

Communication from Public

Name: Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley
Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 10:11 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Chair and Members of the Rules Committee & Members of the City Council, the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV) is in strong support of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission's recommendation to adopt single-seat Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for elections to the Los Angeles City Council. Please see our attached letter of support.



May 12, 2026

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations
200 N. Spring Street, Room 350
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

RE: Rank Choice Voting (Council File 26-0489) - SUPPORT

Honorable Chair and Members of the Rules Committee

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we write to express our strong support for the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission's recommendation to adopt single-seat Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for elections to the Los Angeles City Council.

On February 26, 2026, the Charter Reform Commission voted overwhelmingly, by a 10–1 margin, to recommend the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting as part of a broader package of democratic reforms intended to strengthen representation, improve voter participation, and modernize Los Angeles elections. We respectfully urge the Los Angeles City Council and its Rules Committee to advance this recommendation and allow the voters of Los Angeles the opportunity to decide this important reform at the ballot box.

Founded in 1978, DPSFV is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee and coordinates a coalition of Democratic Clubs in the San Fernando Valley. DPSFV and its member clubs previously supported RCV in 2009. As such, we voted to re-affirm our support for instant runoff voting as a means of strengthening democratic outcomes and avoiding the distortions created by plurality elections and low-participation runoffs. That earlier position recognized the same structural problems that persist today and articulated the same underlying values: majority rule, meaningful voter choice, and electoral systems that reflect the will of the electorate.

Single-seat ranked choice voting allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference rather than being forced to select only one. If no candidate earns a majority of first-choice votes, the lowest-performing candidate is eliminated and ballots are redistributed according to voters' next preferences until a majority winner emerges. This structure directly addresses a central weakness of plurality elections: the frequent election of candidates who lack majority support in crowded fields. It also eliminates the need for separate runoff elections, which are costly, administratively burdensome, and routinely characterized by sharply reduced voter turnout.

RCV also promotes healthier campaign dynamics. Because candidates must appeal not only for first-choice votes but also for second and third preferences, the system rewards coalition-building and discourages purely negative or divisive campaigning. This incentive structure is especially important in a diverse city like Los Angeles, where effective governance depends on leaders who can engage constructively across communities and constituencies.

The Charter Reform Commission's recommendation followed months of public hearings, expert testimony, and deliberation. The Commission heard evidence demonstrating that Ranked Choice Voting can improve voter confidence, encourage broader candidate participation, reduce vote splitting, and ensure elected officials have stronger majority support. Cities across the country that have adopted RCV have demonstrated that voters can successfully use the system and that it can strengthen democratic legitimacy and participation.

Importantly, the Commission's recommendation also recognized the need for robust voter education and language accessibility to ensure all Angelenos can confidently participate in an RCV election system. With proper implementation and outreach, Los Angeles can successfully transition to a modern voting system that

better serves its diverse electorate.

As outlined in the materials provided to the Commission, RCV strengthens electoral legitimacy by ensuring that winners reflect a true majority of voter preferences rather than a narrow plurality. It allows voters to express their preferences honestly without fear of “wasting” their vote or inadvertently aiding their least-preferred candidate. In doing so, it improves voter confidence in election outcomes and reinforces the principle that elected officials should command broad public support.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Los Angeles City Council and the Rules Committee to support the Charter Reform Commission’s recommendation to adopt Ranked Choice Voting and move this reform forward for consideration by the voters of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley



Brandon Whalen-Castellanos
Lead Chair, Political Action Committee

PO Box 57259, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413 818-995-DEMS (3367)

Communication from Public

Name: Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 10:19 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Chair and Members of the Rules Committee? & Members of the City Council, the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV) write in strong support of the Charter Reform Commission's recommendation to double the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) minimum charter allocation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value, and urge the full Council to take action to place this measure, phased in over 4 years, on the November 2026 ballot.? Please see our attached letter of support.



May 12, 2026

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations
200 N. Spring Street, Room 350
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

RE: Doubling Recreation and Parks Minimum Charter Allocation (Council File 26-0489)

Honorable Chair and Members of the Rules Committee

The Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV) write in strong support of the Charter Reform Commission's recommendation to double the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) minimum charter allocation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value, and urge the full Council to take action to place this measure, phased in over 4 years, on the November 2026 ballot.

Founded in 1978, DPSFV is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee and coordinates a coalition of Democratic Clubs in the San Fernando Valley. Our members live and vote across the Valley in Chatsworth and West Hills, Northridge and Granada Hills, Reseda and Pacoima, Van Nuys, Encino, and North Hollywood. We rely on the 211 parks, 59 recreation and community centers, and 14,192 acres of parkland in the San Fernando Valley, serving our 1.5 million residents. And we are watching our parks deteriorate through systemic underfunding. This is an urgent issue and one the Council has the opportunity to address. That's why DPSFV's Executive Board voted to join park and open space, equity and health advocates and academic and community leaders from across Los Angeles in support support of the Charter Reform Commission's recommendation.

1. The Valley's Parks Are Underfunded and Overstretched

The City's 2025 Park Needs Assessment (PNA) documented the cost of decades of underinvestment:

- \$2B+ in deferred maintenance citywide
- 28% loss of full-time RAP staff since 2008; part-time staffing down 62%
- \$92 per-capita park investment vs. \$283 in peer cities
- 90th in the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore ranking, down from 49th in five years
- 40% of RAP's charter allocation (\$145 million) diverted to the General Fund as "indirect costs" since 2009
- \$0 in General Fund support to RAP in FY 2025-2026

The City's operating budget grew 68% between FY 2009 and FY 2023; RAP's grew only 35%. Valley residents feel this directly. PNA survey results show Valley residents rate park and recreation center conditions worse than the citywide average, and fewer than half feel there are enough parks within walking distance of their homes.

2. The Valley Has Unique and Urgent Needs

The San Fernando Valley is rapidly urbanizing. As we build new, denser communities to provide the housing our communities need, pressure falls on parks that are already understaffed, undermaintained, and in some cases entirely unstaffed.

Across our 59 recreation centers and four senior centers from Chatsworth South and Reseda, to Van Nuys and Granada Hills, to Branford in Arleta and Lake View Terrace, and senior centers including the Wilkinson Multipurpose Center in Northridge and the Mid-Valley Senior Center in Panorama City, RAP provides:

- **Youth sports leagues and after-school programs** at centers including Granada Hills, Van Nuys, Sun Valley, Fernangeles, and Branford Recreation Centers
- **Free summer meals** for children ages 1–18, RAP served 130,460 lunches at 99 parks in summer 2024, with multiple Valley sites in Panorama City, Pacoima, Van Nuys, and Arleta
- **Senior nutrition, fitness, and social programming** at the Wilkinson Multipurpose Center in Northridge and the Mid-Valley Senior Center in Panorama City, serving older Valley residents
- **Cooling centers, pools, and splash pads** provide heat safety infrastructure in a region facing increasingly dangerous temperatures, with 24 Valley pools and splashpads already stretched thin
- **Equestrian facilities and trails** such as Stoney Point Ranch in Chatsworth serve equestrian communities that depends on the staffing, maintenance, and investment RAP currently cannot sustain

The PNA identified **Van Nuys, North Hollywood, Sun Valley, and Pacoima** as high-priority park need areas. In Pacoima, residents have up to **78% less park acreage per capita** than wealthier neighborhoods. Restored funding would allow RAP to create new parks, improve existing ones, and activate community school parks where the need is greatest.

The recent regional fires have deepened urgency around park rangers, fire risk mitigation, and natural resource management. Doubling RAP's allocation would fund the Park Ranger Division restoration and emergency management capacity our fire-prone Valley demands.

The proposed four-year phase-in FY 2027–28 through FY 2030–31 gives the City time to plan. The current minimum of \$292 million would grow to approximately \$584 million annually, enabling RAP to restore the staffing, services, and maintenance the Valley has long needed.

We urge the Council to place this measure before voters in November 2026. This reallocation of existing property tax revenue follows the same model voters approved for libraries in 2011, when Measure L passed with 63% approval. Today we have a vibrant library system which provides multiple benefits for our communities. Our senior centers, recreation centers, equestrian facilities, and neighborhood parks, and the Valley residents who depend on them every day deserve the same commitment.

The Los Angeles City Council has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix a formula frozen for nearly 90 years. A phased, thoughtful investment in parks will build a more equitable and resilient Los Angeles for all.

For these reasons, DSPFV is proud to support the Charter Reform Commission's recommendations on amending Charter Section 593.

Sincerely,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley



Brandon Whalen-Castellanos
Lead Chair, Political Action Committee

cc: Council Member Adrin Nazarian, District 2
Council Member John Lee, District 12

PO Box 57259, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413 818-995-DEMS (3367)

Communication from Public

Name: Benjamin Johnson, State Lands Commission
Date Submitted: 05/12/2026 03:42 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter from Matthew Dumlao, PhD, Executive Officer of the State Lands Commission, regarding charter amendment proposals relating to the Port of Los Angeles. Thank you, Ben Johnson Staff Attorney State Lands Commission



CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS
COMMISSION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

MATTHEW DURLAO, PhD, Executive Officer
Reception: 916.574.1900
TTY: 711

May 12, 2026

Submitted via Council File 26-0489

File Ref.: G05-04

City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Proposed Charter Amendments – Port of Los Angeles

Dear Honorable Members of the City of Los Angeles Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

California State Lands Commission (Commission) staff is aware that the City of Los Angeles is considering amendments to its City Charter or Municipal Code related to its granted tide and submerged lands, which form the City's Harbor District and include the Port of Los Angeles. The amendments would place the Port's Public Access Investment Plan into either the City Charter or Municipal Code and require a workforce impact disclosure as a condition of approval for any lease, lease extension, lease amendment, or proposed development of Harbor Department property that requires a Coastal Development Permit.

The Legislature granted the City of Los Angeles, in trust, filled and unfilled sovereign public trust lands pursuant to Chapter 656, Statutes of 1911, and Chapter 651, Statutes of 1928, as amended. Under the City's granting statutes and the Public Trust Doctrine, land use decisions for the City's granted lands must be made to further the interests of the statewide public. (Public Resources Code sections 6009, subdivision (d); see, e.g., *City of Long Beach v. Morse* (1947) 31 Cal.2d 254, 262.) As grantee, the City also has fiduciary duties to the State. (Public Resources Code section 6009.1.) The State Lands Commission is statutorily required to oversee the City's management of sovereign public trust lands and assets. (Public Resources Code §6301; *State of California ex rel. State Lands Commission v. County of Orange* (1982) 134 Cal App. 3d 20, 23.)

City of Los Angeles

May 12, 2026

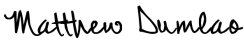
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When considering amendments to the Charter or ordinances that implicate the City's management of its granted lands, the City must ensure that the changes are consistent with its duties as the State's grantee.

Staff advises the City to consider whether adding prescriptive operational requirements to the Charter could, in the future, unintentionally conflict with its obligations under the granting statutes. Staff also recommends that any codification of the Public Access Investment Plan explicitly confirm that expenditures under that plan must be consistent with the City's grant statute and the Public Trust Doctrine. Finally, staff recommends that any workforce-impact disclosure requirement clearly state that all actions by the City or the Board of Harbor Commissioners must still comply with the City's duty to act in the statewide public's best interests when managing granted tide and submerged lands.

In accordance with the Commission's oversight responsibilities, Commission staff are monitoring the proposed changes. Commission staff are happy to help address any questions the City may have regarding the requirements of its granting statutes or the Public Trust Doctrine, or to otherwise assist with navigating these requirements. Please contact Jeff Plovnick, Granted Lands Management Specialist, at Jeffrey.Plovnick@slc.ca.gov to coordinate on providing such assistance.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Matthew Dumlao, PhD

Executive Officer, State Lands Commission