their membership from LACERS into Tier 6 of LAFPP, including the transfer of all prior years of service and contributions from LACERS to Tier 6 of LAFPP upon membership.
- Authorize the City Council to provide a process by which certain Tier 6 Members would transfer remaining City service and retirement contributions from LACERS to LAFPP.
- Require LAFPP to provide tax-compliant refunds of all monies previously made by Tier 6 Members to purchase any portion of their City service or Tier 6 Health Benefits pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code.
- Require the City to pay all costs associated with the transfer of LACERS Peace Officers from LACERS to LAFPP Tier 6, and to reimburse LAFPP with the full cost of monies refunded to Tier 6 Members pursuant to any associated ordinances adopted pursuant to this Charter amendment. The City's General Fund, Airports, Harbor, and Recreation and Parks Departments would cover all costs associated with transferring pension plan membership and prior service.

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