



Los Angeles

Charter Reform Commission

REIR Committee Presentation

April 30, 2026



Los Angeles
Charter Reform Commission

Meet the Commissioners



Raymond Meza,
Commission Chair



Christina Sanchez,
Commission Vice Chair



Melinda Murray,
Commission Second
Vice Chair



Robert Lewis,
Commissioner



Mona Field,
Commissioner



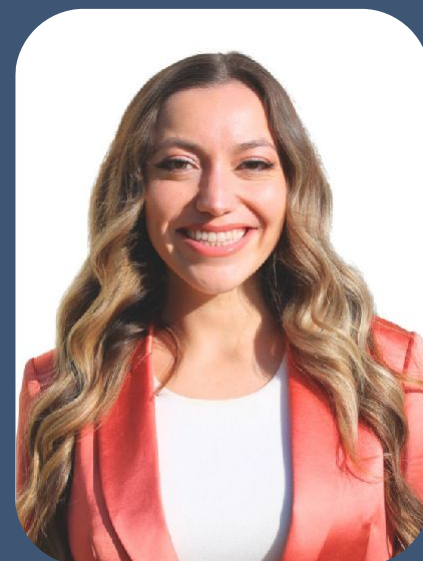
Ted Stein,
Commissioner



Andrea Mac,
Commissioner



Diego Andrades,
Commissioner



Carla Fuentes,
Commissioner



James M. Thomas,
Commissioner



Michael Yap,
Commissioner



Jason Levin,
Commissioner



Kerry Morrison
Commissioner



Los Angeles
Charter Reform Commission

Meet the Staff



Justin Ramirez
Executive Director



Max Podemski
Deputy Director



Kate Reinhard
Policy Deputy



Briana Scott
Policy Deputy

Structure of the Report

- ❖ Executive Summary
- ❖ How We Got Here
- ❖ Core Themes
- ❖ Charter Changes
- ❖ Charter Language
- ❖ Appendix



LA Charter Reform Commission Report

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.
MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT.
MAKE LA WORK BETTER.

April 2, 2026



How we got here

- ❖ 52 public meetings between June 2025 - March 2026
 - 30+ hours of public testimony
- ❖ 15 Council District Town Halls
- ❖ 70+ stakeholder presentations
- ❖ 60+ recommended reforms



Outreach

- ❖ 14,000+ Survey Responses
- ❖ 18 Community Mini Grants
- ❖ Partnership with ReWrite LA Public Assembly
- ❖ 50+ Neighborhood Council CIS representing 2.2 million Angelinos



Presentations from Departments & City Officials

- ❖ Director of Capital Infrastructure, Office of Mayor Karen Bass, Geoff Thompson
- ❖ Department of City Planning, Director of Planning, Vincent Bertoni
- ❖ Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, John Wickham
- ❖ Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), General Manager, Carmen Chang
- ❖ Ethics Commission, General Manager, David Tristan
- ❖ Personnel Department, General Manager, Malaika Billups
- ❖ Chief Administrative Officer, Matt Szabo
- ❖ Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), General Manager, Laura Cornejo
- ❖ Board of Public Works, President Steve Kang and Vice President Jenny Chavez
- ❖ Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)
- ❖ Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC)
- ❖ Bureau of Street Services (BSS)
- ❖ Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL)
- ❖ Bureau of Engineering (BOE)
- ❖ Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)
- ❖ Department of Water and Power (DWP)
- ❖ Los Angeles International Airport (LAWA)
- ❖ Port of Los Angeles (POLA)
- ❖ LA City Employees Retirement System (LACERS)
- ❖ Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC)

Presentations from Elected & Former Officials

Elected Officials

- ❖ Mayor Karen Bass
- ❖ City Controller Kenneth Mejia
- ❖ City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto
- ❖ Councilmember John Lee
- ❖ Councilmember Nithya Raman
- ❖ Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
- ❖ Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
- ❖ Councilmember Heather Hutt
- ❖ Councilmember Traci Park
- ❖ Councilmember Tim McOsker
- ❖ Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez
- ❖ Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez

Former Officials

- ❖ Michael Woo, Former Los Angeles City Councilmember
- ❖ Burt Pines, Former Los Angeles City Attorney
- ❖ Erwin Chemerinsky, Former Chair of the Elected Charter Reform Commission
- ❖ George Kieffer, Former Chair of the Appointed Charter Reform Commission



Presentations from other Experts

Outside Cities & Elected Officials

- ❖ City of Long Beach, Director of Public Works, Erick Lopez
- ❖ City of Long Beach, City Prosecutor, Doug Haubert
- ❖ City of Long Beach, Director of Human Resources Department, Bryce Tyler
- ❖ Pasadena City Councilmember District 2, Rick Cole
- ❖ New York City Council Division of Legislative Counsel and Drafting
- ❖ New York City Comptroller General Counsel, Justina Rivera
- ❖ New York City Comptroller's Office, Francesco Brindisi

Academics

- ❖ Raphael J. Sonenshein, Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University Los Angeles
- ❖ Ange Marie Hancock, Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute, Professor Ohio State University (LA Governance Reform Task Force)
- ❖ Sara Sadhwani, Assistant Professor of Politics, Pomona College (LA Governance Reform Task Force)
- ❖ Evan Rosenman, Assistant Professor of Statistics, Claremont Mckenna College
- ❖ Lee Drutman, Political Scientist, Senior Fellow New America Foundation
- ❖ Eric Schockman, Professor Emeritus, Politics and International Relations, Woodbury University

Presentations from Community Orgs

- ❖ Investing in Place
- ❖ ACT LA
- ❖ Abundant Housing LA
- ❖ Central City Association
- ❖ OUR LA
- ❖ Community Coalition
- ❖ Fair Rep LA Coalition
- ❖ Coalition of City Unions
- ❖ Budget Advocates
- ❖ New America Foundation
- ❖ Cal RCV
- ❖ Equal Vote Coalition
- ❖ Berggruen Institute/Rewrite LA
- ❖ LA Governance Reform Task Force
- ❖ United Neighbors
- ❖ Streets for All
- ❖ Common Cause
- ❖ Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
- ❖ People's Budget Los Angeles
- ❖ Engineers & Architects Association (EAA)
- ❖ Catalyst California
- ❖ Los Angeles Black Worker Center
- ❖ Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (LAANC)



Core Theme 1: Strengthen Democratic Voice and Representation

- ❖ Expand City Council to 25 single member districts
- ❖ Adopt Rank-Choice Voting
- ❖ Lower voting age to 16 for City & LAUSD elections
- ❖ Strengthen Neighborhood Council advisory powers



Core Theme 2: Rebuild Trust Through Accountability

- ❖ Clarify suspension process & compensation rules for Council
- ❖ Establish an Inspector General
- ❖ Give Ethics Commission independent legal counsel & protected budget
- ❖ Prohibit campaign funds to pay certain fines
- ❖ Strengthen police accountability w/ Council oversight authority
- ❖ Require special elections when vacancies leave a year+ remaining



Core Theme 3: Improve Long-Term Planning and Service Delivery

- ❖ Codify citywide Capital Improvement Plan
- ❖ Establish a Director of Public Works
- ❖ Allocate minimum 2% of budget to infrastructure
- ❖ Double charter-mandated Recreation & Parks funding
- ❖ Create Chief Financial Officer
- ❖ Implement two-year budget cycle w/ participatory budgeting

Core Theme 4: Modernize Government Structure for a City of 4 Million

- ❖ Bifurcate City Attorney into City Attorney & City Prosecutor
- ❖ Enshrine Controller's Fraud, Waste, & Abuse authority
- ❖ Update Neighborhood Council provisions
- ❖ Streamline land use processes
- ❖ Modernize procurement rules
- ❖ Establish periodic charter review every ten years
- ❖ Add Preamble stating city values & principles

Charter Language

- ❖ Redlined Charter Language for each reform
- ❖ Language vetted by City Attorney staff*

Sec. 310. Fiscal Year; Biennial Budget Cycle

(a) The fiscal year of the City shall begin on July 1 of each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

(b) The City shall operate on a biennial budget cycle encompassing a period of two consecutive fiscal years. The City shall, by ordinance, establish the initial biennial budget cycle, with subsequent cycles commencing every two years thereafter, and provide for the transition from annual to biennial budgeting.

Appendix

- ❖ CIP ordinance
- ❖ Ordinance with Deportation defense counsel
- ❖ Jubilee Reform
- ❖ Freedmen's Bureau Reforms/ LEAP Reforms
- ❖ Black Workers Center Recommendations (Personnel)
- ❖ Procurement ordinances
- ❖ Best Value in competitive bid 371(a)
- ❖ Engagement numbers
- ❖ Detailed reform explanations



Website Overview



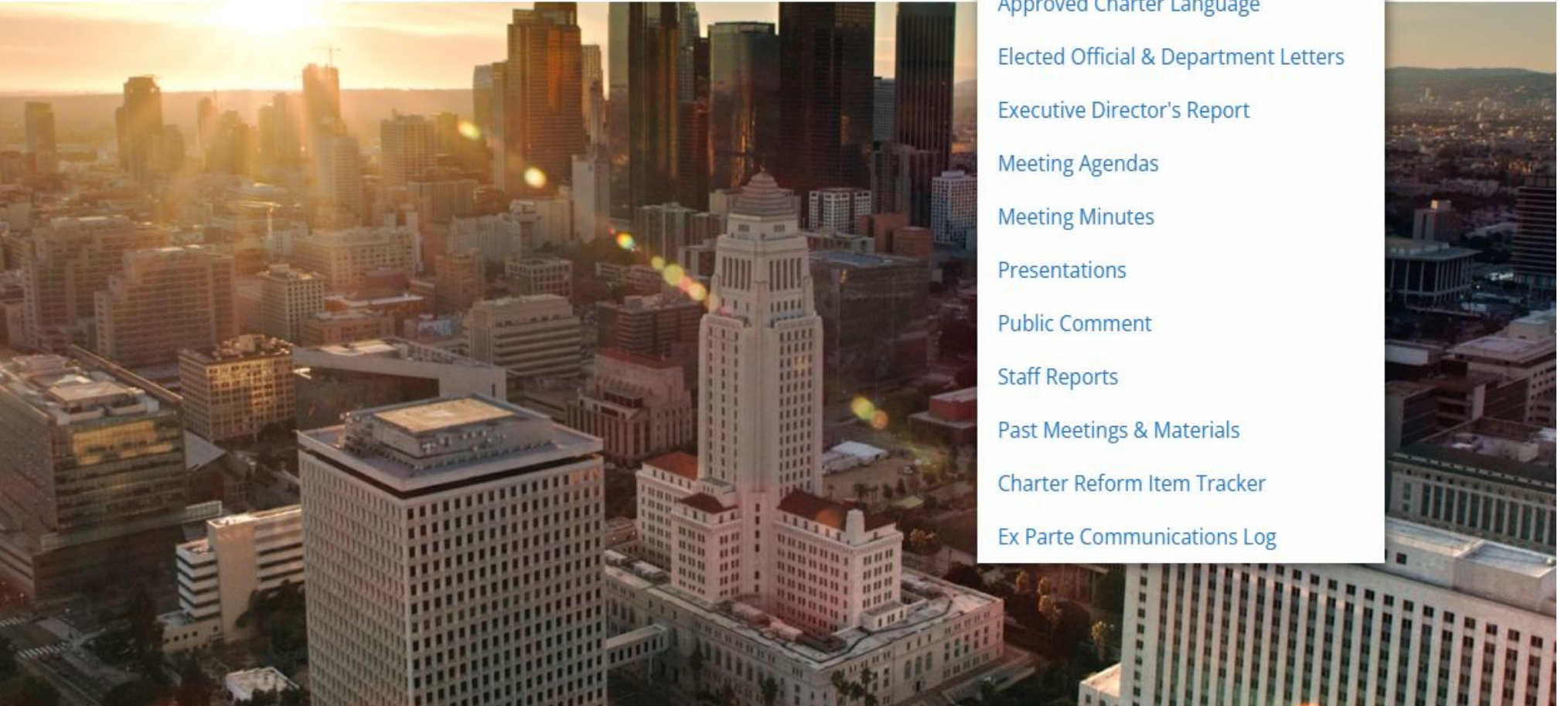
Welcome to the Charter Reform Commission

The Charter Reform Commission held its last meeting on March 24th, 2026. The Commission transmitted its final report to City Council on April 2nd, 2026.

The Charter Reform **Council File number is 26-0489**

[Click here for \(short\) printable version](#)

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- [Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Presentations](#)
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- [Staff Reports](#)
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Questions?

