

LANCC Recommendations for Charter Reform

On January 21, 2026, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Coalition presented its Charter Reform recommendations to the Charter Reform Commission. The presentation and the LANCC Charter language are attached to Council File 26-0489 and are labeled Communication from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition. The Commission accepted eight of the LANCC recommendations, some as written and some with amendments. The purpose of this report is to provide background City Council needs to understand the eight Charter Reform Commission accepted LANCC recommendations.

Neighborhood Council elections, a new issue, follows the eight accepted LANCC recommendations.

1. SPEAKING BEYOND THE CITY

Request: Neighborhood Councils, regardless of the City's position, may deliver to any governmental agency a statement passed in a Brown Act public meeting at which there is quorum. The City may create and require language to indicate the NC is speaking for itself and not the City.

Background: Neighborhood Councils are restricted to advocating only to City officials and employees. There are times when an issue does not impact the whole City but does impact parts of the City. There are times when City Council does not take up a motion for something that can be important to the neighborhood. Metro is one example. Metro is a County board, and as a result, Neighborhood Councils are restricted from communications with it. Another example is bills in the State Legislature, such as SB-411, that have specifically to do with Neighborhood Councils. Some Senators have doubted NC need for such bills when NCs haven't shown up. They don't know we're prohibited.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 254

Neighborhood Councils may deliver to any governmental agency a statement with respect to legislation proposed to or pending before that agency related to the purpose of Neighborhood Councils which is to promote more civic participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs, adopted through a majority vote at a publicly noticed Neighborhood Council board meeting. The City may, by ordinance, create and require language to indicate the Neighborhood Council is speaking on behalf of that specific Neighborhood Council and not the City.

2. CONSENT CALENDARS

Request: In the interest of efficiency, Neighborhood Councils may include consent calendars on their agendas. Items on consent calendars may include common agenda items including, but not limited to, approval of minutes and the Monthly Expenditure Report and may

include agenda items voted by a committee.

- Any member of the board shall have the ability, at the meeting, to request an agenda item on the consent calendar be removed from consent and heard on its own. The meeting chair shall remove the requested consent agenda item if requested. Removal shall not be a topic for discussion.
- The public shall have the opportunity to make public comment on the items on the agenda items in the consent calendar.

Background: Neighborhood Council meetings can be very long. Eyeing consent agendas used by City Council, some Neighborhood Councils began using consent agendas. The City Clerk has now ruled that Neighborhood Councils may not use consent agendas for funding matters. This can't possibly be a legal issue. City Council does it all the time. If an NC is purchasing a \$5 item, there has to be a separate motion, second, public comment, board comment, and vote. The May 6 agenda of the Palms Neighborhood Council has 18 funding motions on its agenda. A valuable tool to have efficient meetings has been ripped from our hands.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 908.

In the interest of efficiency, Neighborhood Councils may include consent calendars on their agendas. Items on consent calendars may include common agenda items including, but not limited to, approval of minutes and the Monthly Expenditure Report and may include agenda items voted by a committee.

- Any member of the board shall have the ability, at the meeting, to request an agenda item on the consent calendar be removed from consent and heard on its own. The meeting chair shall remove the requested consent agenda item if requested. Removal shall not be a topic for discussion.
- The public shall have the opportunity to make public comment on the items on the agenda items in the consent calendar.

3. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL RIGHT TO SPEAK

Request: Neighborhood Councils shall have the right to speak, in person and telephonically, before all public meetings of the City. Neighborhood Councils delivering a Community Impact Statement shall be in a separate queue from public comment and shall be given five minutes to speak. NCs shall have the right to speak whenever an item appears on an agenda, even in cases where that item has already been heard by a committee

Background: Most Neighborhood Council board members work for a living. They cannot afford the time to come to City Hall to present their Community Impact Statements. By denying the NCs the right to deliver their Community Impact Statements telephonically, their communities are being silenced. Neighborhood Councils also request a Charter change to enshrine the ability to speak before all public meetings including City Council even when the agenda item has been heard at a committee meeting. The committee members may have heard what the Neighborhood Councils had to say, but the rest of the City Council has not.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 242.

The Council, by ordinance or resolution, shall provide an opportunity for Neighborhood Councils to comment via telephone or online teleconferencing at all regular and special meetings of the Council and any Council committees.

Neighborhood Councils delivering a Community Impact Statement to the Council or any Council committee shall be in a separate queue from public comment.

4. NUMBER OF BONC COMMISSIONERS

Request: Increase the number of commissioners from seven to nine with the two additional commissioners being at-large and appointed by Neighborhood Councils

Background: Members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and serve at her pleasure. The Neighborhood Councils, the bodies most impacted by BONC decisions, have no say. The Neighborhood Councils are looking to add two commissioners to BONC who serve at the pleasure of the Neighborhood Councils to make sure our voices are heard.

Note that the Commission did not address removal. It references Section 502 of the Charter. Its language references Section 502 but does not update the Section to cover removal of someone appointed by the Neighborhood Councils.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 902.

There shall be a board of nine seven commissioners to be known as the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (board). Seven commissioners shall be appointed by the Mayor, and shall be from diverse geographic areas, as further specified by ordinance. The remaining two commission seats shall be filled by interested persons who obtain the approval of a majority of all Neighborhood Councils, each acting through a formal vote of the respective Neighborhood Council at a publicly noticed board meeting, as further specified by ordinance. Appointment of the seven Mayor-appointed commissioners and removal of all commissioners shall otherwise be in accordance with Section 502.

5. BONC TRAINING COMPLIANCE

Request: Members of BONC shall not be permitted to vote at Commission meetings if they have not completed their required training within 30 days of being seated and to be able to continue voting their required training must be current.

Background: Neighborhood Council board members are not permitted to vote if their training is more than 30 days in arrears. BONC, a commission that purports to tell us what to do, should complete their training also.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 902

Members of the board shall not be permitted to vote at board meetings if they have not completed any legally-required training assigned by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment within 30 days of being seated. In addition, members of the board may not vote unless they are current on legally-required training.

6. DONE GM EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWS

Request: Provide NCs the opportunity to submit questions to ask GM candidates during the employment interview

Background: The Mayor hires the General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Mayor Garcetti did not make a good hire when he brought on the previous General Manager. Neighborhood Councils are looking for a way to influence the hiring decision. Providing questions the interview team may use is our solution.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 903.

Neighborhood Councils shall have the opportunity to submit questions, each approved by a formal vote of the respective Neighborhood Council at a publicly noticed board meeting, to the Mayor, or his or her designee, to be considered during the interview process.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGETING

Request: At the same time as departments, Neighborhood Councils shall submit their budget request for the following year. The two at-large BONC commissioners shall be a single point-of-contact and shall organize the requests into a single request for the Mayor's consideration.

Background: The current system does not provide a mechanism for an advocate for Neighborhood Council budgets. NC members have to wait until April 20 and see what they are granted. We envision a system for Neighborhood Councils similar to that of the departments. The Neighborhood Councils, through BONC, can document their plans for the next year. The Mayor's budget team can use this as input to consider and Budget and Finance can ask their questions after April 20.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Section 311.

Neighborhood Councils shall submit to the Mayor, in the same timeframe as the City departments, their budget request for the next fiscal year. The Chair of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners or another Commissioner designated by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners shall be a single point-of-contact for this Neighborhood Council budget process and shall organize the requests of the Neighborhood Councils into a single submission to the Mayor.

8. Capitalization

Request: Capitalize Neighborhood Councils throughout.

Background: All other offices are capitalized.

CRC Proposed Charter Language: Neighborhood Council capitalized throughout.

ELECTIONS

Request: Include Neighborhood Council elections in the Charter.

Background: When the City Clerk proposed her department budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, she did not include funds for the 2027 Neighborhood Council Elections. This was a wake up call that the Neighborhood Council Elections need to be included in the Charter. The City Clerk would never think about canceling any other elections. By the time this happened, LANCC had already presented to the Charter Reform Commission and the Commission was not interested in reopening the topic of Neighborhood Councils.

The language is a little tricky because not all Neighborhood Councils have elections. Some have selections, which are town halls that include nominations and votes. The City Clerk is not involved in selections. They are entirely run by the Neighborhood Councils according to rules set by DONE.

Not every Neighborhood Council participates in every election. Still, elections need to be held every two years for the system, as designed, to work.

We ask for a motion from this committee to add Neighborhood Council elections to the Charter.

LANCC Proposed Charter Language: Section 915

Neighborhood Council terms are set in their bylaws and elections are held every two years. Neighborhood Council bylaws stipulate whether its members are elected and the frequency.

