

RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to conducting a comprehensive, multi-year evaluation of alternative legal service models for the City.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (McOsker, Yaroslavsky – Raman):

INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and City Administrative Officer (CAO), with assistance from the Office of the City Attorney as necessary, to report in 30 days with recommendations for:

1. A multi-year strategy to restructure and modernize the City's legal service delivery model. This strategy must include, at a minimum:
  - a. Evaluation of alternative models for settlements, including potential delegation of settlement authority thresholds and administrative reforms to eliminate costly delays.
  - b. A strict framework for the strategic use of outside counsel, including mandatory cost-effectiveness analysis, engagement criteria, and strengthened contract oversight.
  - c. A comprehensive long-term staffing plan for the City Attorney's Office that addresses caseload realities, reduces reliance on outside counsel, and ensures accountability for results.
  - d. Comparative research on legal service models in other large municipalities, with a focus on governance structures, cost drivers, performance outcomes, and lessons learned that Los Angeles can and should adopt.
  - e. A review of policy options for the Charter Reform Commission to consider for broader structural reforms of legal service delivery.
2. Convening an advisory panel to the City Council of former senior City administrators, former City Attorneys, and independent legal and finance experts to ensure that external perspectives inform structural reform. This panel should be tasked with challenging existing assumptions, benchmarking Los Angeles against its peers, and identifying concrete reforms to strengthen accountability and reduce costs.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

Summary:

On September 12, 2025, your Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Committee considered an August 29, 2025 Motion (McOske, Yaroslavsky – Raman) relative to conducting a comprehensive, multi-year evaluation of alternative legal service models for the City According to the Motion, the City spends a significant amount of General Fund revenue each year on legal services, including settlement payouts, outside counsel contracts, and staffing for the City Attorney's Office. As the City continues to face significant fiscal challenges, alternative models must be explored for legal service delivery that promotes long-term cost containment, efficient case management, and improved accountability. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the report recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

<b>COUNCILMEMBER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
RAMAN:	YES
YAROSLAVSKY:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES
LEE:	YES

RM  
09/12/25

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**