

MOTION **RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

In 2025, Los Angeles dropped from 49th to 90th in the Trust for Public Land's national ParkScore ranking. The City-commissioned Parks Needs Assessment (PNA) – approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission in December 2025 and developed with input from over 100,000 Angelenos – illustrates how and why: Between 2009 and 2023, RAP's budget grew only 35% while the City's overall budget grew 68%. As a result, today Los Angeles invests just \$92 per capita on parks compared to peer cities' average of \$283. RAP has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008 and has never fully recovered from Great Recession cuts, even as park acreage increased.

The City of Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission (the Commission) approved the doubling of the percentage of the assessed property taxes in the City of Los Angeles that would go to the Department of Recreation and Parks. The proposal would increase the current appropriation, which was set in 1925, of 0.0325% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes, to 0.0650% of said taxes. This increase would help fund the Department of Recreation and Parks at the level called for in the PNA to maintain a higher-standard level of service, more in-line with peer cities, as well as address our deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs.

Park advocates requested the Commission to emulate the success of Measure L in introducing a phased increase over four years for the Library Department. The Commission did not do that, and instead submitted a simple one-time full increase from 0.0325% to 0.0650%. The City should increase its investment in the Department of Recreation and Parks, but it behooves the City to do so in a phased manner to give the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the City as a whole, time to thoughtfully plan and implement this funding realignment.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to prepare the documents necessary to place on the November 2026 General Election a measure that would amend Charter Section 593 to ensure that the financial support of the Department of Recreation and Parks be increased from an appropriation of an annual sum of not less than 0.0325% of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes up to 0.0650% of said taxes, following a four-year phased increase. The proposed new Charter language should emulate Section 531(a), which describes the phased increase and resulting financial support for the Library Department.

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ORIGINAL

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