

## Communication from Public

**Name:** AAPI Equity Alliance

**Date Submitted:** 06/01/2026 02:11 PM

**Council File No:** 26-0489

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, On behalf of AAPI Equity Alliance, a coalition of over fifty community-based organizations serving the more than 1.6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) across Los Angeles County, we urge the Members of the Rules Committee to support common sense proposals surrounding council expansion and police accountability for all Angelenos. Support for Council Expansion to 25 Districts We believe it is urgent for the City Council to now address the need for increased representation for all Angelenos throughout our City by expanding the size of City Council to 25 districts. Expansion of our Council will not only bring Angelenos closer to their elected Councilmember, but deepen the voice of our diverse communities on our City Council. For AAPI communities across Los Angeles, expanding the size of the City Council is critical for our communities' representation in City Hall. There is currently no Council District that protects AAPI communities where AAPI voters can make up more than a quarter of the voting population within its boundaries. Expansion to 25 Districts is necessary to increase the opportunity for equitable representation for AAPI residents of Los Angeles. According to surveys conducted by Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), Organize Unite Reform (OUR) LA, and AAPI Equity Alliance, AAPI communities overwhelmingly support expanding the size of the Council. While there may remain questions amongst Councilmembers on the implementation of an expanded Council, those are questions that can be addressed after the passage of Council expansion in the City Charter, similar to the process passed in Measure G at the County level. At the County, a Governance Reform Task Force has been appointed to address the important implementation of key County Charter reforms, including the expansion of the County Board of Supervisors. Expansion cannot wait. We urge the Rules Committee to advance Council expansion to the full Council for the November ballot. Support for Police Reforms We also join our partners at OUR LA to also support a series of common sense provisions for the Los Angeles Police Department in the City Charter, including: - Allowing the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm; - Ensuring LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes; and - Ensuring LAPD

protects the first amendment rights of free press and protest in its work. These provisions are sensible proposals that align with what Angelenos are calling for. These proposals are actionable, strengthen accountability measures, and provide a rebalancing of power for the City Council. AAPI Angelenos are ready to support these reforms and we urge the Committee to bring these proposals to the people this November.



AAPI Equity Alliance  
905 E 8th St  
Los Angeles, CA 90021

AWang@AAPIEquityAlliance.org

June 1, 2026

Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Charter Reforms in Council File 26-0489

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of AAPI Equity Alliance, a coalition of over fifty community-based organizations serving the more than 1.6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) across Los Angeles County, we urge the Members of the Rules Committee to support common sense proposals surrounding council expansion and police accountability for all Angelenos.

### **Support for Council Expansion to 25 Districts**

We believe it is urgent for the City Council to now address the need for increased representation for all Angelenos throughout our City by expanding the size of City Council to 25 districts. Expansion of our Council will not only bring Angelenos closer to their elected Councilmember, but deepen the voice of our diverse communities on our City Council.

For AAPI communities across Los Angeles, expanding the size of the City Council is critical for our communities' representation in City Hall. There is currently no Council District that protects AAPI communities where AAPI voters can make up more than a quarter of the voting population within its boundaries.<sup>1</sup> Expansion to 25 Districts is necessary to increase the opportunity for equitable representation for AAPI residents of Los Angeles.

According to surveys conducted by Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), Organize Unite Reform (OUR) LA, and AAPI Equity Alliance, AAPI communities overwhelmingly support expanding the size of the Council.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Redistricting 2021. Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Map Population Demographics. <https://redistricting2021.lacity.org/AdhocLACC/maps/Att%20A%20-%20LACC%20Redistricting%20Map%20Population%20Demographics.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> In a December 2022 poll of registered voters, 67% of APA respondents favored increasing the size of the Council. CAUSE, California Community Poll: City of Los Angeles Toplines, available at <https://www.strategies360.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/22-545-CA-Community-Poll-12.22-LA-Toplines.pdf>. In the OUR LA survey conducted in March 2023, 63% of BIPOC respondents supported expanding the Council and 73% of Asians said increasing the number of Councilmembers would have a positive effect on how well the Council responds to their needs - the highest among all racial and ethnic groups - while 64% of NHPIs said the same. AAPI Equity Alliance polled its member organizations and 90% of respondents favored expansion.

While there may remain questions amongst Councilmembers on the implementation of an expanded Council, those are questions that can be addressed after the passage of Council expansion in the City Charter, similar to the process passed in Measure G at the County level. At the County, a Governance Reform Task Force has been appointed to address the important implementation of key County Charter reforms, including the expansion of the County Board of Supervisors.

Expansion cannot wait. We urge the Rules Committee to advance Council expansion to the full Council for the November ballot.

### **Support for Police Reforms**

We also join our partners at OUR LA to also support a series of common sense provisions for the Los Angeles Police Department in the City Charter, including:

- Allowing the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm;
- Ensuring LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes; and
- Ensuring LAPD protects the first amendment rights of free press and protest in its work.

These provisions are sensible proposals that align with what Angelenos are calling for. These proposals are actionable, strengthen accountability measures, and provide a rebalancing of power for the City Council.

AAPI Angelenos are ready to support these reforms and we urge the Committee to bring these proposals to the people this November.

Sincerely,

Manjusha Kulkarni  
Executive Director  
AAPI Equity Alliance

Alton Wang  
Legal Counsel, Director of Government Affairs  
AAPI Equity Alliance

## Communication from Public

**Name:** CalRCV  
**Date Submitted:** 06/01/2026 03:17 PM  
**Council File No:** 26-0489  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Responses to Committee Questions on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Implementation.



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**FROM:** Marcela Miranda-Prieto, Executive Director, CalRCV; Jehoan Espinoza, Field Director, CalRCV, Michael Feinstein, Former Santa Monica Mayor and City Council Member

**RE:** Responses to Committee Questions on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Implementation

**DATE:** May 27, 2026

### 1. Will Ranked Choice Voting Increase Voter Engagement and Turnout?

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Yes. The evidence from jurisdictions that have adopted RCV is compelling and consistent across race, age, and geography.

- A [2024 study](#) found that voters in RCV jurisdictions are 17% more likely to turn out for municipal elections than those in non-RCV jurisdictions.
- Youth turnout in RCV cities consistently outpaces non-RCV cities, attributed to greater campaign civility and increased voter contact. ([Juelich & Coll, 2021](#))
- RCV local elections were associated with higher participation among communities of color, particularly Asian American and Latino voters, while narrowing turnout disparities. ([Is Ranked-Choice Voting Associated with Turnout Across Race and Ethnicity in Local Elections?](#))
- By holding only a single RCV general election, elections under RCV are held when turnout is greater and more representative of the electorate, instead of during primaries when turnout is lower and less diverse.

RCV does not merely maintain turnout — it demonstrably expands it, particularly among communities historically underrepresented at the polls.



## 2. How Much Will Implementing RCV Cost, and Who Bears These Costs?

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Implementation involves two primary upfront costs - a technology enhancement and education of voters.

### Technology Upgrade

LA County's VSAP system would require an RCV module — a small fraction of the original \$397 million development cost. Comparable upgrades provide useful benchmarks:

- San Francisco completed an RCV upgrade in 2004 for \$1.6 million.
- Humboldt County and Redondo Beach recently had Hart Intercivic partner with the RCV Resource Center to upgrade existing equipment for a very modest cost.
- Two RCV modules are already certified by the California Secretary of State ([Hart Intercivic](#) and [Dominion Voting Systems](#)), which streamlines the path to certification.

The County would incur development and integration costs, and is most likely to move forward if a major jurisdiction like Los Angeles makes a formal request, if multiple cities generate collective demand (several LA County cities have already inquired), and/or if the State of California mandates an RCV option statewide.

### Voter Education

National best practices suggest \$1.50–\$2.00 per voter for initial RCV education. Applied to LA's approximately 2.19 million registered voters, a comprehensive multilingual program would cost roughly \$3.3M–\$4.4M as a one-time investment, decreasing in subsequent cycles. Both Portland (OR) and the State of Alaska ran robust multilingual campaigns within this range.

### Long-Term Cost Savings and Examples from other cities that already use RCV

Transitioning to a single November general election under RCV eliminates primaries and runoffs, producing substantial recurring savings.

- Los Angeles: Based on 9 runoffs across 2020–2024, RCV would save an estimated \$1.5 million per election cycle in City Council races alone, plus over \$3 million for each off-cycle special election runoff (the 2023 special cost \$7.5 million total).
- New York City: [Fiscal Policy Institute analysis](#) estimated \$11 million in savings per election cycle where a runoff is eliminated.
- San Francisco: City Controller estimated \$1.6 million in annual net savings from eliminating December runoff elections.
- Oakland: City auditor estimated approximately \$464,000 in annual savings by eliminating June primary elections.



### 3. Does the County Have the Capacity and Legal Authority to Administer RCV?

Yes, the County has both the capacity and legal authority to administer RCV.

- LA County has full legal authority to administer RCV. Multiple California jurisdictions — including San Francisco, Alameda County, Humboldt County, and Riverside County — have successfully completed this process.
- VSAP was designed without an RCV module, so the capability must be added in order to enable RCV elections. This is a technical upgrade, not a legal barrier.
- Two RCV modules are already California Secretary of State-certified, providing a clear and proven path to integration.
- The County Registrar may need to contract with Smartmatic or a third-party vendor. An RFP may be required unless the existing contract allows for further development.

The City would likely need to formally request that the County direct the Registrar to assess the scope and cost of the upgrade; this could be complemented by a similar request made by the County Board of Supervisors.

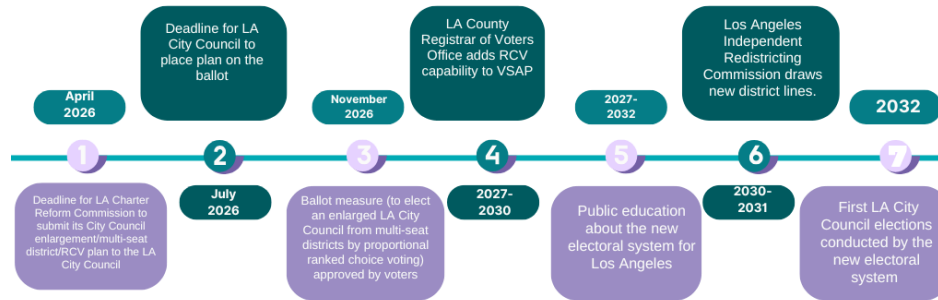
### 4. What Is the Timeline for Full Implementation?

The following timeline reflects a realistic path to the first RCV City Council elections in 2032, that would provide more than ample time for technology upgrades, voter education and knowingly be in place leading into the City’s independent redistricting process:

<b>April 2026</b>	Charter Reform Commission deadline to submit City Council enlargement/RCV plan to City Council [PASSED — referral made]
<b>July 2026</b>	Deadline for City Council to place RCV ballot measure on the November ballot
<b>November 2026</b>	Voters approve RCV and Council expansion ballot measure
<b>2027–2030</b>	LA County Registrar of Voters adds RCV/PRCV capability to VSAP
<b>2027–2032</b>	Launch of public education campaign on the new electoral system
<b>2030–2031</b>	Independent Redistricting Commission draws new district lines
<b>2032</b>	First LA City Council elections conducted under the new system

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This timeline is achievable given the precedents established in other California jurisdictions and the two already state-certified RCV modules.

## 5. How Will RCV Interact With Other Election Reforms, Including Lowering the Voting Age?

RCV and youth voting reforms are strongly complementary.

- Youth turnout in RCV cities consistently exceeds non-RCV cities. A [2021 study](#) (Juelich & Coll) attributes this to greater campaign civility and increased candidate-to-voter contact.
- By reducing the “lesser of two evils” dynamic and encouraging candidates to appeal broadly, RCV creates conditions where new and young voters feel their participation is meaningful.

If the City lowers the voting age for municipal elections, doing so under RCV would maximize the likelihood of durable youth participation, as the voting experience would be more rewarding and campaigns more substantive.

## 6. What Charter Amendments and Administrative Changes Are Necessary?

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Based on analysis by Chris Hughes, Senior Director of Policy and General Counsel at the RCV Resource Center, charter changes fall into three tiers:

### Major Changes

- Add a new RCV chapter (Chapter 428) establishing the RCV framework.
- Revise Chapters 424/426 to apply ballot requirements to the general election and incorporate RCV references (or consolidate into Chapter 428).
- Remove Chapter 425 (primary provisions) to make clear that primaries are neither required nor permitted under RCV.

### Medium Revisions

- Revise the definition of “election” in Chapters 400 and 401 to reference RCV and remove references to primaries and special runoffs.
- Clarify vacancy-filling procedures in Chapters 409 and 410 so that special elections to fill seats occur at general elections.
- Update Chapters 421 and 422 so that candidate filing timelines are based on the general election date.
- Remove Chapter 427 (replacement of disqualified candidates between primary and general), which is unnecessary under a single-election system.

### Minor Revisions

- Remove passing references to primaries and special runoffs from Chapters 402, 432, 436, 437, 438(a), 451(b), and 461(a).
- Remove and replace references in Chapters 423, 470(b)(3), 803(a)(4), and 803(r)(1).

These changes are well-understood and do not present unusual legal or procedural complexity. Similar amendments have been made in other California charter cities.

## 7. Would Los Angeles Have to Resume Independent Elections if RCV Cannot Be Integrated With the County System?

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**No.** If LA County were unable to add RCV capability on the City's timeline, Los Angeles could administer its own elections — as Redondo Beach currently does. However, we do not anticipate this will be necessary.

- The County has both the legal authority and a clear technical pathway.



- Other California counties (San Francisco, Alameda, Humboldt, Riverside) have already completed this process, establishing clear precedent.

The more likely scenario is that a formal request from Los Angeles — the County's largest city — provides sufficient impetus for the County to act.

## 8. Are There Risks That Voters May Find RCV Confusing, and How Can Education Address This?

Extensive exit poll data from across the country consistently shows that voters find RCV easy to understand and prefer it to single-choice voting:

Jurisdiction / Year	Key Findings
<a href="#">Alaska (2024)</a>	84% said RCV is simple.
<a href="#">Maine (2024)</a>	82% said RCV is easy; 57% valued the ability to rank candidates.
<a href="#">New York City (2025)</a>	96% found their ballot simple; 76% wanted to keep or expand RCV.
<a href="#">Charlottesville, VA (2025)</a>	89% supported using RCV in future elections.
<a href="#">CA Bay Area cities (2024)</a>	92% understood RCV well; 70% wanted to keep or expand it.
<a href="#">Arlington, VA (2024)</a>	88% said RCV was easy; 67% supported continued use.
<a href="#">Portland, OR 2024</a>	91% understood RCV; preferred it over prior method by more than 2-to-1.
<a href="#">Minneapolis, MN 2021</a>	88% found RCV simple; 76% wanted to continue using it.
<a href="#">New York City 2021</a>	95% found their ballot simple; 77% supported RCV in future elections.

Effective voter education follows a proven model. Key best practices include:

- A centralized, multilingual voter education website (see [NYC's RCV education site](#) as a model) explaining how ballots look and how votes are counted.
- Mailed sample ballots and incorporation of voter education into routine City correspondence.

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- Partnerships with community-based organizations for culturally competent, in-language outreach — as detailed in [Portland's Voter Education Plan](#).
- Mock elections and interactive tools allowing voters to practice before election day (used successfully in [Alaska's rollout](#)).
- Funding community organizations as sub-grantees for neighborhood-level education.

In New York City's first RCV election, the NYC Campaign Finance Board delivered 75 education presentations across 57 organizational partnerships, including sessions in languages other than English, training 450 community educators. The result: 95–96% of voters found their ballot simple to complete.

Los Angeles' strong network of civic organizations is well-positioned for a similarly successful effort. Budgeting approximately \$4 million in education funding, with NGO support, would meet the standards set in Portland and Alaska.

## 9. What Legal Precedents or Challenges Exist Regarding Alternative Voting Systems?

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California's legal questions around RCV have evolved significantly. The question is no longer whether RCV is lawful — it is — but how it can be implemented most effectively.

### RCV Is Established and Legal in California

- RCV is already in use in several Bay Area cities, along with Redondo Beach, establishing clear operational precedent.
- The California Secretary of State has already certified two RCV modules for California elections (Hart Intercivic and Dominion Voting Systems).

## Conclusion

The record on RCV is clear, consistent, and has many compelling features: it increases turnout, improves representation, reduces costs over time, has proved easy to use by voters and produces election outcomes that voters find fair. The legal pathway is clear, the technology pathway is established, and the timeline is achievable.

CalRCV stands ready to provide any additional information, analysis, or expert testimony that would assist the Committee and the City Council in their deliberations. We urge the Council to place an RCV measure on the November 2026 ballot and take this historic step toward a more engaged and representative Los Angeles.