

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA

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August 14, 2025

Honorable Members of the
Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LOS ANGELES CITY ELECTION CODE

Honorable Members:

The Office of the City Clerk (City Clerk), in consultation with City Attorney staff, is recommending updated amendments to the Election Code. The recommended amendments are primarily to conform with recent Charter Amendments and to clarify and codify existing practice.

Charter Section 412 provides that amendments to the City Election Code do not become operative until six months after publication of the approved ordinance. In order for these amendments to be operative in time for the City's next election, it is recommended that the ordinance be written, approved, and published no later than September 3, 2025.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The following represents a brief description of each of the recommended changes to Election Code Sections:

Sec. 104. Established Election Dates and the Classification of Elections - Remove reference to Charter Section 401(b) to conform to the changes made in Charter Amendment HH.¹

Sec. 303. Statement of Economic Interests - Amend to conform to the Political Reform Act (pursuant to Assembly Bill 1170), which requires statements of economic interests ("SEIs") to be filed with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) using the FPPC's electronic filing system.²

Sec. 706. Preparation of Official Petition Title and Official Petition Summary of Initiatives; Review by City Clerk Concerning Form - Amend petition title/summary preparation period to 15 business days to align with California State Election Code 9000-9005; 9030.

Sec. 707. Form of Initiative Petitions - Remove the text of the Circulator Affidavit and add a provision that states that the Affidavit shall be provided on the City Clerk's website, to allow for the Affidavit to be adjusted with changes to California State law. Add language stating that additional disclaimers or notices may be required on petitions under State law.

As an alternative, add a provision stating that the City Clerk may add requirements to the content of the Circulator Affidavit to align with State Election Code requirements and facilitate the review of the petitions.

¹ Charter Amendment HH was approved by voters on November 5, 2024.

² AB 1170 was approved by the Governor on September 06, 2024.

Sec. 711. Examination of Initiative Petitions - Amend the initiative petition signature examination period to 30 "business" days to align with California State Election Code 9000-9005; 9030.

Sec. 713. Form of Referendum Petition and Review by City Clerk Concerning Form - Remove the text of the Circulator Affidavit and add a provision that states that the Affidavit shall be provided on the City Clerk's website, to allow for the Affidavit to be adjusted with changes to California State law. Add language stating that additional disclaimers or notices may be required on petitions under State law.

As an alternative, add a provision stating that the City Clerk may add requirements to the content of the Circulator Affidavit to align with State Election Code requirements and facilitate the review of the petitions.

Sec. 716. City Clerk Acceptance of a Referendum Petition - Add a provision clarifying the process for the withdrawal of referendum petitions to conform to the changes made to City Charter Section 462(a) through Charter Amendment HH.³

Sec. 717. Examination of Referendum Petitions - Amend petition signature examination period to 30 "business" days to align with California State Election Code 9000-9005; 9030.

Sec. 722. Form of Recall Petitions - Remove the text of the Circulator Affidavit and add a provision that states that the Affidavit shall be provided on the City Clerk's website, to allow for the Affidavit to be adjusted with changes to California State law. Add language stating that additional disclaimers or notices may be required on petitions under State law.

As an alternative, add a provision stating that the City Clerk may add requirements to the content of the Circulator Affidavit to align with State Election Code requirements and facilitate the review of the petitions.

Sec. 726. Examination of Recall Petitions - Amend petition signature examination period to 30 "business" days to align with California State Election Code 9000-9005; 9030.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council requests the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to make various amendments to the Los Angeles City Election Code as described in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the revised Los Angeles City Election Code will have no impact on the City's General Fund.

If you have any questions regarding these proposed amendments, please contact me directly at (213) 978-1020.

Sincerely,

Signed with ClerkSign



Aug 14, 2025 4:17PM



Petty F. Santos
Interim City Clerk

PFS/JP/CG:ih
EXE-041-25

³ Charter Amendment HH was approved by voters on November 5, 2024.