



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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Date: April 29, 2026

From: Sharon M. Tso *SMTso*
Chief Legislative Analyst

To: All Department Heads and General Managers

RE: Charter Reform Commission Recommendations (C.F. 26-0489)

Dear Department Heads and General Managers:

Pursuant to the Council President's letter, dated April 29, 2026, relative to the Charter Reform Commission's recommendations (C.F. 26-0489), please see attached a response template for your written comments and a document that organizes the Charter Reform Commission's recommendations into the below referenced meeting topic areas. The attached list of Charter Reform Recommendations is subject to change. Please submit your written comments to Council No. 26-0489, and to Steve Luu (steve.luu@lacity.org) with the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst by Friday, May 1st for those topics covered at the May 5th Committee meeting, and at least one week in advance for future meetings.

For your reference, the anticipated meeting schedule and structure of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee's deliberations (subject to change) is as follows:

Committee Dates & Meeting Topics:

- April 30 (1:00 – 4:00 PM): Public Comment and Overview of Commission Report
- May 5 (1:00 – 4:00 PM): Government Efficiency, Planning, City Powers, Neighborhood Councils
- May 14 (1:00 – 4:00 PM): Budget, Infrastructure and Procurement
- May 21 (1:00 – 4:00 PM): Elections and Ethics
- May 28 (1:00 – 4:00 PM): Personnel, Police and Matters Not Addressed in Preceding Meetings
- June 4 (1:00 – 4:00 PM): Wrap-Up Meeting

The REIR Committee intends to meet the deadline for placing Charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot with a full Council vote on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Attachments: Departmental Response Template
Tables – Organization of Charter Reform Recommendations by Meeting Topic Areas (Subject to Change)

Proposed Charter Reform Recommendation: [Topic Area/Recommendation No./Text of Recommendation that is being addressed by your correspondence(s)]

Responding Department:

Administrative Impact(s):

Fiscal Impact(s):

Administrative or Charter Amendment Required: [Can these proposed recommendations be accomplished administratively (e.g., Los Angeles Administrative Code Amendment (ordinances) and internal policy changes or should it be done via Charter Amendment?]

Advantages/Disadvantages of Proposal(s):

Additional Concerns:

Departmental Liaison Contact:

Government Efficiency, Planning, City Powers, Neighborhood Councils (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 6	Planning	Replace the City's five Area Planning Commissions with a new Neighborhood Appeals Commission consisting of five members; allow Neighborhood Appeals Commission to consider issues de novo in appeals	Section 552
CRC 7	Planning	Create a time limit for when the Council remands an item to the City Planning Commission or Neighborhood Appeals Commission; Commissions shall have 30 days to concur or dissent with Council and the matter shall be referred to Council for a final vote; Upon re-referral from the Commissions, the Council must act within 21 days or the action of the Commissions is final	Section 245(e)
CRC 8	Planning	Creates a 75-day time limit for the Council to act on a General Plan Amendment that has received approval from the City Planning Commission and the Mayor that deems the amendment approved if not acted upon.	Section 555(e)
CRC 9	Planning	Allows the Council to amend the floor area restriction (FAR) limit to exceed 13:1 via ordinance	Section 104(e) Section 561; Deletes Sections 562-565
CRC 10	Planning	Empowers the Department of City Planning by allowing for the review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of quasi-judicial applications, as prescribed by ordinance.	Section 104(g)
CRC 11	Misc.	Removes the Business Enterprises section of the Charter	Sections 270-275
CRC 14	City Attorney	Bifurcates the office of the City Attorney into a City Attorney and a City Prosecutor	Section 261
CRC 15	Controller	Incorporates Controller's fraud, waste, and abuse duties into the Controller's powers and duties	Section 214
CRC 16	Mayor	Includes clause that indicates that Council's authority to create departments, offices and boards does not limit the Mayor's power described in Section 514 (Transfer of Powers; New amendments)	Section 231
CRC 17	Mayor	Allows the Mayor to introduce Motions to propose an action of the Council during Council meetings; and allows Mayor to attend closed sessions, participate in discussions, but not vote	Section 233
CRC 18	Mayor	Increases Mayor's time limit for temporary transfer of employees to 365 days	Section 242
CRC 19	Mayor	Allows the Mayor, by proclamation, to call a Special Meeting of the Council	Section 342
CRC 20	Mayor	Increases the Mayor's authority to transfer funds without Council approval when funds are not in excess of \$271,460 or 4 percent of the budget of the account receiving the transfer, whichever is greater, but not to exceed \$400K; subjects the monetary limitations to annual adjustments based on CPI	Section 342
CRC 21	Mayor	Allows the Mayor to transfer powers, duties and functions of departments, offices and boards to another department, office or board; Mayor may also direct any department, office or board to perform the powers, duties, and functions of another department; Transfers shall be effectuated by Executive Directive; No Council approval or consideration required	Section 514

Government Efficiency, Planning, City Powers, Neighborhood Councils (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 39	Misc.	Includes language throughout the Charter that strengthens language access requirements to ensure that the City adopts and maintains policies that are accessible to the languages spoken by its residents	Various
CRC 41	Neighborhood Councils	Expands on Neighborhood Councils (NCs) authority by outlining their ability to conduct community outreach via stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with City departments, elected officials, and other NCs	Section 908
CRC 42	Neighborhood Councils	Requires that NCs are allowed to provide public comment via telephone or online teleconferencing at all meetings of the Council and its Committees; Requires that NCs be placed in a separate queue for public comment if a Community Impact Statement has been submitted; extends these provisions to City Boards and Commissions	Section 242; and Section 515 (NEW)
CRC 43	Neighborhood Councils	Expands the Board of Neighborhood Councils from seven to nine commissioners; the two additional commissioners shall be appointed by interested individuals who obtain the approval of a majority of all Neighborhood Councils; authorizes the Board to approve contracts and leases prepared on behalf of NCs or the NC system; requires that all board members complete legally-required training before voting at meetings	Section 902
CRC 44	Neighborhood Councils	Allows NCs to submit statements with respect to legislation proposed to or pending before a governmental agency	Section 254
CRC 45	Neighborhood Councils	Allows NCs via the Chair of the Board of Neighborhood Councils, or another designated Commissioner, to submit to the Mayor their budget requests for the next fiscal year	Section 311
CRC 46	Neighborhood Councils;	Allows NCs to submit questions (via a majority vote) to Mayor questions that could be asked during the interview process for the General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment	Section 903
CRC 47	Misc.	Updates the title of Section 905 to "Initial Implementation of the Plan"	Section 905
CRC 48	Neighborhood Councils;	Changes the title of Section 907 "Early Warning System" to "Advance Notice and Opportunities for Input"	Section 907
CRC 49	Misc.	Capitalizes "Neighborhood Council" throughout the Charter	Various Sections
CRC 50	Neighborhood Councils;	Replaces the word "Citizen" with "Civic" participation throughout Article IX (Neighborhood Councils	Various Sections in Article IX
CRC 51	Neighborhood Councils;	Replaces the word "officers" with Board Members in Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Charter provisions	Section 901
CRC 52	Neighborhood Councils;	Updates the title of Section 904 to "Development and Maintenance of the Neighborhood Council Plan	Section 904
CRC 53	Neighborhood Councils;	Updates certification and bylaws requirements for NCs by removing provision stating that NC membership is open to "everyone who lives; works or owns property in the area"; indicates that "stakeholders" will be further defined by ordinance	Section 906

Government Efficiency, Planning, City Powers, Neighborhood Councils (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 66	Misc.	Requires periodic review of the City Charter every ten years through the creation of a Charter Reform Commission consisting of 13 members	Section 491 to 494 (NEW)

Motions (Subject to Change)

Council File No.	Department	Summary/Description
23-1027-S10	Council	Charter Reform Commission / Chief Legislative Analyst / City Representative / Regional Policies / State and Federal Legislative Program / Los Angeles City Charter / Amendment
23-1027-S9	Charter Reform; Misc.	Charter Reform Commission / Member Appointment Extension / 2024-25 Appointment Cycle / Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.335(b) / Amendment

Budget, Infrastructure and Procurement (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 1	Public Works	Empowers the Director of Public Works to manage the day-to-day operations of the Department of Public Works and all of its bureaus; supports the function of citywide capital improvement planning; excludes the Director of Public Works from Transfer of Powers provisions	Sections 514, 581, 582
CRC 2	Public Works	Establishes a Capital Improvement Program with the Department of Public Works being the lead agency; Capital Improvement Program Plan shall span a minimum of five fiscal years and shall have identified and dedicated funding sources	Section 323 (NEW) Section 583 (NEW)
CRC 3	Public Works	Dedicate a minimum of 2 percent of the City's budget to the Department of Public Works	Section 593
CRC 4	Recreation and Parks	Increase the Department of Recreation and Parks Charter-mandated minimum for the Department's budget to 0.065% of assessed property value	
CRC 5	Recreation and Parks	Allows the Department to sell or transfer land that is not suitable for or determined to be a viable use for public recreation or open space; Approval of the sale or transfer can be done via the Board of Recreation and Park's determination, with the approval of the Council, OR by the Council through the adoption of a Motion.	Section 594
CRC 13	CAO	Redesignates the City Administrative Officer as the Chief Financial Officer, with a ten-year term; defines roles in the development and adoption of Capital Improvement Program, preparation of a mid-term biennial budget report and a multi-year financial plan	Sections 290-293 Section 363 (NEW)
CRC 40	Public Bank	Includes language that references Public Banking provisions, as outlined similarly in State Law	
CRC 59	CAO	Authorizes the creation of a two-year operating budget consisting of two consecutive fiscal years that includes the following associated provisions: creation of a Four-Year Strategic Plan that identifies the City's goals and priorities; shifts the departmental timeline for budget estimates to December 1 instead of January 1; shifts the timeline for the Mayor's submittal of a proposed biennial budget to April 1st instead of April 20th; requires public comment for the proposed biennial budget to occur over at least three separate dates during the Budget Committee's consideration (first day of hearings, final day of hearings, and another of the Committee's choosing) and at least once during the Council's consideration	Section 291 and 292; Section 310 to 315
CRC 60	CAO	Requires departmental performance evaluations with potential proposed adjustments to Departments for the second year of the biennial cycle; requires the CAO to develop a Mid-Term Biennial Budget Report that provides updated expenditures and revenue projections; Requires Council and Mayoral approval of report	Section 316 to Section 319 (NEW)
CRC 61	Contracting/Procurement	Replaces language for the letting of contracts from "lowest responsive and responsible bidder" with "best value" language for competitive bidding and competitive sealed proposals	Section 371
CRC 62	Contracting/Procurement	Removes the ordinance requirement for the letting of contracts pursuant to competitive sealed proposals	Section 371(b)
CRC 63	Contracting/Procurement	Allows exceptions to lowest bid requirements for critical infrastructure and software	Section 371(e)
CRC 64	Contracting/Procurement	Allows contracting authority to cure technical/administrative defects as it relates to violations of campaign contribution related disclosures;	Section 470
CRC 65	Proprietary Leases	Allows the Department of Airports, Harbor Department, and Department of Water and Power are authorized to enter into 66 year leases, subject to the approval of the Council	Section 607

Budget, Infrastructure and Procurement (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description
Motions (Subject to Changes)		
Council File No.	Department	Summary/Description
25-0118	Port of LA	Port of Los Angeles / Public Access Investment Plan / Leasing Policy / Charter Reform
26-0444	Port of LA	Port Master Plan / California Coastal Act / Level I and Level II Coastal Development Permit Framework / Policies and Procedures
23-1027-S11	Procurement	Alternative Project Delivery Methods / City Charter / Potential Ballot Measure / November 2026 General Election
23-1027-S12	Procurement	Small Business Preference / City Charter / Potential Ballot Measure / November 2026 General Election

Elections and Ethics (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 12	Council	Expand the City Council to 25 single-member district, which shall be effective in 2032 upon the adoption of the final redistricting plan	Sections 241 and 487
CRC 22	Clerk; Elections	Creates a Ranked Choice Voting system that replaces the current electoral runoff system; effective in 2032	Section 428 (NEW)
CRC 23	Clerk; Elections	Lowers the voting age to 16 and allows these individuals to vote in elections for City offices and members of the Board of Education	Section 408
CRC 24	Clerk; Elections	Changes ballot access requirements by extending filing deadlines/collection timeframes; lowers the signature threshold for nominating petitions to 350 registered voters (previously 500)	Section 421-422
CRC 25	Clerk	Extends the appointment window of commissioners from 45 days to 60 days when a vacancy occurs on a commission/board; prohibits appointing authority from requiring prospective appointees to sign a letter of resignation	Section 502
CRC 26	Ethics Commission	Creates an Inspector General position for the Ethics Commission that has the power to audit and investigate City officials and departments	Section 713 (NEW)
CRC 27	Ethics Commission	Prohibits a member of the Ethics Commission and the Executive Director from running for City office of LAUSD Board office for at least five years following the expiration of the term of office	Section 700
CRC 28	Ethics Commission	Authorizes the Ethics Commission to retain its own general counsel, attorneys, and legal support staff that is independent from the City Attorney	Section 708
CRC 29	Ethics Commission	Increases the Ethics Commission's annual minimum appropriation to \$10 million	Section 711
CRC 30	Ethics	Allows the Council to suspend any elected officer by a three-fourths vote if charges have been filed and the officer is undergoing felony criminal proceedings, or criminal misdemeanor proceedings related to a violation of official duties; A member of the Council must introduce a Resolution with stated findings of misconduct and shall be heard and voted upon within seven calendar days of its introduction; No changes to compensation shall be made and the suspension will end if the officer is acquitted	Section 211
CRC 31	Ethics	If a Councilmember is suspended, the Council may appoint a person as a non-voting manager of the office of the suspended member; a Motion needs to be introduced and heard within seven calendar days regarding the appointment	Section 211.1 (NEW)
CRC 32	Ethics	Increases the monetary penalty for an Ethics violation to the greater of \$15,000 for each violation or three times the amount for which the person improperly reported or contributed; adjusts the maximum penalty according to CPI; prohibits the use of campaign funds to pay for violations	Section 706
CRC 33	Ethics	Authorizes the Ethics Commission to submit ballot measures within their subject matter jurisdiction directly to the voters at the next scheduled City election; any ballot measure shall be presented to the Council which shall hold a public hearing and propose amendments, but shall not directly block Ethics Commission's authority to place measures on the ballot	Section 703
CRC 34	Ethics	Aligns the City's contribution limits with LAUSD adjusted timelines	Section 470

Elections and Ethics (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 35	Ethics	Removes language referencing matching public funds and adds language that discusses public campaign funding in order to more broadly permit additional public financing models	Section 471
CRC 36	City Clerk; Elections	Requires that a special election be called when a vacancy in City offices occur and the vacancy occurs more than one year before the expiration of the term of office; Special election must be held within 180 days of the vacancy	Section 409
CRC 37	Redistricting	Authorizes the Independent Redistricting Commission to hire separate legal counsel; Includes an annual minimum budget allocation of \$10M for the Independent Redistricting Commission	Sect. 486 amd 488
CRC 38	LAUSD	Removes several provisions in Section 803 as its relates to LAUSD and adds these references to the Municipal Code	Section 803

Motions (Subject to Change)

Council File No.	Department	Summary/Description
N/A	N/A	N/A

Personnel, Police and Misc. (Subject to Change)

Recommendation #	Department	Description	Charter Section
CRC 54	Police Department	Includes a provision that states that the authority of the Board of Police Commissioners to issue instructions to the Chief of Police shall not supersede the authority of the Council to adopt ordinances governing the policies of the Chief and the Police Department; Notes that any ordinances adopted by the Council shall supersede the Board of Police Commissioners' authority	Section 571
CRC 55	Police Department	Requires the Police Department to purchase liability insurance for each police officers; Coverage cannot be less than \$1M and cost of insurance should not exceed \$50 per month; Cost of insurance shall be adjusted by CPI; Indicates that if an officer is found liable, any payments to the opposing party shall be paid out using the insurance payout first before paying from the General Fund	Section 577 (NEW)
CRC 56	Police Department	Includes a new section in Charter Section 245 that allows the Council veto actions of the Board of Police Commissioners; Vetos will be sent back to the Board of Police Commissioners for their consideration, and may concur with the Council, override the Council's veto, or modify the Board's original action; If the Board overrides the Council's action, the action shall be transmitted to the Council and the Council shall have the same authority to act on a matter as that originally held by the Board	Section 245 (f) (NEW)
CRC 57	Police Department	Includes a provision in Section 1070 (Rights and Due Process Procedures) that allows the Council to consider a personnel determination made by the Police Board of Rights and have the ability to veto and remand the matter back to the Board of Rights for reconsideration; the Board of Rights shall have 30 days to reconsider the action and determine whether to override the Council; if the Council action is overridden, the Council shall consider the override and shall have the same authority to act on the matter as that originally held by the Board of Rights	Section 1070 (g) (NEW)
CRC 58	Police Department	Includes language that requires the Chief of Police to ensure that the Police Departments supports and protects the constitutional rights of all persons, specifically their rights to assemble and protest; includes a provision that states that the Chief of Police can directly remove officers if they have engaged in misconduct	Section 574

Motions (Subject to Change)

Council File No.	Department	Summary/Description
26-0426-S1	Port of LA	Workforce Impact Report (WIR) / Economic and Employment Impacts / Port of Los Angeles Leasing Policy
26-0426-S2	Port of LA	Workforce Impact Report (WIR) / Port of Los Angeles / Approval Processes / Proposed Procedures / Framework
26-0426	Personnel; Econ Dev; Misc	Workforce Impact Report (WIR) / Labor Research Center / Operational Framework City Charter
23-1027-S1	Personnel	Charter Reform / Employment Provisions / Civil Service Process
24-0877	Police Personnel	Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) / Chief of Police / Authorization to Terminate / LAPD Discipline System