

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Peter

**Date Submitted:** 05/09/2026 04:01 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing in support of the following reforms to the Charter, to ensure that the Controller can fulfill their role as the City's independent watchdog: Give the Controller an independent budget of no less than 0.42% of the City's General Fund Clarify the Controller's audit authority includes performance audits of ALL City programs that are sourced from or use City tax dollars (including those under elected offices) Allow the Controller to hire outside counsel when necessary Enshrine the Controller's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse function (recommended by the Charter Reform Commission) Require minimum qualifications for the Controller Designate the Controller as the City's Chief Financial Officer

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jester Jersey

**Date Submitted:** 05/09/2026 04:35 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Los Angeles City Council & Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee My name is Jester Jersey and I spoke during the public comment period of the April 30th Charter Reform Final Report Overview meeting on behalf of lowering the voting age to 16. Today, I am sending an attachment in connection to the Budget, Infrastructure & Procurement meeting that will be held on May 14th. This combined attachment is my written public comments around Two-year budgeting & the establishment of a City Public Bank. I have chosen not to alter or add any additional material because I believe this should be enough information for your Committee membership to deliberate on. Thank you for your time and careful consideration of these important charter reform issues. Sincerely, Jester Jersey  
@Vote16Cal Twitter Administrator

Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission,

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment before you today.

I am writing in regards to Agenda Item no. 3a, regarding a two-year operating budget. I make this recommendation for several reasons.

First, it is a fiscally sound way of managing Los Angeles' finances because you can increase efficiency by not needing to complete the process annually, thereby freeing up resources for that task if it were conducted at the end of each fiscal year(1). While it is true that more resources are devoted to get this system up & running at the onset of implementation, as most any changes to the city charter, the two main advantages of these are that you have continuous data being evaluated as the second year comes to a close without the need to create another report mid-year, and can use the monitored data to continue administering the budget, serving as a guideline for when the next biennial budget is written up(2).

A second advantage is that can balance the needs of both short-term with somewhat long-term budgeting. For example, rather than needing to reinvent the wheel each year when the the supposed new budget report would be rolling around, you can then instead focus on tracking changes during the two-year period, something that is difficult to assess with single-year budgeting. Then, work from there, rather than waiting for a year to glean any meaningful guidance to create the next report(3).

Rather than focusing on an end-all summary at the end of each year, you can track budgeting metrics to compile in a span of two years that you can use to guide the next biennial budgeting process, thereby balancing fiscal vigilance with resource management at the same time.

Finally, the last advantage is de-politicization of the budgeting process itself. If there was an annual city budget, where you draft one each year, there is a higher chance of the process becoming politicized due to a report occurring during an election year(4). However shielding the budgeting process from subjective influences by creating operating budgets outside of election years would make the process more objective, which in turn makes it more conducive for city governance.

Candidates can then focus on either other issues relevant to their constituency or can make suggestions to the future budgeting process, but not concurrent budget being discussed during their campaign. If the way the budget is being administered is fine, then it will not matter who wins office because the process will be insulated from political interference. If it is not, then the process will still be insulated because if it needs to be changed, then it will be up to the people to determine that if they choose a candidate who believes that the budget administration process needs to be changed.

Keeping the budget efficient, free from politicization will immensely help rebuild trust in local governance with Angelenos, so I implore the Charter Reform Commission to consider some or more of the suggestions above when deciding how to best implement a budget process for the city. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jester Jersey

Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

## Sources Cited

1. Biennial Budgeting

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/finance/budgets/biennial-budgeting>

2. Benefits of Two-Year Budget Planning

<https://www.acrocommerce.com/article/the-perks-of-two-year-budgeting>

3. Ibid

<https://www.acrocommerce.com/article/the-perks-of-two-year-budgeting>

4. Biennial Budgeting

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/finance/budgets/biennial-budgeting>

Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission,

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment before you today.

I am writing in regards to Agenda Item no. 2 regarding the consideration and potential charter recommendation for establishing a public bank in the city of Los Angeles.

There are several reasons Los Angeles should consider the establishment of a public bank. First, it would allow the city to generate public revenue without being burdensome on local residents(1). This allows the city to build community wealth, something that many have already been looking into through the model provided by North Dakota, the only state in the country with a public bank system(2). As pointed out by Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez last year, “A public bank would give us the power to reinvest in our neighborhoods without further squeezing working-class Angelenos. Los Angeles deserves a financial system that works for us, not against us”(3). This is only one of several advantages of a public bank could give Angelenos.

Because of the apparent benefits to a locally run bank system as opposed to a private one, 35 cities are currently looking at the feasibility of implementing one for their municipal banking needs(4). Interest in the concept has been propelled by challenging economic times, requiring communities to be more expense-savvy than usual. As mentioned by Councilmember Ysabel Jurado, “Tough economic times give us an opportunity to look at ways we can uplift sustainable local economies.”(5). California has long been renowned for its sustainability leadership for years in the climate sector, so being a fiscally sustainable leader should not be too difficult to imagine nor achieve, much less for one of the Golden State’s largest, most prosperous cities(6).

Finally, the creation of a public bank will be one of the many solutions to help mend a broken system- there are far too many issues to elaborate on that need to be addressed that are likely costing the city millions, but establishing a public bank would be the start of addressing some of those problems(7). Small remedies are not going to make the situation any better, a sentiment shared by Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez who further elaborated, “...L.A. is ready to think big. After a year of painful cuts, we can’t keep throwing money at the same broken systems and expecting change. A public bank lets us take control of our own dollars and invest in the future our communities deserve”(8). By letting Angelenos have more control of their own finances, communities are able to invest their own money on initiatives they believe will make the city better, thereby investing in a more financially sustainable future.

As the city of Los Angeles prepares to welcome tourists around the world for the 2028 Olympics, Angelenos need two important fiscal elements to make it a financially successful event: it needs to faith in financial system that works and a system that can be trusted to do good for its own residents while accommodating the influx of financial gain that will be received through the games. Angelenos need to be assured that there is a system that invests in them and one they can trust with their own money and that visitors from elsewhere put into that system. A public bank can raise trust in local governance, invest in its own community and create a financial system that people can trust, rebuilding the financial reputation of Los Angeles again.

I implore the Charter Reform Commission to consider how a public bank can better serve the constituents of Los Angeles. Thank you for your work and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jester Jersey

Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

## Sources Cited

1. Councilmembers Take An Important Step In Exploring The Creation of A Public Bank

<https://cd1.lacity.gov/press-releases/councilmembers-take-important-step-exploring-creation-public-bank>

2. In this state, a public bank boasts big returns on investments

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/elevate/public-banking-pioneer-helps-build-community-wealth/>

3. Councilmembers Take An Important Step In Exploring The Creation of A Public Bank

<https://cd1.lacity.gov/press-releases/councilmembers-take-important-step-exploring-creation-public-bank>

4. Opportunities and Challenges of public Banking in the Windy City

<https://sites.fordschool.umich.edu/poverty2021/files/2023/07/terri-pb-july-2023.pdf>

5. Councilmembers Take An Important Step In Exploring The Creation of A Public Bank

<https://cd1.lacity.gov/press-releases/councilmembers-take-important-step-exploring-creation-public-bank>

6. Governor Newsom announces California's record growth in battery storage and clean energy leadership at COP30

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/11/13/governor-newsom-announces-californias-record-growth-in-battery-storage-and-clean-energy-leadership-at-cop30/>

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8. Councilmembers Take An Important Step In Exploring The Creation of A Public Bank

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## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/09/2026 11:50 AM

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