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The Ballot Simplification Committee hereby submits its summary of eight measures appearing on the City's November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. The Committee met on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 and Tuesday, August 11th, 2026. The Committee has prepared and submits a ballot digest for the following measures:

- Property Transfer Tax Exemption for Victims of January 2025 Fire Disaster – Proposition.
- City Planning Department – Charter Amendment.
- City Ethics, Elections, and Governance – Charter Amendment.
- Campaign Finance Rules Related to Board of Education Election – Charter Amendment.
- City Airports, Harbor, and Water and Power Departments – Charter Amendment.
- City Department of Recreations and Parks Budget – Charter Amendment.
- Los Angeles Fire Department Through a One-Half Percent Sales Tax – Initiative Ordinance.
- City Infrastructure, Budget, Finance, and Contracting – Charter Amendment.



Adrienne Shropshire
Appointed by the Council President

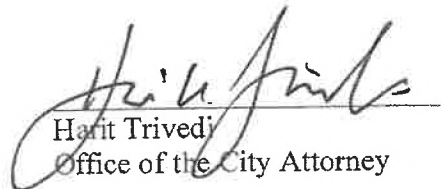


Belen Vargas
Appointed by the Council President

Alejandra Velazquez
Appointed by the Mayor



Steve Luu
Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst



Harit Trivedi
Office of the City Attorney

TITLE:

PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX EXEMPTION FOR VICTIMS OF JANUARY 2025 FIRE DISASTER.

THE ISSUE:

Should an ordinance be adopted to provide a one-time exemption from the City's Homelessness and Housing Solutions Tax (Proposition ULA) for residential properties damaged or destroyed in the Palisades Fire and sold within five years from the date the Fire began?

THE SITUATION:

In 2022, voters approved Proposition ULA, a special documentary transfer tax on sales of property over \$5 million (as adjusted for inflation) to fund affordable housing and tenant assistance programs. The Palisades Fire, which began on January 7, 2025, damaged or destroyed many residential properties, including homes and residential units. Fire damaged properties that have been sold or will be sold for over \$5 million (as adjusted for inflation) would be subject to the Proposition ULA tax.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would exempt sales of residential properties over \$5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire from the Proposition ULA tax. If a damaged or destroyed residential property is sold between January 7, 2025 and January 6, 2030 by the owner on the date the Fire began, the sale would qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want sales of residential properties over \$5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire to qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax if sold within five years from the date the Fire began.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want sales of residential properties over \$5 million (as adjusted for inflation) that were damaged or destroyed by the Palisades Fire to qualify for a one-time refund or exemption from the Proposition ULA tax if sold within five years from the date the Fire began.

TITLE:
CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

THE ISSUE:

Should the City Charter be amended to: establish a Neighborhood Appeals Commission to replace Area Planning Commissions; change how certain planning decisions are reviewed and approved; clarify the City Planning Department's authority for quasi-judicial applications; allow changes to floor area regulations by ordinance; and make related changes?

THE SITUATION:

The Charter establishes the powers and duties of key decisionmakers in planning and land use, including the City Planning Department, City Planning and Area Planning Commissions, Director of Planning, Office of Zoning Administration, City Council and Mayor.

THE PROPOSAL:

The measure would:

- Replace the seven Area Planning Commissions with a single Neighborhood Appeals Commission (NAC) with at least seven members;
- Authorize the newly-formed NAC with the power to hear administrative appeals and consider those appeals anew without deference to earlier decisionmakers, and decide other matters as provided by ordinance;
- Create additional procedural and timeline requirements for the City Council to assert jurisdiction in planning and land use matters;
- Specify in the Charter that the City Planning Department is responsible for quasi-judicial review as performed by designated City Planning Department staff authorized by ordinance, and as appointed by the Director of Planning;
- Remove sections related to certain land use approvals and delegated legislative authority;
- Provide that General Plan Amendments are approved if the City Council does not act within 75 days after earlier approvals; and
- Allow the City Council to change the current Floor Area Restriction by ordinance.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to amend the Charter with the changes above regarding the City Planning Department.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to amend the Charter with the changes above regarding the City Planning Department.

TITLE:

CITY ETHICS, ELECTIONS, AND GOVERNANCE.

THE ISSUE:

Should the City Charter be amended to: strengthen the independence of the Police Department Inspector General and Fire Department Independent Assessor; prohibit Ethics Commissioners from running for certain elected offices for five years after leaving office; increase monetary penalties for campaign finance violations; require the City Council to meet at least weekly rather than the currently required three days per week; increase the number of signatures needed for referendum petitions; and make other changes related to ethics, elections and government?

THE SITUATION:

The City Charter sets the structures, powers and responsibilities of City government.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would make the following changes:

- Prohibit the Executive Director and Commissioners of the Ethics Commission from running for City or Los Angeles Board of Education offices for five years after leaving their positions;
- Increase the maximum monetary penalty for campaign finance violations to the greater of \$15,000 (adjusted annually for inflation), or three times the amount improperly reported or contributed, for each violation;
- Increase the number of signatures required for referendum petitions from 10 percent to 15 percent of the votes cast in the last Mayoral election;
- Strengthen the independence of the Police Department Inspector General and Fire Department Independent Assessor to open and conduct investigations or audits;
- Require the City Council to meet at least weekly rather than three days per week and make related changes to the timing requirements for veto of board actions;
- Clarify language regarding the transfer of powers for the Police Department and Fire Department; and
- Allow the definition of a Neighborhood Council stakeholder to be defined by ordinance.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding ethics, elections, and governance.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding ethics, elections, and governance.

TITLE:

CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES RELATED TO BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS.

THE ISSUE:

Should the Los Angeles City Charter be amended to clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education elections and allow for changes by ordinance?

THE SITUATION:

The Charter has campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates. The Charter also has campaign finance rules for Mayoral candidates. The two sets of rules are very similar, but are in different parts of the Charter.

THE PROPOSAL:

The measure would remove repetitive language and apply the same campaign finance rules to Board of Education candidates that apply to Mayoral candidates with certain exceptions. This measure would also allow the City Council to adopt additional changes by ordinance.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to remove repetitive language from the Charter, clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates, and allow the City Council to adopt additional changes by ordinance.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to remove repetitive language from the Charter, clarify the campaign finance rules for Board of Education candidates, or allow the City Council to adopt additional changes by ordinance.

TITLE:

CITY AIRPORTS, HARBOR, AND WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENTS.

THE ISSUE:

Should the City Charter be amended to: require the Harbor Department to allocate funds for waterfront public access projects; require disclosure of workforce impacts for certain leases and agreements at the Port of Los Angeles; increase maximum terms for certain leases; and change the composition requirement for the Airport Commission?

THE SITUATION:

The Charter allows City Council to approve leases of up to 50 years for the Airports Department (LAWA) and Department of Water and Power (DWP) and up to 66 years for the Harbor Department.

The Charter establishes a seven-member Board of Airport Commissioners with one member from the area surrounding Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and one member from the area surrounding Van Nuys Airport (VNY).

The Charter gives the Board of Harbor Commissioners authority to manage the Harbor District. State law requires Coastal Development Permits for many harbor development projects.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would:

- Allow City Council to authorize leases up to 66 years for LAWA and DWP;
- Require three members of the Board of Airport Commissioners to be from the area surrounding LAX and two from the area surrounding VNY;
- Require the Harbor Department to use some of its operating income for waterfront public access projects; and
- Require applicants for certain proposed leases, and for developments that require Coastal Development Permits, at the Port of Los Angeles to disclose the impacts on employment levels associated with the proposed project.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding the City's Airports, Harbor, and Water and Power departments.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding the City's Airports, Harbor, and Water and Power departments.

TITLE:

CITY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS BUDGET.

THE ISSUE:

Should the City Charter be amended to increase the minimum budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks, phased in over ten years until it is double the current minimum budget allocation, with exceptions for fiscal emergencies?

THE SITUATION:

The Charter establishes a minimum budget for Recreation and Parks from the General Fund. That minimum budget is an amount equal to 0.0325% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes. The current Charter allocation percentage rate and the resulting budget allocation has not kept pace with the growing population, expanding park system, and increasing labor costs. This has contributed to reductions in Recreation and Parks services.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would increase the minimum amount of General Fund money provided to Recreation and Parks. The percentage would increase from 0.0325% to 0.065% of the assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes, phased in over ten years. This measure would not create a new tax or generate additional City revenue. It would require more General Fund money to be provided to Recreation and Parks.

This increased funding would help address Recreation and Parks service levels, park equity gaps, and allow Recreation and Parks to cover the cost of operations and programs.

During a declared fiscal emergency, the City Council could reduce this increased funding by a certain amount. However, Recreation and Parks' minimum budget allocation could not be reduced below the current level of 0.0325% of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to increase the minimum budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks, phased in over ten years, with exceptions for fiscal emergencies.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to increase the minimum budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks.

TITLE:

FUNDING FOR THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES TAX.

THE ISSUE:

Should an ordinance be adopted to establish a one-half percent (0.5%) sales tax in the City of Los Angeles to provide additional funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department, including for staffing, vehicles and equipment, fire stations, brush clearance, and other Fire Department needs? The tax would raise about \$345 million each year and require annual audits and a Citizens' Oversight Committee.

THE SITUATION:

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) receives funding each year through the City's budget process. Nearly all that funding is through the City's General Fund, which has limited resources and must support the majority of City departments while balancing a wide range of competing priorities.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure qualified for the ballot through a citizen-sponsored initiative petition. This measure would establish a 0.5% sales tax that would generate additional annual revenue dedicated to support the LAFD. Revenues from the tax would be used for, but not be limited to:

- firefighter, paramedic, and civilian staffing;
- fire trucks, ambulances, helicopters, equipment, and emergency communication systems;
- brush clearance and wildfire preparedness; and
- maintenance, replacement, and construction of fire stations and emergency medical service facilities.

This measure would establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure that revenues from the tax are spent in accordance with the ordinance. The tax can only be imposed if the City maintains a minimum level of General Fund spending for the LAFD, based on historical funding levels.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want to establish a 0.5% sales tax to provide additional funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want to establish a 0.5% sales tax to provide additional funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

TITLE:

CITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND CONTRACTING.

THE ISSUE:

Should the City Charter be amended to: establish a capital infrastructure plan and two-year budget cycle for the City; increase the authority of the Director of Public Works (Director) and allow for the elimination of or changes to the Board of Public Works (Board); remove restrictions prohibiting the City from engaging in business enterprises and mortgaging City-owned property; and change certain contracting rules and procedures?

THE SITUATION:

The Charter currently: establishes a one-year budget cycle; prohibits the City from mortgaging its property; restricts conducting commercial businesses; provides that the Department of Public Works is managed by a full-time Board and assisted by a Director; does not require a capital infrastructure plan; and regulates the award of contracts.

THE PROPOSAL:

This measure would:

- Establish a two-year budget cycle which can be adjusted by ordinance;
- Remove restrictions on the City's ability to engage in commercial businesses or mortgage City-owned property;
- Expand the Director's authority to administer the Department of Public Works, and allow changes to or elimination of the Board, by ordinance;
- Require the City to establish a capital infrastructure plan;
- Exempt certain critical infrastructure projects from the City's competitive bidding contracting rules; and
- Allow the City by ordinance to waive technical or administrative errors, and allow bidders to correct other errors or omissions, on ethics forms before contract bids are evaluated.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

You want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding City infrastructure, budget, finance, and contracting.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

You do not want the Charter to be amended to make the changes described above regarding City infrastructure, budget, finance, and contracting.