

Communication from Public

Name: Coalition Letter
Date Submitted: 04/24/2026 04:54 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Final coalition letter w/ updated signatories: California Clean Money Campaign California Common Cause Cal RCV Fair Rep LA Fremont Youth Vote Generation Vote Los Angeles Hub League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles Livable Advanced LA Los Angeles for Democracy Vouchers Unrig LA Wellbeing Economy Alliance California



April 18th, 2026

Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Charter Reform Process - Council File [26-0489](#)

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

This Council is about to enter one of its busiest stretches in recent history. In addition to the annual budget process, we will be considering Charter reform, potential amendments to Measure ULA, a number of revenue-generating ballot measures, and multiple citizen initiatives. We, the undersigned organizations, write to respectfully request that City Council engage in a thorough and inclusive review of the Charter Reform Commission’s (CRC) recommendations:

1. Allow the CRC to present their report to the full City Council.

The full City Council must be given the opportunity to receive and respond to the CRC’s recommendations *before* the matter is referred to a Committee.¹ While we are excited about many of the reforms advanced by the CRC their current form is not ballot-ready. The Committee will need to undertake extensive efforts to produce carefully considered reforms that are viable for City Council and the general public.

Jumping straight to a Committee would be a mistake. Presenting the report to the full City Council will allow a broader temperature check on major issues and allow the Committee to make revisions in a more tailored and efficient manner. The last time the full City Council had *some* level of discussion on

¹ The Charter Reform Commission would present their report to the full City Council. Councilmembers would have the opportunity to ask questions, make general comments about the recommendations, and introduce potential amendments (which would be referred to the Committee for further consideration).

the topic of Council size was in the fall of 2022, and the full City Council's last discussion about the Charter Reform Commission's substantive work occurred in the summer of 2024. The CRC's report is the product of a \$1 million dollar budget. No matter what anyone thinks of the CRC process, the recommendations were arrived at through nine months of extensive efforts by Commissioners, departments, and the broader public. These reforms impact fundamental issues of representation and power at City Hall. The full City of Los Angeles must be represented in that conversation before we move to Committee.²

Without this initial step, a majority of our Council would be left on the sidelines, and limited to either providing their thoughts in writing, introducing a motion, or backchanneling their concerns to Committee members. They would only be brought into the fold at the eleventh hour when reforms are up for a final vote, and there is limited opportunity to realistically entertain amendments.³ We worry that an abbreviated process will undermine consensus-building, inevitably force the City Council to dramatically limit the scope of what it is able to advance to the ballot, and negatively affect voter confidence in the process that produced the reforms.

2. Allow a larger and more diverse Committee to review the CRC's recommendations.

The City Council could either temporarily expand the Rules Committee to seven members, or establish a seven-member Ad Hoc Committee. A larger Committee provides better representation of the City of LA and the sentiments of the broader council. Each of our Councilmembers has unique expertise and skillsets, and to the extent that we have more voices at the table we will be able to produce better reforms.

3. Hold at least five to six Committee meetings total, and release a tentative schedule.

The Committee will need at least three to four meetings to review the CRC report, consider motions referred to the Committee, and where necessary, request reports from relevant departments. It will also need at least two meetings to review, revise, and make further refinements. We ask that a tentative schedule be issued so that elected officials, departments, and interested parties may plan for what will be considered by the Committee at each meeting.

4. Provide five days notice for all Committee meetings.

Acknowledging the need for greater notice, the City Council required the CRC to provide five days notice for all CRC meetings. We further request that relevant agenda materials also be posted at least five days in advance of meetings. Given the limited time and capacity of Committee members and their staff, it is important that they have adequate time to prepare for meetings and engage with relevant stakeholders in advance.

5. Provide video for all Committee livestreams/recordings.

The City Council typically does not provide video of committee meetings. However, it has done so in limited circumstances when there are significant issues moving through a Committee. This includes the annual budget process, consideration of the Redistricting Commission's proposed map, and the work of the former Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Reform. Committee meetings can be tough to follow for

² It's worth noting that even former Council President Nury Martinez recognized the importance of a more inclusive process when she opted to have the 2021 Redistricting Commission present their recommendations to the full City Council before sending the matter to a seven-member Ad Hoc Committee.

³ LA City Clerk's 2026 Quick Reference Ballot Measure Calendar:
https://cityclerk.lacity.org/election/Quick_Reference_Calendar_for_2026_Elections.pdf

a new viewer, or someone who speaks English as a second language. Video makes it easier to follow along with presentation materials, process what is being discussed, and put faces and names to voices that might not be so familiar to your average person.

6. Either hold meetings in the evening or provide remote public comment.

The Rules Committee typically meets at 9:00 am. We ask that meetings either be held at a more accessible time, or that the Committee also take public comment via phone.

The CRC was created precisely because big changes have ripple effects, and require a comprehensive approach. It is crucial that the full City Council be involved at the front end of the process so the Committee can cultivate consensus reforms.

Sincerely,

California Clean Money Campaign

California Common Cause

Cal RCV

Fair Rep LA

Fremont Youth Vote

Generation Vote Los Angeles Hub

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles

Livable Advanced LA

Los Angeles for Democracy Vouchers

Unrig LA

Wellbeing Economy Alliance California