Communication from Public

Name:	Zachary Hunchar
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 09:47 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	As a private citizen in Council District 6, I firmly insist you enact Democratic reforms in the city. We should expand the City Council, particularly in the valley, which is grossly underrepresented. We need significant LAPD reform and oversight. That the city budget allocates 30% of the budget to them is borderline criminal. I feel like the city has become less safe because of their behavior. Lastly, we really need to go to ranked-choice voting. It would have eliminated all the nonsense about Spencer Pratt.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:50 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I’m calling upon the city council to support council expansion! The needs of my district (14) are way too diverse for one council member to address adequately. Skid row has different needs from El Sereno & Highland park. We need expansion now. The city of LA needs rank choice voting. This is the most fair way to get qualified officials elected. We need more LAPD oversight. Officers need their own insurance. The constituents of the city should. It keep paying for their screw ups. As a medical professional I had to get my own insurance to pay for legal disputes/issues. This shouldn’t be the responsibility of the tax payers! We don’t need further study- we need reform now! We are looking at your actions and will vote accordingly

Communication from Public

Name: Alicia Lutes
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:58 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Alicia and I am a longtime Los Angeles resident who is deeply passionate about the update to our city charter. I believe we have an opportunity to change our city for the better; to make it work for people in a way that benefits the majority of working class Angelenos who make this city. It is imperative that we allow people to vote on these vital measures—this cannot be a city that works for all without the voices of all the varied people that contribute to its rich history. Given LA's singular economic placement in the California and American ecosystem, we have an incredible opportunity to set and raise the standards that increase accountability, and afford people a real chance to create a stable, healthy, comfortable life. This comes in many forms, but will be especially beneficial via expanding the council (to get more representation), introducing ranked choice voting (to ensure "the lesser of two evils" no longer rules our politics, allowing for a more varied and diverse pool of potential candidates), as well as increased oversight into the LAPD budget, which has handicapped countless other departments with its flagrant misuse of funds and excessive force. We do not need the council to eschew its duty and kick this proverbial ball further down the line by "asking for further study" of the implementation of these measures. The Charter Reform Commission is that further study, and the people deserve to vote on how this city operates and uses our tax dollars. We must take care of the people of Los Angeles and enshrine more of these measures into law. It is not enough to simply "ask for further study," we must do the hard work and heavy lifting necessary to lift up a populace who has struggled so tremendously since the COVID pandemic, the strikes, and fires. We demand more because we deserve more, because more is possible and should be the standard to which we hold ourselves. This is a city filled with amazing people—we owe it to them, each other, and ourselves, to revitalize the city charter in a way that keeps LA looking and moving forward. To show America and the world what is possible in a city as diverse and ever-changing as this one is—thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:	John Backstrom
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 10:05 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I support the controller's recommendations to strengthen accountability and transparency, including the implementation of a RANKED CHOICE voting system, the expansion of the council (obvious! current councilors are responsible for way too much territory) and more LAPD oversight (they work FOR US!) If you vote against these recommendations, we will remember and we will vote you out of office, and your political career will end. I know some coffee shops that are hiring!

Communication from Public

Name:	Kathleen Shumaker
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 10:05 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I am writing in support of all 6 Controller recommendations, city council expansion/smaller council districts, ranked choice voting, and more LAPD oversight. Stop sending items for ‘further study’ to try and kill them and actually do what’s best for the city and its residents.

Communication from Public

Name:	Jenny Song
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 10:05 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	As a citizen of Los Angeles, I strongly support the following reforms to be on the November 2026 ballot to strengthen transparency and accountability in our local government. 1) Council Expansion 2) Ranked Choice Voting 3) More LAPD oversight Thank you for your time in reading this!

Communication from Public

Name: Antonio Valdez
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:17 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: New York and Chicago both have over three times the number of council members that LA does; with similar levels of population, demographic diversity, and importance to the nation's identity, LA should absolutely be able to compete with our sister cities in serving as many of our constituents as possible. Additionally, implementing ranked choice voting, a measure that the plurality of Angelenos - and also Californians as well - are supportive of, is simply a pro-democratic process. We support our elected representatives and help them get into office because they have made it clear that they will present the ideas and opinions of their people, not just demand that they know better and will move against the public's wishes. If anything, this is an inherently reactionary and Republican strategy, something that our council and city has consistently staunchly opposed. Please move both of these charter reforms forward, on behalf of my community and yours.

Communication from Public

Name: R Michael Rich
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:24 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of enhanced funding for the Parks and Griffith Observatory. In a time where increasing resources go to the ultra wealthy, the parks represent one of the few venues that people of all income levels can enjoy. Griffith Observatory is a National Treasure. It has the best education and outreach in astronomy in the world, surpassing the glitzy but shallow offerings at the American Museum of Natural History's Rose Center. Griffith actually teaches the public about astronomical spectroscopy and meteor impacts, and its archives include the glass disk removed from the 200-inch primary mirror to finish the 200-inch telescope. The building is an architectural treasure, and needs proper maintenance, and the scientific staff has done an amazing task of doing outreach despite minimal funding. What is needed, however, is a new Director. Ed Krupp has done wonderful service but at 80 years old, it is time for him to celebrate a great career and pass the torch. He is not Pope, he is not King, it is time for him to move on, and for the Observatory to pursue research funding and hire young and energetic scientific research staff. We are more than 1/4 the way into the new century, and it is really time for this to happen. Regardless, I support the Funding increase for parks and observatory. R. Michael Rich, Astronomer/Adjunct Prof. emeritus, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, UCLA Ph.D. Caltech 86. Lund University Doctor of Science honoris causa 2024.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:34 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, We have waited long enough for the following four LA Forward charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Additionally, although there were initial calls to action for a bifurcation or trifurcation of the Office of the City Attorney's responsibilities, we heard some council members express the need for more runway to fully reimagine the City Attorney's office. For now, we believe a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office is possible, via the creation of an Office of Legislative Counsel, which can handle the drafting of legislation for City Council. Thus, this makes up our fourth priority reform: Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office At LA Forward, we are excited about the opportunity to update the City Charter. We believe that part of the goal of charter reform is to strengthen trust between Angelenos and their local government. By strengthening representation through council expansion; clarifying authority to hold LAPD accountable; and depoliticizing the City Attorney's Office through the creation of an Office of Legislative Council, we believe we can do exactly that: continue to rebuild trust with the larger public. We hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot. Thank you, Kate Clough CD10

Communication from Public

Name: Sydney King
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:34 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Hello Councilmembers, I strongly urge you to NOT delay these much needed Charter reforms including the expansion of the City Council to 25 districts and to implement ranked choice voting. These reforms are essential to preserve democracy in Los Angeles, and the people of Los Angeles deserve the opportunity to decide what reforms they want for their city. Please deny the CLA's recommendations to simply "note and file" and work to ensure that these reforms are on the ballot in November. Further, please advance the LAPD reforms on the table: 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 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. Lastly, I urge you to support the proposal to give the City Controller an independent budget of no less than 0.42% of the City’s General Fund. Without dedicated funds, this office cannot conduct vital oversight without fear of political retaliation. Similar to the County's passage of Measure G, the City could create a task force to explore how best to implement these reforms after voter approval. We do not need to spend another two years researching these proposals. Please do your civic duty and give Angelenos a chance to vote on the Charter reforms that they care about and have been asking for.

Communication from Public

Name: Jose Casillas
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:39 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Council members, you must pass down to the voters the reforms proposed by the charter commission. No further study is needed, these proposed amendments have ALREADY been studied and they're being proposed for a real reason. Studies show that ranked choice voting does in fact allow for better representation, why should I conform with the mediocracy of establishment candidates when in ranked choice I can vote for someone who truly represent my beliefs and not be afraid of an AIPAC controlled, corporate bought politician being my only candidate. Also it is well known the inhabitants of LA are underrepresented, expanding the council is the best way to cater to the diverse needs of residents of LA; again, you DO NOT get to simply deny the needs of the people merely because you are afraid of being held further accountable by your constituents. It also well known through the city of LA that LAPD is a leech that'll never be satisfied, why is it that trying to audit them and keep them accountable is met with such scrutiny while everyone else get audited no questions asked? I'm not saying LAPD isn't important but with the money they use you'd be able to fund so much more programs and transit per se. I'm tired of my tax dollars being used to pay out victims of police brutality, make the officers themselves pay for their OWN damages! Aren't these people "trained professionals". They should be held accountable for their mistakes, you're willing to gut everything else BUT police! Do better allow all reforms to come to ballot and keep these "professionals" accountable

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:39 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: LA desperately needs ranked choice voting! The whole state of CA does but at least we could start with los angeles. We also need to expand the city council, this is an incredibly expansive city, there should be proper representation for how many people live here! Each neighborhood should have their own council person.

Communication from Public

Name:
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:27 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: I live in CD11. Please put RCV, support for the controller's office, police reform, and 25 council districts as recommended by the Charter Reform commission on the ballot for November 2026. I would like our city to reflect the people that live in it and our desires.

Communication from Public

Name:	Merigan Mulhern
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 10:27 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Councilmembers, Angelenos have waited long enough for the following charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: 1. Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 2. Implement ranked-choice voting in our elections 3. Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm 4. Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes 5. Create an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office Part of the goal of charter reform is to strengthen trust between Angelenos and their local government. By strengthening representation through council expansion and ranked choice-voting; clarifying authority to hold LAPD accountable; and depoliticizing the City Attorney's Office through the creation of an Office of Legislative Council, I believe you can do exactly that: continue to rebuild trust with the larger public. I hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot. Thank you, Merigan Mulhern

Communication from Public

Name: Victoria Weiss
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:32 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: I support the charter reforms and adding them to the November ballot. First, I believe that the democratic processes is the best way to settle this. We (LA) claim to be preserving democracy in a country where people are trying to make it harder to vote. Let's put our money where our mouth is. We all deserve the right to vote on our elected officials and how we elect officials. Second, expanding the city council is necessary. We have had the same number of districts for decades as the population has grown. The average Angelino has significantly less representation today than when the charter was last updated. Expanding the council will mean that residents are able to find solutions to their issues faster. This means cleaner and safer streets. Third, ranked choice voting just makes sense. The only downside is that counting votes is a little more difficult, but we believe in democracy. We can figure out how to count the votes appropriately. Fourth, the LAPD is in desperate need of oversight. The largest expenditure in the LA city budget is the LAPD and as far as I can tell 90% of it is wasted. The LAPD is not issuing traffic violations, but decided to work with ICE instead. The LAPD should help make LA a better place to live, but instead they make it worse. I have tried several times to file police reports and the LAPD has actively encouraged me not to. They will not even look in MacArthur Park lake when there are reports of bodies being disposed of there. Most of the budget goes to paying out lawsuits. If cops behaved properly, the lawsuit budget would be a rounding error. Instead, the lawsuit budget is bankrupting our city. Lastly, please consider the further recommendations by the controller's office. Kenneth Mejia and his amazing staff are the only city officials that appear to be adressing the issues our great city faces. LA could be a much better place to live, but we have policies that make it harder for us to flourish. Let's fix that.

Communication from Public

Name: julia
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:35 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, We have waited long enough for the following charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Change our electoral system to have ranked choice voting Additionally, although there were initial calls to action for a bifurcation or trifurcation of the Office of the City Attorney's responsibilities, we heard some council members express the need for more runway to fully reimagine the City Attorney's office. For now, we believe a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office is possible, via the creation of an Office of Legislative Counsel, which can handle the drafting of legislation for City Council. Thus, this makes up our fourth priority reform: Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office We hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot.

Communication from Public

Name: Alana Friedman
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 12:09 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, My Name is Alana Friedman, and I am a resident of council district 11. I urge you to support and expedite the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting in the City of Los Angeles. As an attorney and concerned citizen, I believe it is the first meaningful step in ensuring the best and most equitable representation for voters in LA. Ranked Choice Voting is neither experimental nor costly. Organizations such as the Campaign Legal Center ("CLC") (among others) have been advocating for this system for years. I have included a brief from CLC from 2018 for reference, which indicates how long administrators and scholars have been considering this system. It has also been adopted by numerous other jurisdictions across the United States to great effect. Organizations have done the work and research. It is time for action. The death of so many well-intentioned civic initiatives has been due to committees and councils delaying for "more research." We have good research, so let's put it to the voters. People want to be involved in their communities, and this is the first step. I urge you push for putting a Ranked Choice Voting initiative on the ballot this November. Please help us be a part of the solution and help us build a better, more communal, Los Angeles. Thank you.

CLC
ADVANCING DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

1411 K ST. NW, SUITE 1400 / WASHINGTON, DC 20005 / 202.736.2200

By Alexandra Copper and Ruth Greenwood / August 17, 2018

THE CIVIC BENEFITS OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Eight Ways Adopting Ranked Choice Voting Can Improve Voting and Elections

> **"Consider asking a small child about her favorite ice cream. Chocolate, she might say. And what if there is no chocolate? you ask. Then she will have strawberry. And if there is no strawberry, she will settle with vanilla. The child just ranked three candidates: chocolate, strawberry, vanilla. That is all there is to [ranked choice voting]."**[1]

1. Ranked choice voting encourages greater civility and less negative campaigning among candidates, as well as more direct outreach by candidates to voters.

A traditional plurality voting system incentivizes candidates to engage in negative campaign tactics. Elections are a "zero-sum" game that usually come down to a choice between two major party candidates vying for votes.[2] Those candidates have clear incentives to disregard independent and third-party candidates who will not garner enough votes to pose a threat and, instead focus their energies on attacking each other, distinguishing themselves through negative messages about their opponent instead of affirmative issue-based campaigning.[3]

Ranked choice voting removes incentives for negative campaigning and increases civility among candidates, because it fosters more choice, more competition, and a greater need for cooperation. Each candidate must reach and attract a broader subset of the electorate, balancing efforts to win the most first choice votes, while not alienating other candidates' supporters who might list them as a second or third choice.[4] Candidates, thus, will gain little from negative campaign

[1] Rob Richie, Caleb Kleppner, and Terrill Bouricius, *Instant Runoffs: A Cheaper, Fairer, Better Way to Conduct Elections*, 89.1 NATIONAL CIVIC REVIEW 95, 105 (Spring 2000).
[2] Caroline Tolbert, *Experiments in Election Reform: Voter Perceptions of Campaigns Under Preferential and Plurality Voting*, Presented at conference on Electoral Systems Reform, Stanford University 2 (Mar. 15-16, 2014).
[3] *See* Robert Richie, *Instant Runoff Voting: What Mexico (and Others) Could Learn*, 3.3 ELECTION LAW JOURNAL 501, 504 (2004); *see also* David Cobb, Patrick Barrett, and Caleb Kleppner, *Preserving and Expanding the Right to Vote: Ranked-Choice Voting*, 1 ADVANCE 107, 111-12 (2007).
[4] *See* Richie, *supra* note 3 at 504.

tactics and instead are encouraged to build coalitions with ideologically like-minded opponents.[5]

The capacity for ranked choice voting to increase civility of campaigns is well-documented. In several studies, researchers have analyzed voter perceptions of campaign tone and, time and again, have found that voters in ranked choice voting jurisdictions report less negative campaigning than voters in non-ranked choice voting jurisdictions.[6] In a 2013 survey, only 5 percent of responding voters in three ranked choice voting cities thought candidates criticized each other "a great deal" compared to 25 percent of respondents in non-ranked choice voting cities.[7] The same study found that, overall, respondents in non-ranked choice voting cities were more than three times more likely to report that local elections were more negative than in past years.[8]

A 2014 survey of California cities yielded similar results: 28 percent of responding voters in ranked choice voting cities reported that candidates criticized each other "a great deal" compared to 36 percent of respondents in non-ranked choice voting cities.[9] Overall, voters in non-ranked choice voting cities were 35 percent more likely to report that local campaigns were more negative than in past years.[10]

A third study found that people in ranked choice voting cities were almost twice as likely to report that local campaigns were significantly less negative than in past years, while voters in non-ranked choice voting cities were twice as likely to report that candidates criticized each other "some or most of the time."[11]

It is not just voters who recognize the effects of ranked choice voting on campaign style. Candidates themselves also report greater civility in ranked choice voting elections.[12] In a survey of approximately 226 candidates across seven cities using ranked choice voting and twenty-five cities using traditional plurality voting, only 29 percent of candidates in ranked choice voting cities reported that their rival described them in negative terms, compared to nearly 40 percent of candidates in

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[5] Steven Hill and Robert Richie, *Success for Instant Runoff Voting in San Francisco*, NATIONAL CIVIC REVIEW 65, 66 (Spring 2005).
[6] *See* Sarah John and Andrew Douglas, *Candidate Civility and Voter Engagement in Seven Cities with Ranked Choice Voting*, NATIONAL CIVIL REVIEW 25, 26 (Spring 2017); *see also* Todd Donovan, Caroline Tolbert, and Kellen Gracey, *Campaign Civility Under Preferential and Plurality Voting*, 42 ELECTORAL STUDIES 157, 159-60 (2016); Tolbert, *supra* note 2 at 11-13.
[7] John and Douglas, *supra* note 6 at 26.
[8] *Id.* at 27.
[9] *Id.* at 26.
[10] *Id.* at 27.
[11] Donovan, Tolbert, and Gracey, *supra* note 6 at 160.
[12] Haley Smith, *Ranked Choice Voting and Participation: Impacts on Deliberative Engagement*, FairVote Civility Report #7 4 (Jun. 2016).

plurality voting cities.[13] Regarding their own campaigns, 21 percent of ranked choice voting candidates reported engaging in negative attacks on a rival, compared to 37 percent of plurality voting candidates.[14] Overall, 47 percent of candidates in ranked choice voting cities said that their elections were less negative than in previous years, compared to 37 percent of candidates in plurality voting cities.[15]

Research also shows that, in addition to fostering greater civility, ranked choice voting may have further positive effects on candidates' style of campaigning. Two studies have found that ranked choice voting candidates are more likely to reach out to and engage with voters directly than candidates in traditional plurality voting systems.[16] One study found that ranked choice voting candidates spent less time on the phone, less time meeting with staff, and more time campaigning door-to-door.[17]

The other study also found that ranked choice voting candidates were more likely to engage directly with voters, either in person or via email.[18] The authors of this study hypothesized that the increase in candidate outreach to voters stems from the very structure of ranked choice voting, which incentivizes candidates to seek support from broader sections of the electorate, including not only voters who would select the candidate as their first choice, but also voters who might support the candidate as a second or third choice.[19]

DEFINITIONS:

First-Past-the-Post or Plurality Voting: occurs where all voters get a single vote and the winning candidate is the one who gets the most amount of votes, even if it is not a majority.

Ranked-Choice Voting: allows voters to rank candidates, in order of preference, when marking their ballots. If a candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast for that office, that candidate will be elected. However, if no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, an elimination process begins. The candidate who received the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated. Next, each vote cast for that candidate will be transferred to the voter's next-ranked choice among the remaining candidates. This elimination process will continue until one candidate receives a majority and is deemed the winner.

[13] Todd Donovan, *Candidate Perceptions of Campaigns under Preferential and Plurality Voting*, Paper prepared for the workshop on Electoral Systems, Electoral Reform, and Implications for Democratic Performance, Stanford University 10 (Mar. 14-15, 2014).
[14] *Id.*
[15] *Id.*
[16] *See* Smith, *supra* note 12 at 9-12; *see also* Donovan, *supra* note 13 at 8-9.
[17] Donovan, *supra* note 13 at 8.
[18] Smith, *supra* note 12 at 9.
[19] *Id.* at 11.

2. Ranked choice voting is more majoritarian and more democratic than traditional plurality voting.

Traditional plurality voting—in which each voter may vote for only one candidate and the candidate who receives the most votes wins—is marked by a pervasive lack of competitiveness. Many electoral districts have become "safe districts" in which the incumbent or his or her party are all but guaranteed to win reelection. Statistics starkly highlight this problem. For example, in the 2002 and 2004 United States House elections, only eleven of more than 800 incumbents were defeated.[20] In 2006, 73 percent of House elections were won by margins of more than 20 percent.[21] In 2012, the average victory margin in House elections was 36 percent, and the minority party did not gain a new seat in the 177 most Republican districts and the 176 most Democratic districts.[22]

> **"One study found that ranked choice voting candidates spent less time on the phone, less time meeting with staff, and more time campaigning door-to-door"**

Lack of competitiveness, coupled with low voter participation, ensures that many election results do not reflect the will of the majority of citizens. Plurality voting exacerbates this problem because it does not require a candidate to garner a majority of votes to win, just the most votes, and candidates are regularly elected without majority support. Since the Civil War, more than one third of American presidents have been elected by only a plurality.[23] And, in 2000, more than 20 percent of sitting governors were elected by a mere plurality, including several who did not even receive 40 percent of the vote.[24]

Furthermore, plurality voting is not a majoritarian system because it is plagued by problems of wasted votes, spoiler candidacies, and vote splitting. Voters who support independent, less popular, or third party candidates are often left with the unsavory choice of voting for their preferred candidate and wasting their vote or voting for a candidate they support less but who has a better chance of winning.[25] Plurality voting thus incentivizes voters to cast their ballots based on strategy and predicted outcome, rather than true political conviction.[26] Even when votes for minor

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[20] Cobb, Barrett, and Kleppner, *supra* note 3 at 113.
[21] John Edward Porter, *Empowering Moderate Voters: Implement an Instant Runoff Strategy*, *in* OPPORTUNITY 08: INDEPENDENT IDEAS FOR AMERICA'S NEXT PRESIDENT 191, 192 (Brookings Institute, 2008).
[22] Rob Richie and Andrew Spencer, *The Right Choice for Elections: How Choice Voting Will End Gerrymandering and Expand Minority Voting Rights, from City Councils to Congress*, 47 U. RICH. L. REV. 959, 972 (2013).
[23] Tolbert, *supra* note 2 at 2.
[24] Richie, Kleppner, and Bouricius, *supra* note 1 at 97.
[25] Cobb, Barrett, and Kleppner, *supra* note 3 at 110.
[26] *See* Richie, Kleppner, and Bouricius, *supra* note 1 at 98.

candidates are not wasted, they can lead to spoiler candidacies, whereby an independent or third party candidate who stands no chance of actually being elected nevertheless receives enough votes to dictate the outcome of the election.[27]

Finally, plurality voting is susceptible to the problem of vote splitting, whereby voters cast their ballots for two candidates with similar platforms or ideologies, splitting the vote and allowing a third candidate to win.[28]

Ranked choice voting is, by its nature, a more majoritarian system than plurality voting because it requires a candidate to receive more than 50 percent of votes in order to win.[29] Ranked choice voting thus provides voters more democratic influence and maximizes their chances to help elect a candidate of their choosing. As an example, under ranked choice voting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 2013, 93 percent of voters were able to elect one of their top three candidate choices.[30]

Ranked choice voting is also more democratic and majoritarian because it avoids the problems of wasted votes, spoiler candidacies, and vote splitting. Voters may express their true political preferences freely without risking the pitfalls of winner-take-all plurality voting. Ranked choice voting thus "facilitates voter interest in self-expression."[31]

3. Ranked choice voting encourages a greater number of candidates with more diverse backgrounds and views to run for office.

Traditional plurality voting, which usually results in a contest between two candidates from the major political parties, suppresses independent and minor party candidacies.[32] Even within the major parties, plurality voting suppresses candidacies, as party leaders often try to avoid vote splitting by clearing the field for those candidates they believe are strongest.[33] The suppression of candidacies does not affect all equally, as it often falls hardest on those with the least political experience and influence, including first-time candidates, young candidates, candidates of color, female candidates, and low-income candidates.[34]

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[27] *Id.*
[28] Andrew Douglas, *The Effect of Fair Representation Voting on 2013 Cambridge, Massachusetts Municipal Elections*, FairVote Research Report 10 (Feb. 2014). In this election, twelve candidates ran for nine positions.
[29] It is possible that voters will choose not to rank candidates beyond their first or second choice, and so it is technically possible to win under RCV without getting 50% of *all the possible votes*. In that case though, the winner will still have more than 50% of the votes that *ranked their choices all the way*.
[30] Douglas, *supra* note 28 at 10-11.
[31] Michael E. Lewyn, *Two Cheers for Instant Runoff Voting*, 6 PHOENIX L. REV. 117, 125 (2012).
[32] Cobb, Barrett, and Kleppner, *supra* note 3 at 110-11.
[33] *Id.*
[34] *Id.*at 111.

Ranked choice voting eliminates the problem of candidacy suppression and, instead, encourages more people to run for office. This is evident in a case study of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the number of candidates for local office nearly doubled after the introduction of ranked choice voting, increasing from 25 candidates in 2005 to 47 in 2013.[35] Not only did more candidates run for office, but local races became more competitive. While not a single ward in 2005 had more than two candidates for city council, by 2013, ten of the thirteen wards had more than two candidates running for each seat.[36]

Ranked choice voting not only encourages more people to run for office, it encourages more diverse candidates to run. More diversity means greater representation of traditionally underrepresented demographic groups. In particular, because ranked choice voting eliminates the problem of vote splitting, candidates from underrepresented groups need not worry about competing for voters and may, instead, all run for office and work together to ensure representation for the group.[37] Studies have confirmed that ranked choice voting benefits minority candidates, including candidates of color and women running for office.[38]

More diversity also means candidates with more diverse views and policy platforms. Moderate, independent, and third-party candidates may run and champion their ideas without fear of spoiling the election for major party candidates, and voters may support these candidates without fear of wasting their vote.[39]

Ranked choice voting, thus, encourages more people to run for office and more diversity among those candidates, developments that are good for American voters and American democracy.

4. Because ranked choice voting encourages more diverse candidates to run for office, it may, in turn, reduce political polarization.

Political polarization is high in traditional plurality elections. Turnout is low and candidates may win simply by mobilizing and championing the views of a core group of committed supporters, who are often more ideologically extreme than the broader

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[35] David Kimball and Joseph Anthony, *Voter Participation with Ranked Choice Voting in the United States*, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Department of Political Science 20 (Oct. 2016), https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjEmqnJnPnbAhVqw1kKHXsBBNEQFggpMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.umsl.edu%2F~kimballd%2FKimballRCV.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1w2l-R9zBu_hf3DpJOivc-.

[36] *Id.*

[37] The New America Foundation and FairVote, *Instant Runoff Voting and Its Impact on Racial Minorities* 8 (Jun. 2008); Andrew Spencer, Christopher Hughes, and Rob Ritchie, *Escaping the Thicket: The Ranked Choice Voting Solution to America's Redistricting Crisis*, 46 CUMB. L. REV. 377, 404 (2015); *see also* Richie and Spencer, *supra* note 22 at 959.

[38] Spencer, Hughes, and Ritchie, *supra* note 37 at 405, 419-20; Richie and Spencer, *supra* note 22 at 1007-08.

[39] Lewyn, *supra* note 31 at 125; Hill and Richie, *supra* note 5 at 65.

electorate.[40] Plurality voting further exacerbates polarization because it typically results in a contest between only two candidates, leaving voters with a purely binary choice between individuals who are more partisan than the average citizen.[41]

Ranked choice voting may reduce political polarization because it encourages more diverse candidates and greater competition in local and state elections.[42] In fact, in a 2015 survey, prominent political and election law scholars selected ranked choice voting as the number one proposed reform, out of thirty-seven, in terms of positive impact on policymaking across party lines.[43] Indeed, the scholars voted ranked choice voting the most impactful proposed reform overall.[44]

Figure 1: Candidates Reporting Negative Portrayal by Opponents, 2011-2013[45]

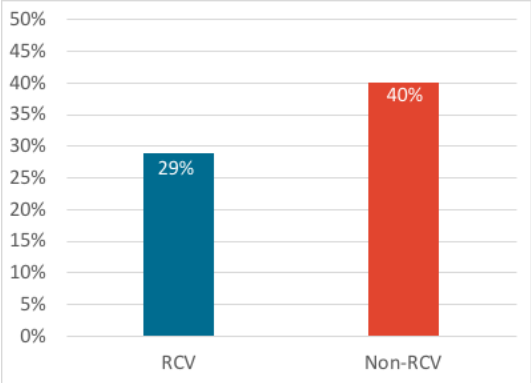
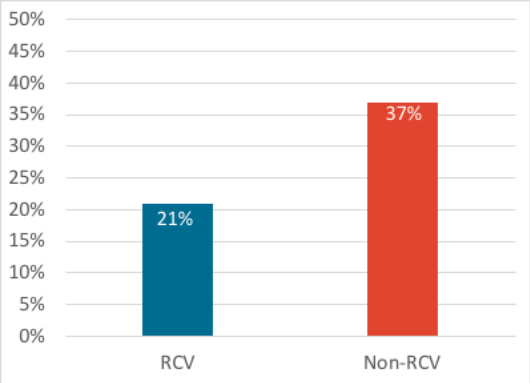


Figure 2: Candidates Admitting to Portraying Opponents Negatively, 2011-2013[46]



5. Ranked choice voting may decrease the influence of big money in politics.

While research on this subject is only preliminary, ranked choice voting may decrease the influence of big money in political campaigns. Because ranked choice voting allows for more candidates with more diverse views to run, including independent and third-party candidates, there will be greater competition in many local and state elections. Candidates who spend less money have a greater chance of

[40] Sarah John and Brandon Leinz, *Polarization and Multi-Winner Ranked Choice Voting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, City Council Elections*, FairVote Civility Report No. 6, 6 (Apr. 2016).
[41] *Id.*
[42] Porter, *supra* note 21 at 197.
[43] Spencer, Hughes, and Ritchie, *supra* note 37 at 418-19.
[44] *Id.*
[45] John and Douglas, *supra* note 6 at 26. Chart adapted from FairVote, *Ranked Choice Voting in Practice: Candidate Civility in Ranked Choice Elections, 2013 & 2014 Survey Brief* (2015), https://fairvote.app.box.com/v/APSA-Civility-Brief-2015.
[46] Chart adapted from FairVote, *supra* note 45.

winning than they do under the current system, thus potentially diminishing the influence of big donors on the outcome of elections.[47]

In one study of ranked choice voting in Pierce County, Washington, the authors found that, in 2004, under a traditional plurality voting system, the candidates who spent the most won in five out of six races studied.[48] In 2008, after the county adopted ranked choice voting, candidates who spent the most won in only three out six races.[49] This result suggests preliminarily that the adoption of ranked choice voting may diminish the effect of campaign finance on election outcomes.[50]

6. Ranked choice voting saves jurisdictions money because it eliminates the need for multiple rounds of voting.

Multiple rounds of voting for a single office, including primary elections, general elections, and runoff elections, can be costly and time intensive for cities and states to administer. By one estimate, election administration costs an average of one to two dollars per resident per election, though the cost can be much higher in small and special elections.[51] The burden of multiple rounds of voting falls not only on taxpayers but also on election officials and poll workers, as well as candidates, who are forced to raise campaign funds for successive elections, often with little time in between.[52]

Ranked choice voting alleviates the burden of multiple rounds of voting by compressing them into a single election, through a process that is sometimes called '*instant* runoff voting'. Ranked choice voting can be used to replace the combination of primary and general elections or eliminate entirely the need for expensive runoffs.[53] Because ranked choice voting requires only one election to produce a majority winner, it minimizes costs for taxpayers and eliminates the need for candidates to raise additional campaign funds.

The financial benefits of ranked choice voting to cities and states is well-documented. As an example, prior to its adoption of ranked choice voting, the city of San Francisco was forced to hold citywide runoff elections in 1999, 2001, and 2003, spending more than $3 million to do so in 2003 alone.[54] The city adopted ranked choice voting in 2004 and, just that year, saved $1.2 million by avoiding four runoff

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[47] Cobb, Barrett, and Kleppner, *supra* note 3 at 114.
[48] Loren Collingwood, Todd Donovan, and Matt Barreto, *An Assessment of Rank Choice Voting's Debut in Pierce County, WA: A Research Report of the Washington Poll* 14 (Jun. 8, 2009).
[49] *Id.*
[50] *Id.*
[51] Richie, Kleppner, and Bouricius, *supra* note 1 at 99.
[52] *Id.*; *see also* Cobb, Barrett, and Kleppner, *supra* note 3 at 111.
[53] *See* Tolbert, *supra* note 2; *see also* Richie, Kleppner, and Bouricius, *supra* note 1 at 102.
[54] Hill and Richie, *supra* note 5 at 66.

elections, more than enough to offset the one-time costs associated with transition to a ranked choice voting system.[55]

Ranked choice voting has yielded similarly cost-effective results in other cities. The implementation of ranked choice voting in San Leandro, Berkeley, and Oakland, California led to the avoidance of a total of seventeen runoffs in just three election cycles, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and city officials untold amounts of administrative resources.[56]

Ranked choice voting, thus, will save cities and states, as well as taxpayers, money normally required to administer multiple rounds of voting.

7. By eliminating multiple rounds of voting, ranked choice voting avoids the decline in voter participation that occurs in most primary and runoff elections.

Voter turnout in most American elections is dismally low. In the 2014 midterm elections, the national turnout of voters was only 36.4%, the lowest rate of participation in 72 years.[57] Worse still, local elections have traditionally seen even lower voter participation rates: in 2016, fewer than 20% of eligible voters voted in mayoral elections.[58] Many political scientists have attributed low voter turnout to the large number of elections held in the United States.[59] The more times voters are asked to vote—in primaries, general elections, and runoffs—the less likely they are to do so in any particular election.

Ranked choice voting eliminates the need for multiple rounds of voting and, therefore, avoids the decline in participation that occurs in most primary and runoff elections.[60] Ranked choice voting simplifies the demands on voters by allowing them to express their political preferences through a single ballot in a single election.

In addition, because it demands only one election, ranked choice voting affords jurisdictions the flexibility to schedule their elections to coincide with elections for other state and federal offices, when voter turnout will be highest.[61]

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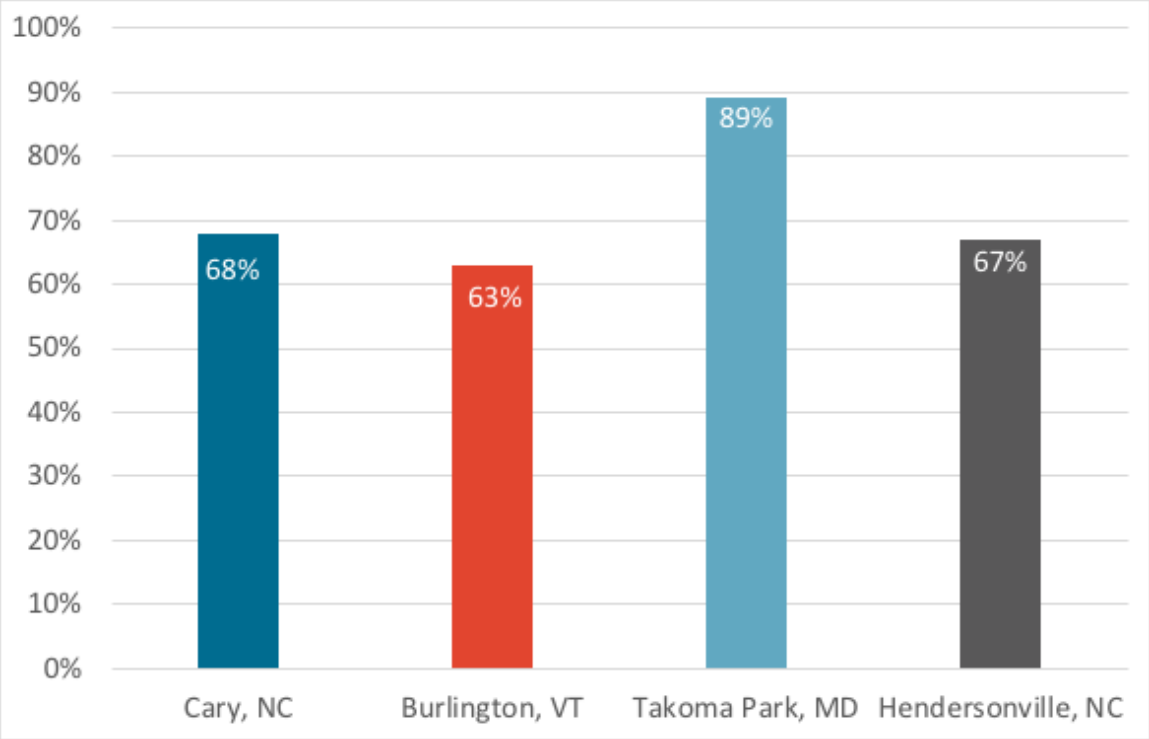
[55] *Id.* at 67.
[56] Madeline Alys Henry, *The Implementation and Effects of Ranked Choice Voting in California Cities* 28 (Fall 2016) (unpublished M.A. thesis, California State University, Sacramento).
[57] Jose A. DelReal, *Voter Turnout in 2014 Was the Lowest Since WWII*, WASH. POST, Nov. 10, 2014, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2014/11/10/voter-turnout-in-2014-was-the-lowest-since-wwii/?utm_term=.829153987bca.
[58] Kriston Capps, *In the U.S., Almost No One Votes in Local Elections*, CityLab, Nov. 1, 2016, https://www.citylab.com/equity/2016/11/in-the-us-almost-no-one-votes-in-local-elections/505766/.
[59] Richie, *supra* note 3 at 505.
[60] Kimball and Anthony, *supra* note 35 at 1.
[61] Richie, Kleppner, and Bouricius, *supra* note 1 at 102; *see also* The New America Foundation and FairVote, *supra* note 37 at 5.

Research demonstrates the positive effect that ranked choice voting has on voter participation rates when compared to primary and runoff elections. One national study found that ranked choice voting led to a nearly 10 percent increase in voter turnout compared to plurality primaries and runoffs.[62] Another study of voter participation rates in San Francisco's 2005 elections—only the city's second year using ranked choice voting—voter turnout increased approximately 2.7 times.[63] In particular, the city experienced increases in voter participation in its six most racially and economically diverse neighborhoods, where turnout nearly quadrupled.[64]

Figure 3: Level of Support for Continued Use of Ranked Choice Voting instead of Plurality Systems[65]



8. Voters demonstrate high levels of understanding and satisfaction with ranked choice voting in jurisdictions that have adopted it.

Research to date overwhelmingly shows that voters in jurisdictions that use ranked choice voting understand and are satisfied with the voting system. In a 2013 survey of American cities using ranked choice voting, 90 percent of respondents

[62] Kimball and Anthony, *supra* note 35 at 5; *see also* Elliot Louthen, *Ranked Choice Voting in Practice: Analysis of Voter Turnout in RCV Elections*, FairVote RCV Civility Brief No. 8 2-3 (Nov. 2015).
[63] The New America Foundation and FairVote, *supra* note 37 at 4.
[64] *Id. But see* Kimball and Anthony, *supra* note 35 at 19 (finding, in a case study of Minneapolis, similar levels of socioeconomic and racial disparities in voter participation).
[65] The New America Foundation and FairVote, *supra* note 37 at 2.

found the ballot easy to understand.[66] Similarly, in a 2014 survey of California cities using ranked choice voting, 89 percent of respondents in those cities found the ballot easy to understand.[67]

Examination of voters in individual cities have yielded similar results. After Minneapolis' first election using ranked choice voting in 2009, voters were surveyed and 90 percent indicated that they understood the voting system "perfectly well" or "fairly well."[68] Similarly, in San Francisco's first election using ranked choice voting in 2004, 85 percent of voters indicated that they understood the ballot "very" or "fairly" well.[69]

Voters not only understand ranked choice voting but are satisfied with it. A majority of voters surveyed in both the 2013 and 2014 surveys mentioned above supported the continued use of ranked choice voting in their local elections. In the 2013 survey, 62 percent of voters supported the continued use of ranked choice voting, and 57 percent of voters in the 2014 survey supported it.[70] Even voters in cities that did not use ranked choice voting supported its introduction. In 2013, 49 percent of responding voters in cities using traditional plurality voting supported the introduction of ranked choice voting, and 54 percent of California voters surveyed in 2014 were in favor of the introduction of ranked choice voting in their cities.[71]

Studies of voters in individual cities already using ranked choice voting have documented similar levels of support. Sixty-eight percent of voters in Cary, North Carolina, 63 percent of voters in Burlington, Vermont, 89 percent of voters in Takoma Park, Maryland, and 67 percent of voters in Hendersonville, North Carolina supported the continued use of ranked choice voting instead of traditional plurality voting systems.[72]

In the words of one researcher, "to know [ranked choice voting] is to like it."[73]

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[66] John and Douglas, *supra* note 6 at 26. *But see* Kimball and Anthony, *supra* note 35 at 22 (finding similar rates of voter confusion in plurality and ranked choice voting elections).
[67] *Id.*
[68] Lewyn, *supra* note 31 at 132.
[69] *Id.*
[70] John and Douglas, *supra* note 6 at 26.
[71] *Id.*
[72] The New America Foundation and FairVote, *supra* note 37 at 2.
[73] Tolbert, *supra* note 2 at 13-14.

Communication from Public

Name:	Mary M Flynn
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:15 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	City Council should not rob the public of Los Angeles, the right to choose and express what they feel will make LA a better city for them and their lives. The job of city Council is to represent the majority interest of the citizens of Los Angeles and by killing the opportunity to put important measures on the ballot in November, city Council is robbing us of our voice that they took the oath of office to protect. Los Angeles deserves the chance to vote on ranked choice voting, as well as the measures that would provide more transparency and oversight to the city controller's office, and the measures to put more accountability in the hands of the people against the Los Angeles Police Department. We do not need further discussion on these measures. We need the people of Los Angeles to decide.

Communication from Public

Name:	Jessica Moog
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:16 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Hello, I am writing as a concerned citizen of LA County and the city of LA (90032). I am voicing my support for - Council expansion - Ranked choice voting - More LAPD oversight - Including all of the six Controller recommendations. An independent budget is essential, and this council should not continue to block as defer the will of the people it represents! We want to be heard, and to allow the controller recommendations to stand. I voted for all of these priorities to be enacted, and it is extremely important that our council is held accountable for its promises to curb the unchecked waste of LAPD. Council expansion is a must. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:	Christopher Tcholakian
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:16 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I am writing to ask that we put charter reforms on the ballot this November, specifically around council expansion, ranked choice voting, and more LAPD oversight. These changes are long overdue and the people deserve to vote on them. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:	Sherri Bell
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:22 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Good afternoon, Council Members. My name is Sherri Bell, and I am a member of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center. I urge you to act on the workforce equity recommendations unanimously advanced by the Charter Reform Commission. Los Angeles cannot be a world-class city while Black workers continue to face disproportionately high unemployment and barriers to public-sector careers. Our recommendations modernize hiring through skills-based assessments, expanded community recruitment, stronger workforce pathways, and accountability measures to ensure equitable access to City jobs. These recommendations align with the workforce goals of the City's premier proprietary departments, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Port of Los Angeles, which recognize that their workforces should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. These reforms should not depend on any one administration. We must institutionalize them now to protect progress and ensure future leaders cannot reverse opportunities for working-class Angelenos. A win for workers facing the greatest barriers is a win for all of Los Angeles. Stronger pathways to good jobs strengthen families, communities, and our City's economy. Implementing these recommendations can be a part of your legacy, your courage can make you a hero. I urge you to move these recommendations forward through administrative action, ordinance, or policy. The need is clear. The recommendations are ready. The time to act is now. With gratitude, Sherri Bell Resident of LA City Council District 10

Communication from Public

Name:	Matthew Zavala
Date Submitted:	06/11/2026 11:13 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I support placing the Charter Reform Commission's recommendations before the voters in November rather than delaying them for additional study. Los Angeles residents deserve the opportunity to vote on important reforms, including City Council expansion, ranked-choice voting, stronger LAPD oversight, and measures that improve fiscal transparency and accountability. Los Angeles City Council districts are among the largest in the nation, making effective representation difficult. Council expansion would improve constituent access and representation. Ranked-choice voting can encourage broader participation and ensure elected officials have wider support from voters. Stronger civilian oversight of the LAPD is necessary to improve accountability and public trust. Fiscal reforms that strengthen independent oversight of city finances can improve transparency and confidence in how public funds are managed. The Charter Reform Commission was created specifically to study these issues and make recommendations. After extensive review and public input, these proposals should be allowed to proceed to the ballot so voters can decide their future. Please support advancing these reforms and allow the people of Los Angeles to vote on them. Respectfully, Matthew Zavala Canoga Park, Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name:	Adam Gelbart
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 10:45 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I want City Council to support Charter reforms on our November ballots. Council expansion, ranked choice voting, and LAPD oversight are things we should be able to vote on. The Charter Reform Commission was created to study reforms like this, so the Council excluding it from our ballots due to needing “further study” is more than disappointing.

Communication from Public

Name: John Daniels
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:51 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: This year, we heard a lot about how Los angeles voters voted strategically. The fact that a race is crowded should not require us to choose between voting honestly and voting strategically. As a Los Angeles voter, I support ranked choice voting because I want city elections that better reflect the full range of voter preferences. Ranked choice voting would let Angelenos rank candidates in order of preference and would help reduce the spoiler effect, encourage broader campaigning, producing winners with wider support. In a world becoming ever more partisan, ranked choice voting can help us focus on our own community and the suggested solutions from a wide variety of candidates rather than relying on party support. Please support ranked choice voting in Council File 26-0489 and allow Los Angeles voters to decide on this reform. I also would like to express my support for the controller's office getting an independent budget. The Controller is supposed to watch the people who currently help decide the Controller’s budget. That creates a conflict of interest. An independent budget would reduce that leverage. It does not mean the Controller gets undue or large amounts of money that should better be used elsewhere. It means the office would have a baseline funding formula, so its ability to audit and monitor spending is not dependent on whether elected officials like what it is finding. The Controller does not set policy or decide how money is spent, but it plays a critical role in auditing, monitoring, and reporting on whether taxpayer dollars are being used effectively and transparently. A watchdog office cannot be fully effective if its budget depends on the same officials and departments it is responsible for scrutinizing.

Communication from Public

Name: Angel Y
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 10:51 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of LA (zip code 90025), I am extremely disappointed to hear that City Council is wanting to block critical government charter reform policies that Angelenos have advocated for for years. To not even allow the reform proposals to get ON the ballot is a disgrace to the process of democracy, and it brings to light the continuously performative nature of LA city council and government. What was the point of establishing the charter reform commissions if you are just going to ignore all of the actually important reforms being proposed? Angelenos have been demanding government accountability, LAPD oversight, council expansion, and ranked choice voting for years, yet LA City Council still thinks these basic reforms require "further study," which we all know is just going to be tabled and pushed off until the next council inevitably establishes a new commission to examine these very same reforms. None of the reforms are even that radical; they are calling for the basic tenants of democracy, equity, and accountability to be upheld. Do something with the power that you hold and put the recommendations (especially council expansion, ranked choice voting, LAPD oversight) on the ballot in November.

Communication from Public

Name: Emiliana Dore
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 12:35 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am a Los Angeles resident and a longtime supporter of our local public schools. I am writing today to urge the Charter Reform Commission to support all 6 Controller recommendations. Los Angeles residents dearly want these things and we deserve the chance to have a say on these vital issues. Rank choice voting would eliminate the clown car problems from our latest election and would give truly progressive candidates a better chance of making it to election. LAPD oversight has been a huge problem here in Los Angeles for a long time. I have written grants for young Angelenos to participate in programs to help them develop careers in the LAPD. I know it can be an important career path for LA youth, but they need to be held to the standard of actually protecting and serving the people of Los Angeles. I participated in an anti ICE demonstration that started in Boyle Heights and then marched over the bridge into downtown LA. It was a demonstration of mostly elderly people, families and educators. Los Angeles police officers tear gassed our group almost immediately as soon as we crossed the bridge. There is footage of LAPD officers shooting journalists with "non lethal bullets' at very close range. Our mounted officers have also been using their horses to terrorize and trample protestors. LA was the first city invaded by unidentified masked men carrying military grade weapons and kidnapping people in the street. Imagine if the LAPD had set the precedent of standing with the people rather than aiding and abetting ICE? We might have made it easier and safer for other cities when they came under similar attack. The LAPD and our leadership completely squandered an opportunity to repair years of bad publicity and bad blood with our communities. We desperately need an independent budget and better fraud protection from a trusted election official. We also need an expanded city council that truly represents the public. These are common sense changes that should be put to a vote by the people of Los Angeles. Sincerely, Emiliana Dore90039

Communication from Public

Name:	Patrick Dore
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:40 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I am writing to urge City Council Committee to approve all 6 Controller recommendations - especially an independent budget and fraud oversight from the Controller. Council expansion, ranked choice voting and more LAPD oversight are all critical issues that should be put to the voters. Sincerely, Patrick Dore

Communication from Public

Name:	Ryan Rusch
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:45 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Hello, I live in Brentwood on Barrington, Please vote for the controller’s recommendations and budget, he is doing very good for the city.

Communication from Public

Name:	Kelsey Juddo
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 12:55 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I am fully in support of city council expansion, ranked choice voting, more LAPD oversight, an independent budget for the controller and more of the proposed charter reforms. This will make LA a modern city that attends to the unique needs of each of our neighborhoods and bring us into a lively future. I ask that all city council members vote in favor of these reforms. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: J B
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 12:59 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: These are major reforms that could be so good for our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Camilleri
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 01:11 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: To the Los Angeles City Council: I am a homeowner and resident of Los Angeles, and I am writing to demand that this Council place the full slate of Charter Reform Commission recommendations on the November 2026 ballot — without dilution, without deferral, and without substituting your political judgment for that of the voters you represent. The Charter Reform Commission completed its work. It transmitted its final report to you in April. The reforms are before you. The only question now is whether you will do your job and let the people of Los Angeles decide — or whether you will bury these proposals the way this Council has buried accountability for a century. Let me be direct about what is at stake with each proposal: COUNCIL EXPANSION This city has nearly 4 million residents governed by 15 council members — a structure unchanged since 1925, when Los Angeles had 600,000 people. Each member represents 265,000 constituents. That is not representation. It is absenteeism with a salary. Expanding the Council to 25 members would reduce district sizes, improve responsiveness, and dilute the concentration of power that has enabled scandal after scandal at City Hall. Voters deserve the right to decide this. There is no legitimate argument for keeping a governance structure designed for a city one-sixth our current size. CONTROLLER INDEPENDENCE The City Controller is the only independently elected fiscal watchdog Los Angeles has. Constraining its budget through the same political process it is supposed to oversee is a structural conflict of interest. The Controller's office must have an independent, protected budget — no less than 0.42% of the General Fund — so that oversight cannot be quietly defunded by the very officials being watched. This is not a radical idea. It is basic governance hygiene. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER Los Angeles has a chronic budget management problem. We have watched the city lurch from deficit to fee increase to deferred maintenance, year after year, with no single accountable executive responsible for the city's fiscal trajectory. A dedicated, professional CFO — responsible for the budget and accountable to the public — is a structural fix that dozens of major cities already have. The absence of this role is a choice. It has been a bad one. CITY ATTORNEY SPLIT The current City Attorney structure asks one elected official to simultaneously serve as the

city’s civil defense lawyer and as a public prosecutor. These are fundamentally different functions with different accountability requirements. An appointed civil attorney handles litigation on behalf of the city. An elected prosecutor answers to voters on charging decisions. Conflating the two produces neither good lawyering nor good justice. Split the role. This Council has a long history of studying things to death, forming commissions, accepting reports, and then doing nothing — while Los Angeles residents pay more, get less, and watch their city government fail them in crisis after crisis. The 2022 Council scandal, the wildfire response failures, the homelessness spending black hole — all of it traces back to governance structures that insulate elected officials from consequences. The Charter Reform Commission has done the work. The Civic Assembly has done the work. Voters are ready to weigh in. Stop studying. Stop hedging. Put it on the ballot. Respectfully but without ambiguity, Andrew Camilleri Jefferson Park, Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 01:22 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: The city already voted and overwhelmingly voted for LA Controller Kenneth Mejia, the CFO should be the elected Controller. The city voted for transparency which Controller Mejia has delivered. We want transparency and a city council that actually acts in benefit of the communities it serves. Support council expansion, ranked choice voting, actual oversight for LAPD, and all 6 recommendations from the Controller office. Support an independent budget for the Controllers office. We are paying attention and will vote accordingly at each election.

Communication from Public

Name:	LeAnna
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 01:25 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Please support ranked choice voting! It's a better representation of your constituents' beliefs and doesn't force them to vote who they think the "group mind" will be voting for. Please also support council expansion, more LAPD oversight, and all 6 Controller recommendations.

Communication from Public

Name:	Brandon Hauer
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 10:59 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Hi, I'm commenting regarding the suggested charter reforms that were recommended by the independent commission. These reforms should be voted to be advanced and put on the ballot in November. More studying is not needed and is just an excuse to kill these. Los Angeles government is already undemocratic and favors the wealthy. All of the so called 'progressives' on this council should vote for these to advance and be left up to voters to decide how they would like their government to be shaped I would like the following reforms to be voted to advance: council expansion, Ranked Choice Voting, an independent budget for the Controller

Communication from Public

Name:	Nicholas Kallinikos
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 11:01 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	We the people want council expansion, ranked choice voting and more LAPD oversight. We deserve the right to vote for our futures and how our city is run in November. Killing any reforms without democratic consent from the people would make you fascists. Is that who you are? If so, reveal yourselves.

Communication from Public

Name: Nick Suda
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 11:04 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to say that I think it is critically important to advance the recommendations of the Charter Reform Commission to a full City Council vote. Most important to me is the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting. I am passionate about electoral reform and I think RCV is a silver bullet that can really change the whole incentive structure for how campaigns are positioned and messaged rhetorically in this city. Shifting away from deeply-flawed First Past The Post Voting really allows candidates to focus on coalition building and to put policy positions at the top of voters' electoral priorities over candidates' identity alignments, or a campaign's viability due to available funds or endorsement politics. It reorganizes the voting process around identifying common policies between candidates and truly optimizing for who aligns with your own personal politics the most, and creates a system where no one has to hold their nose and there are no losers. Applied at the State and Federal level, RCV ends the illiberal backsliding of a gerrymandering-based arms race, facilitates much greater third-party penetration and sets the foundation for parliamentary-style politics. I cannot allow this moment to pass without putting my thumb on the scale. We need RCV at every level of democracy, so having it in reach within the City of Los Angeles is incredibly exciting. Along the lines of electoral reform, I would also highly like to call out the proposals to lower the voting age to 16, and to allow for noncitizen voting. I think the next-highest priority for the City should be the establishment of a Capital Infrastructure Program. It's insane that we don't have something that every other major city in the US has to continue to address the fundamentals of basic public property maintenance that is stabilized against the rampant instability of the city's budget. We are never ever going to accomplish our HLA goals without a stable reserve for repaving. We are never going to solarize all of our lights and end the scourge of copper wire theft without some liquidity to do so. We are never going to stay on top of our potholes and tree root-ruined sidewalks if all of our money is going toward the Olympics for the next three years. My final personal priority out of the Commission's recommendations is to expand the size of City Council. Simply put, I think we need to make this number as large as possible. I'm baffled that the consensus answer has settled on 25 councilmembers, because

even that is too low. It makes no sense that NYC and Chicago both have at least 50 seats while we are considering EXPANDING to half of that. As a hard-left progressive living in CD11 I am completely disgusted with Traci Park's politics and I resent being outvoted as a resident of Sawtelle Japantown by a bunch of millionaire homeowners in the western part of the county who couldn't be more different than me. These districts are too large and need to meet the needs of constituencies that are just too far apart to align. I don't like the dynamics of each Councilmember essentially being a mayor of their own slice of town, free to enforce or not enforce whatever city-wide statutes they please. If we have more districts, then at least it maximizes the possibility that that dynamic will apply for someone whose values I agree with. Chicago's alderman system can create its own problems with hyperfragmentation, but they are also a substantially smaller CDP than us. So whether it's 25 members or 31 or closer to 50, for the love of god let's get rid of this 101-year old 15 member designation. That number was built for a town that was a bunch of pastures and prospective developments separated by wide swaths of undeveloped land. It's absurd. There are many other recommendations that excite me quite a bit but those are the ones I am most wanting to speak up about. Beyond that, I also am hugely in favor of: - all the measures related to expanding the capabilities of the controller's office. - participatory budgeting, performance-based budgeting, and a 2-year budget cycle. - the accountability measures related to Council's control over the LAPD: that Council has regulatory authority alongside the Board of Police Commissioners and that the Chief of Police can remove "bad apple" officers. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Paula Kahn
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 11:13 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, We have waited long enough for the following four LA Forward charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Additionally, although there were initial calls to action for a bifurcation or trifurcation of the Office of the City Attorney's responsibilities, we heard some council members express the need for more runway to fully reimagine the City Attorney's office. For now, we believe a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office is possible, via the creation of an Office of Legislative Counsel, which can handle the drafting of legislation for City Council. Thus, this makes up our fourth priority reform: Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office At LA Forward, we are excited about the opportunity to update the City Charter. We believe that part of the goal of charter reform is to strengthen trust between Angelenos and their local government. By strengthening representation through council expansion; clarifying authority to hold LAPD accountable; and depoliticizing the City Attorney's Office through the creation of an Office of Legislative Council, we believe we can do exactly that: continue to rebuild trust with the larger public. We hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot. Thank you, Paula Kahn

Communication from Public

Name: Sea Sloat
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 02:19 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, We have waited long enough for the following four LA Forward charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. WE DO NOT NEED MORE STUDIES. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: 1. Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 2. Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm 3. Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Additionally, although there were initial calls to action for a bifurcation or trifurcation of the Office of the City Attorney's responsibilities, we heard some council members express the need for more runway to fully reimagine the City Attorney's office. For now, we believe a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office is possible, via the creation of an Office of Legislative Counsel, which can handle the drafting of legislation for City Council. Thus, this makes up our fourth priority reform: 4. Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office At LA Forward, we are excited about the opportunity to update the City Charter. We believe that part of the goal of charter reform is to strengthen trust between Angelenos and their local government. By strengthening representation through council expansion; clarifying authority to hold LAPD accountable; and depoliticizing the City Attorney's Office through the creation of an Office of Legislative Council, we believe we can do exactly that: continue to rebuild trust with the larger public. We hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot. Thank you, Sea Sloat

Communication from Public

Name:	Lilly H
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 02:30 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	To city council, I can see no reason for you all to reject rank choice voting, more LAPD oversight, and an independent controllers' office. Charter reform is imperative. Anything else is blatant corruption and self-serving. As an LA resident and tax-payer and voter, I am urging you to support charter reform.

Communication from Public

Name:	Ariana
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 02:46 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Councilmembers, Please execute the following four charter reform priorities without delay. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: - Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 - Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm - Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Additionally, although there were initial calls to action for a bifurcation or trifurcation of the Office of the City Attorney's responsibilities, we heard some council members express the need for more runway to fully reimagine the City Attorney's office. For now, we believe a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office is possible, via the creation of an Office of Legislative Counsel, which can handle the drafting of legislation for City Council. Thus, this makes up the fourth priority reform: - Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office Thank you, Ariana

Communication from Public

Name:	West Hollywood-Fairfax Indivisible
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 07:29 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	West Hollywood-Fairfax Indivisible supports meaningful Los Angeles Charter Reform, including: 1. Ranked-choice voting; 2. Expanded city council; 3. Stronger ethics and accountability rules; 4. Redistricting protections; 5. Public financing and campaign finance reforms; 6. Reliable funding for public parks. Most importantly, put these measures before the voters. At a time when democracy is threatened nationally, local government should be more representative, accountable, and easier for residents to participate in. Ranked-choice voting would give voters more meaningful choices and reduce the problems inherent in our crowded elections. Council expansion and stronger redistricting protections would help Los Angeles residents have fairer representation. Stronger ethics and campaign finance reforms are always a plus. We also support increased and more reliable parks funding. Parks are critical public infrastructure, especially in dense urban neighborhoods. Los Angeles has one of the lowest park-density rates of any major city in the country. We support a transparent, responsible approach that protects other essential services while treating parks as a real public priority. We urge the Council to preserve the strongest democracy reforms in this package and place meaningful charter reform before the voters.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 08:56 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I love LA, that's why I'm advocating for Charter Reform. Studies has shown what will improve Charter Reform, so let's vote on them! Why are we voting on the capitalization of neighborhood council, but not on Police accountability??? I don't care about if the N in neighborhood council is capitalized, I want to expand council member seats so I can get appropriate representation in City Hall!!! I want rank choice voting. Please, just let us vote on these things.

Communication from Public

Name:
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 08:56 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: I’m writing to respectfully request support of the Charter Reform proposal for council expansion, ranked choice voting, and increased LAPD oversight be approved effectively immediately.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 07:26 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, We have waited long enough for the following four LA Forward charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Additionally, although there were initial calls to action for a bifurcation or trifurcation of the Office of the City Attorney's responsibilities, we heard some council members express the need for more runway to fully reimagine the City Attorney's office. For now, we believe a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office is possible, via the creation of an Office of Legislative Counsel, which can handle the drafting of legislation for City Council. Thus, this makes up our fourth priority reform: Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office At LA Forward, we are excited about the opportunity to update the City Charter. We believe that part of the goal of charter reform is to strengthen trust between Angelenos and their local government. By strengthening representation through council expansion; clarifying authority to hold LAPD accountable; and depoliticizing the City Attorney's Office through the creation of an Office of Legislative Council, we believe we can do exactly that: continue to rebuild trust with the larger public. We hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot. Thank you, Allison

Communication from Public

Name:
Date Submitted: 06/12/2026 09:17 AM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Please continue to support the following items for the Charter reform: - Council expansion - Ranked choice voting - More LAPD oversight - All 6 Controller recommendations - An independent budget

Communication from Public

Name:	Shilpi Roy
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 09:02 AM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I support City Council Expansion, Raked Choice Voting, more LAPD oversight, and an independent budget for the Controller. the city Council needs to bring all of these reforms to the public in November so that we can vote on them. Do not make decisions on these without public input.

Communication from Public

Name:	VERNON NICKERSON
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 03:39 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	I am writing to voice my FULL SUPPORT for these measures to appear on the ballot in November 2026: Charter reforms for our Nov. ballot: - Council expansion - Ranked choice voting - More LAPD oversight Best, DTLA Resident and Registered voter

Communication from Public

Name:	Emma
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 03:13 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Councilmembers, The following charter reform priorities are extremely important to a large number of LA's constituents. Please do not delay these to future committees. We want to see these passed to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: Ranked Choice Voting: this is the only way to create a more fair and equitable voting system where candidates can run on innovative ideas and coalition-building, and voters can vote for what they actually want to see, rather than being forced to vote strategically to block other candidates from progressing. Expand the number of City Council Districts from 15 to 25 Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes Creating an Office of Legislative Counsel, to handle the drafting of legislation that is currently assigned to the City Attorney's office; this is a first step toward reimagining the City Attorney's office

Communication from Public

Name:	Kat
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 03:33 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Our City Council is far too small to represent a city as large and diverse as Los Angeles. And this city deserves an active, representative Council. I urge you to move forward with ballot initiatives to amend our charter in ways that help this city thrive and better serve the people: - We need a larger City Council to better represent this massive city! - We deserve a strong watchdog over our tax dollars in the form of an independent budget for the City Controller's office. - We need way more oversight and accountability for LAPD. - We need ranked choice voting to better represent how we want this city managed. Thank you, Kat Amano

Communication from Public

Name:	sarah basta
Date Submitted:	06/12/2026 07:11 PM
Council File No:	26-0489
Comments for Public Posting:	Councilmembers, We have waited long enough for the following four LA Forward charter reform priorities. Please do not delay these to future committees. Pass these to full Council now, for inclusion on the November ballot: Allow the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensure LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes At LA Forward, we are excited about the opportunity to update the City Charter. We believe that part of the goal of charter reform is to strengthen trust between Angelenos and their local government. By clarifying authority to hold LAPD accountable, we believe we can do exactly that: continue to rebuild trust with the larger public. We hope the recommendations above are ones you can support for inclusion in the November ballot. Thank you, Sarah Basta