

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: October 14, 2026

TO: Honorable Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Charter Review

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *SMT*
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 26-1238
Assignment No. 26-10-0731

SUBJECT: Summary of Charter Amendments (1999-2026)

SUMMARY

On September 1, 2026, Motion (McOsker – Nazarian, CF 26-1238), was introduced instructing the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), the City Clerk, the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and the City Attorney to report on various matters relating to the City Charter. The Motion requests a report concerning the history of significant amendments to the Charter, and a timeline and summary of significant Charter amendments for the initial meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Charter Review. This report summarizes all Charter Amendments presented to voters since 1999 and their outcome at the election.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council note and file this report, inasmuch as it submitted for informational purposes.

BACKGROUND

The City Charter is the City's principal governing document. As a charter city under Article XI, Section 5 of the California Constitution, the City exercises authority over its municipal affairs in accordance with its Charter, subject only to the limitations imposed by the Charter itself and by applicable state and federal law. Much like a constitution, the Charter establishes the City's elected offices and defines their respective powers and duties. It also creates the City's departments, boards and commissions, and creates the framework governing the City's finances, elections, ethics, personnel, and pension and retirement systems. Because any amendment to the Charter requires the approval of a majority of the City's voters, changes to the structure, authority, management, or representation of City government can be made only during an election in which a governing body is elected.

Prior to the adoption of the last major Charter reform in 1999, the City was governed by a Charter approved by voters in 1924, which took effect on July 1, 1925. The original Charter established a Mayor-Council-Commission form of government, under which executive authority was distributed among the Mayor, the City Council, and a number of citizen Commissions responsible for overseeing individual City departments. Over the next seven decades, the 1925 Charter was amended multiple times. As a result, it accumulated a considerable body of detailed and administrative provisions.

In the late 1990s, growing concern regarding the accountability and responsiveness of City government prompted a renewed effort to revise the Charter. Two separate bodies were created for this purpose: an Elected Charter Reform Commission, chosen by the voters in 1997, and an

Appointed Charter Reform Commission, established by the City Council. Although the two Commissions initially developed independent proposals, they ultimately joined their recommendations into a single, unified Charter reform proposal. On June 8, 1999, the voters approved that document, which represented the first comprehensive revision of the City's governing framework in 74 years. The new Charter became operative on July 1, 2000.

The 1999 Charter effected a substantial restructuring of City government. Among its reforms, it strengthened the executive authority of the Mayor, including the authority to remove most department general managers. It also streamlined the Charter by relocating many detailed provisions to the Administrative Code. In addition, it expanded opportunities for public participation by establishing a citywide system of Neighborhood Councils and a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, together with Area Planning Commissions to provide communities a greater role in local land use decisions.

Because the 1999 Charter superseded the 1925 Charter in its entirety, amendments adopted before 1999 apply to a document that is no longer in effect. Accordingly, this report begins with the first amendments to the current Charter, approved by voters on April 10, 2001, and includes all voter-approved amendments through the General Municipal Election of November 5, 2024.

The following tables present all 37 voter-approved amendments to the City Charter since 2001, organized by Charter Article I through Article XI and listed in chronological order within each article. For each amendment, the tables identify the amendment title, the election date, the sections amended, the change made, the reason for the change, the level of voter approval, and any other articles affected by the same amendment. An amendment that changed provisions in more than one article appears in the table for each article it affected. Amendments considered significant for purposes of this report are marked with an asterisk (*) and cross-referenced to Appendix A which provides a detailed description of each significant amendment.

Following the table for Article XI, a separate table lists proposed Charter amendments that were rejected by voters. Further, Appendix B presents the proposed amendments on the November 2026 ballot.

Article I Incorporation and Powers

Article I establishes the City of Los Angeles as a charter city. It defines the City's municipal powers and the limits on those powers. It also covers the City's relationship with other governmental entities, the delivery of City services, title to City property, and the definitions used throughout the Charter. The Article consists of General Provisions (§§100–107) and Transition Provisions (§§108–122), which governed the change from the former Charter to the current Charter, operative July 1, 2000.

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment II*	11-5-24	§104	Clarified that departments may engage in revenue-generating concessions, added gender identity and expression to City employment non-discrimination protections, and clarified Airport Commission authority.	To formalize current practices without granting authority to other departments.	73 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.III, Art.V, Art.VI, Art.X (see App. A)

Article II Officers of the City

The City's leadership structure is defined in Article II, which assigns powers and duties to each elected and appointed officer. After a set of General Provisions Related to Officers (§§200–222), the Article addresses the Mayor under the Executive Branch (§§230–234) and the City Council under the Legislative Branch (§§240–254). Separate headings follow for the Controller (§§260–266), the City Attorney (§§270–275), the City Clerk (§§280–281), and the Office of the City Administrative Officer (§§290–293), formerly listed as the Office of Administrative and Research Services.

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Charter Amendment/ Measure R*	11-7-06	§206	Extended Council term limits to three terms and adopted lobbying and ethics reforms.	To reduce turnover, preserve experience, and to create lobbying and ethics reform to limit conflicts of interest.	59 percent Passed	Art.IV, Art.V (see App. A)
Amendment 1*	3-3-15	§§204, 205, 206	Moved City elections to June and November of even-numbered years starting in 2020.	To align City elections with state and federal elections to increase voter turnout.	78 percent Passed	Art.IV, Art. VIII (see App. A)
Amendment E	11-6-18	§204	Moved the City primary from June to March of even- numbered years.	To align the City's primary election with the State's March primary.	72 percent Passed	Art.IV, Art. VIII

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment DD*	11-5-24	§§204, 205, 245, 252, 272, 273, 281	Created an independent Commission to redraw City Council districts.	To create an impartial, independent commission and process to redraw City Council boundaries.	74 percent Passed	Art.IV, Art.V, Art.VII (see App. A)
Amendment HH*	11-5-24	§§212, 244, 261, 271	Changed several City governance, appointment and election provisions.	To define and further clarify the powers and duties of City officers.	81 percent Passed	Art.IV, Art.V, Art.VI, Art. XI (see App. A)
Amendment II*	11-5-24	§§201, 210, 233, 290–293	Made various changes and clarifications to City administration and operations.	To formalize current practices without granting authority to other departments and update protection policies.	73 percent Passed	Art.I, Art.III, Art.V, Art.VI, Art.X (see App. A)

Article III – Finance, Budget and Contracts

Article III governs the City's financial administration. It defines the annual budget process, taxation, expenditures, debt, fund transfers and the award of City contracts. The Article is organized into twelve subdivisions: Office of Finance (§§300–303); General Budget (§§310–315); Expenditures (§320); Debt (§325); Taxation (§§330–332); Transfers (§§340–344); Claims (§350); Miscellaneous Finance (§§360–362); Contracts (§§370–378); Purchases (§380); Sales (§385); and Franchises (§390).

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment J*	3-8-11	§344	Required DWP to submit its preliminary budget to the City Council.	To allow the Council to consider the impacts of DWP's budget while reviewing the City budget.	82 percent Passed	Art.VI (see App. A)
Amendment P	3-8-11	§302	Created an Emergency Reserve Account of at least 2.75 percent of General Fund receipts, a Contingency Reserve Account, and a Budget Stabilization Fund.	To set aside City reserves for emergencies and for expenses and revenue shortfalls not anticipated in the budget.	66 percent Passed	None

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment BB*	6-7-22	§371(a)	Allowed the City to give bid preference to businesses located in the City when awarding competitive City contracts	To support local businesses and keep more City contracting opportunities within Los Angeles.	68 percent Passed	None (see App. A)
Amendment II*	11-5-24	§§311, 320, 342, 343	Clarified that departments may engage in revenue-generating concessions, added gender identity and expression to City employment nondiscrimination protections, and clarified Airport Commissions authority.	To formalize current practices without granting authority to other departments and modernize protection policies.	73 percent Passed	Art.I, Art.II, Art.V, Art.VI, Art.X (see App. A)

Article IV Elections

Article IV governs the conduct of municipal elections. It prescribes the schedules, the recall of elected officials, the initiative and referendum processes, campaign finance regulation, and the redistricting of City Council districts. The Article is organized into seven subdivisions: General Provisions Relating to Elections (§§400–412); Primary Nominating and General Municipal Elections (§§420–427); Recall (§§430–440); Initiative (§§450–455); Referendum (§§460–464); Campaign Finance (§§470–471); and the City of Los Angeles Independent Redistricting Commission (§§480–490), which was added by Charter Amendment DD in 2024.

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment R	3-5-02	§§401, 404, 421, 422	Revised City election dates and related procedures.	To provide more time between City elections and related deadlines.	56 percent Passed	None
Amendment B	5-17-05	§435	Revised vote-counting procedures for recall elections.	To avoid legal challenges similar to those involving state law and prevent delays in elections and results.	52 percent Passed	None

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Charter Amendment/ Measure R*	11-7-06	§470(c) (11)	Restricted campaign contributions by City lobbyists and revised independent-expenditure requirements.	To restrict lobbyist campaign contributions and revise disclosure requirements for independent expenditures.	59 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.V (see App. A)
Amendment H	3-8-11	§§470, 471	Restricted campaign activity by certain City contract bidders and modified campaign financing provisions.	To restrict the influence of campaign contributions by those seeking city contracts.	75 percent Passed	Art.VI
Amendment N	3-8-11	§470	Removed three campaign-finance provisions found unconstitutional by the courts.	To bring the City's campaign-finance laws into compliance with court decisions and reduce potential legal liability to the City.	71 percent Passed	Art.VIII
Amendment 1*	3-3-15	§§401-404, 406, 409, 410, 412, 424, 426, 432, 452, 453, 462	Moved City elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal elections.	To align City elections with state and federal elections to increase voter turnout.	77 percent Passed	Art.II, Art. VIII (see App. A)
Amendment 2*	3-3-15	§§401–404, 406, 410, 412, 424, 426, 432	Moved LAUSD Board of Education elections to even-numbered years.	To align LAUSD Board elections with federal, state, and City elections and increase voter turnout.	76 percent Passed	Art.VIII (see App. A)
Amendment E	11-6-18	§§401, 409, 410, 433, 452, 454	Moved the City primary from June to March of even-numbered years.	To align the City's primary election with the State's March primary.	72 percent passed	Art.II, Art.VIII
Amendment EE	11-6-18	§§401, 410, 433, 452, 454	Moved the LAUSD Board primary from June to March of even-numbered years.	To align the LAUSD Board primary to the state's March primary.	75 percent Passed	Art.VIII

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment DD*	11-5-24	§§480–490	Created an independent Commission to redraw City Council districts.	To create an impartial, independent commission and process to redraw City Council boundaries.	74 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.V, Art.VII (see App. A)
Amendment HH*	11-5-24	§§401, 451, 452, 462	Changed several City governance, appointment and election provisions.	To delete obsolete election-date language, clarify initiative signature timing, add a 30-day impact review for proposed initiatives.	81 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.V, Art.VI, Art. XI (see App. A)

Article V Departments

Article V establishes the City's principal operating departments. It defines their organization and administration, including the role of their governing Commissions and General Managers. The Article is organized into eight subdivisions: General Provisions Related to Departments (§§500–514); Fire Department (§§520–524); Library Department (§§530–535); Personnel Department (§§540–542); City Planning Department (§§550–566); Police Department (§§570–576); Public Works Department (§§580–582); and Recreation and Parks Department (§§590–598).

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Charter Amendment/ Measure R*	11-7-06	§501(d)	Prohibits registered City lobbyists from serving as City Commissioners.	To limit the influence of lobbyists on City government.	59 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV (see App. A)
Amendment A	3-3-09	§§523, 524	Established an Independent Assessor for the Fire Department.	To provide independent oversight of the Fire Department, and its misconduct procedures.	53 percent Passed	None
Amendment L*	3-8-11	§531	Increased required City funding for the Library Department.	To support Library programs without requiring a new tax.	63 percent Passed	None (see App. A)

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment DD*	11-5-24	§§502, 514	Created an Independent Redistricting Commission; in Article V, sets how its members are removed and barred transferring its powers to other departments.	To keep the new redistricting Commission independent of the Mayor and Council.	74 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV, Art.VII (see App. A)
Amendment HH*	11-5-24	§502	Required financial disclosures for Commission appointees, expanded City audit and subpoena powers, allowed temporary General Managers, and required review of proposed ballot initiatives.	To strengthen financial oversight, accountability, and administrative procedures in City government.	81 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV, Art.VI, Art. XI (see App. A)
Amendment II*	11-5-24	§§508, 561, 571, 594, 598	Clarified that departments may engage in revenue-generating concessions, added gender identity and expression to City employment nondiscrimination protections, and clarified Airport Commission authority.	To formalize current practices without granting authority to other departments and update employee protection policies.	73 percent Passed	Art.I, Art.II, Art.III, Art. VI, Art.X (see App. A)

Article VI Proprietary Departments

Article VI governs the City's three proprietary departments: the department of Airports, the Harbor Department and the Department of Water and Power. Unlike other City departments, these three generate their own revenues from airport, port and utility operations, and the Charter keeps those revenues in separate funds under each department's control. Each department is run by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Board of Airport Commissioners has seven members, and the Board of Harbor Commissioners and Board of Water and Power Commissioners each have five appointees. The general provisions for proprietary departments (§§600–610) give these boards possession, management, and control of their departments' property and funds. They also allow the boards to appoint general managers; grant franchises, leases and permits; and issue revenue bonds. Provisions specific to each department are as follows: the Department of Airports (§§630–637), the Harbor Department (§§650–657), and the Department of Water and Power (§§670–684). The Water and Power sections include the Office of Public Accountability, created by voters in 2011 to provide independent analysis of DWP rates.

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment H	3-8-11	§609(e)	Limited gifts, campaign contributions, and fundraising by bond-underwriting firms.	To limit political influence by firms seeking City bond contracts.	74 percent Passed	Art.IV
Amendment I*	3-8-11	§683	Established the Office of Public Accountability and required a Ratepayer Advocate for the Department of Water and Power (DWP).	To provide independent analysis of DWP actions related to water and electricity rates.	78 percent Passed	None (see App. A)
Amendment J*	3-8-11	§684	Required DWP to submit its preliminary budget to the City Council	To allow the Council to consider the impacts of DWP's budget while reviewing the City budget.	82 percent Passed	Art.III (see App. A)
Amendment P	3-7-17	§607	Increased the maximum term of Harbor Department leases and similar agreements from 50 to 66 years.	To make the Charter consistent with changes to State law allowing terms of up to 66 years.	68 percent Passed	None

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment HH*	11-5-24	§§650, 683	Required at least one Harbor Commissioner from San Pedro, and one from Wilmington (§650), and allowed the Mayor to appoint a temporary Office of Public Accountability director during a vacancy (§683)	To add Harbor-area representation on the Harbor Commission and establish a procedure for filling a vacancy in the Office of Public Accountability.	81 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV, Art.V, Art.XI (see App. A)
Amendment II*	11-5-24	§§604, 609, 632, 637	Updated proprietary department titles, revenue bond signatures, and Airport Commission authority.	To clarify administration, permit electronic bond signatures, and update airport authority and title.	73 percent Passed	Art.I, Art.II, Art.III, Art.V, Art.X (see App. A)

Article VII City Ethics Commission; Special Prosecutor

Article VII establishes the City Ethics Commission, an independent body that administers and enforces the City's ethics laws. These include standards on conflicts of interest, campaign finance, lobbying, and financial disclosure by City officials. The Commission has five part-time members. The Mayor, City Attorney, Controller, Council President, and Council President Pro Tempore each appoint one member, subject to confirmation by the City Council. Members serve staggered five-year terms and cannot be reappointed after a full term. The Article gives the Commission authority to adopt regulations, issue advice and opinions, investigate possible violations, and impose penalties. It also provides for a special prosecutor to handle certain cases.

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment L	3-6-07	§700	Restricted Ethics Commissioners from running for certain City or LAUSD offices until two years after leaving the Commission.	To reduce conflicts of interest between serving on the Ethics Commission and seeking elected office.	68 percent Passed	Art.VIII
Amendment DD*	11-5-24	§702 (m)	Added Ethics Commission responsibilities related to the Independent Redistricting Commission.	To create an impartial, independent commission and process to redraw City Council boundaries.	74 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV, Art.V (see App. A)

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment ER*	11-5-24	§§700, 701, 703, 706, 708, 710, 711	Guaranteed a minimum budget, increased control over staffing and spending, allowed outside counsel, restricted Commissioner eligibility, required hearings on Commission proposals, and raised maximum penalties from \$5,000 to \$15,000.	To reduce the Ethics Commission's dependence on other City officials and strengthen its enforcement authority and operational independence.	75 percent Passed	Art.X (see App. A)

Article VIII Board of Education

Although the Los Angeles Unified School District is a separate legal entity, the City Charter governs key features of its Board of Education. Article VIII sets the Board's composition, elections, terms of office, compensation and campaign finance rules (§§800–806). A second group of sections (§§810–819) creates the Los Angeles Unified School District Independent Redistricting Commission, added by Charter Amendment LL in 2024.

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Article)
Amendment L	3-6-07	§§802, 803, 804	Established a three term limit, campaign-finance rules, and a compensation review process for LAUSD Board members.	To address the lack of term limits and campaign-finance controls for LAUSD Board elections and establish independent review of Board compensation.	67 percent Passed	Art.VII
Amendment N	3-8-11	§803	Repealed a §803 contribution limit on independent, non-candidate-controlled groups in LAUSD elections that courts found unconstitutional.	To comply with court decisions and avoid liability to the City.	71 percent Passed	Art.IV

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Article)
Amendment 1*	3-3-15	§§802, 806	Revised Board of Education election and term provisions to coordinate with the transition of City elections to even-numbered years.	To coordinate Board of Education terms with the new City election schedule.	77 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV (see App. A)
Amendment 2*	3-3-15	§§802, 806	Moved LAUSD Board elections to even-numbered years and established transitional terms for members elected in 2015 and 2017.	To align LAUSD Board elections with federal, state, and City elections and increase voter participation.	76 percent Passed	Art.IV (see App. A)
Amendment E	11-6-18	§§802, 803	Revised LAUSD redistricting and campaign-finance filing deadlines.	To coordinate LAUSD election procedures with the City's new March primary schedule.	72 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV
Amendment EE	11-6-18	§§802, 803	Moved the LAUSD primary election to the March statewide primary and made related changes to Board election procedures and deadlines.	To align LAUSD primary elections with statewide elections and comply with the new election schedule.	76 percent Passed	Art.IV
Amendment LL*	11-5-24	§§802, 806, 810–819	Created an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw LAUSD Board district boundaries to replace the previous City-appointed process.	To remove elected officials from control of LAUSD redistricting and create an independent, transparent process for drawing Board of Education districts.	76 percent Passed	None (see App. A)

Article IX Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Article IX establishes a citywide system of Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, which supports them. As stated in §900, the purpose is to promote public participation in government and make City government more responsive to local needs. Neighborhood Councils are advisory bodies. They review and comment on City matters affecting their communities, submit annual budget priorities to the Mayor and Council, and monitor the delivery of City services. The Department, overseen by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, certifies the Neighborhood Councils and helps them operate. The Article also requires an early warning system so that Neighborhood Councils are notified of pending City decisions in time to respond.

Up until 2024, no Amendments in Article IX were proposed.

Article X Employment Provisions

City employment is governed by Article X. The majority of the Article is devoted to the Civil Service system (§§1000–1024), which covers classification, examinations, hiring, probation, layoffs and discharge. The remaining headings set out specific rules for Discipline for Physicians and Psychologists (§1040), Employment in the City Attorney's Office (§1050), and Disciplinary Procedures for the Fire Department (§1060) and the Police Department (§1070).

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment 1	4-10-01	§1070	Revised the rights and due-process procedures for disciplining LAPD officers, including Board of Rights hearing rules.	To improve and clarify LAPD's disciplinary procedures and address limitations that would hinder misconduct investigations.	76 percent Passed	None
Amendment Q	3-8-11	§§1001, 1005, 1010, 1011, 1013	Updated civil service rules, including exempting Fire Deputy Chiefs, limiting applicant testing pools, changing certification requirements, standardizing police probation, and extending emergency appointments to one year.	To give the City greater flexibility in hiring, testing, probation, and temporary staffing while updating civil-service rules.	71 percent Passed	Art.XI
Amendment C*	5-16-17	§1070(h)	Allowed LAPD officers facing discipline to choose an all-civilian Board of Rights.	To increase civilian participation and public accountability in LAPD disciplinary hearings	57 percent Passed	None (see App. A)

Amendment	Election Date	Section Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment ER*	11-5-24	§1001	Added Ethics Commission positions to the list of positions exempt from the classified civil service system.	To give the Ethics Commission greater independence and control over its staffing.	75 percent Passed	Art.VII (see App. A)
Amendment II*	11-5-24	§§1001, 1007, 1010	Updated the City Administrative Officer's title, allowed online exam notices, and allow several departments to share one eligibility list.	To update civil service procedures.	73 percent Passed	Art.I, Art.II, Art.III, Art.V, Art.VI (see App. A)

Article XI Pension and Retirement Systems

The final article of the Charter covers the City's three retirement systems: their governance, funding, and administration. General Provisions for Pension and Retirement System (§§1100-1120) apply to all three systems. Part 1 covers the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (§§1150-1170). Part 2 covers the Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan (§§1180-1190). Part 3 sets out the Fire and Police Pension Plan General Provisions (§§1200-1248), followed by the benefit provisions for Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 (§§1300-1726). Article XI has been amended more often than any other article since 2001, with 14 voter-approved amendments.

Amendment	Election Date	Sections Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment 2	4-10-01	§1218	Created a Police and Fire alternative pension program.	To create an alternative pension option for police and firefighters.	76 percent Passed	None
Amendment A	6-5-01	§§1200, 1202, 1210, 1220, 1222	Combined the Police and Fire pension plans.	To combine the Police and Fire pension plans.	72 percent Passed	None
Amendment B	6-5-01	§1224	Changed surviving spouse benefits under the Police and Fire pension plans.	To change surviving spouse benefit provisions.	70 percent Passed	None
Amendment 1	3-8-05	§§1202, 1232	Added Port Police to the Fire and Police Pension Plan.	To include Port Police in the Fire and Police Pension Plan.	65 percent Passed	None

Amendment	Election Date	Sections Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment 2	3-8-05	§§1226, 1228, 1230, 1330, 1428, 1518, 1618	Modified several Fire and Police Pension Plan provisions.	To update Fire and Police Pension Plan provisions.	62 percent Passed	None
Amendment M	3-6-07	§1234 (added)	Permit Council to create a program for members to buy pension credit for prior public or honorable military service, at the member's full cost.	Allow members to buy service credit for prior public service at no cost to the City.	N/A	None
Amendment C	3-3-09	§1238	Created a survivor benefit for disabled children of Fire and Police Pension Plan members.	To provide survivor benefits for members' disabled children.	67 percent Passed	None
Amendment D	3-3-09	§1236	Created a program allowing Fire and Police retirees to buy a survivor benefit.	Allow retirees to purchase a survivor benefit.	71 percent Passed	None
Amendment G	3-8-11	§§1202, 1226, 1240–1248, 1700–1726	Created Tier 6 of the Fire and Police Pension Plan for sworn Fire, Police and Harbor employees hired on or after July 1, 2011, and made technical and compliance changes.	To set pension benefits for new sworn hires and update plan administration.	75 percent Passed	None
Amendment Q	3-8-11	§1164	Updated civil service rules; in Article XI, to allow retirees to work up to 120 days instead of 90 without impacting pension benefits.	To extend how long retirees may work for the City.	63 percent Passed	Art. X
Amendment B*	3-5-13	§1703 (added)	Permit Council to authorize the transfer of General Services Department officers to LAPD and move prior service into Tier 6, with the officer paying the full cost.	To let transferred officers join Tier 6 at no cost to the City.	58 percent Passed	None (see App. A)

Amendment	Election Date	Sections Amended	Change Made	Reason for Change	Voter Approval	Also Amends (Other Articles)
Amendment SSS	11-8-16	§§1202, 1700–1724	Enrolled new Airport Peace Officers in Tier 6 and let current officers transfer from LACERS at their own expense.	To place Airport Peace Officers in the Fire and Police Pension Plan.	51 percent Passed	None
Amendment FF	11-5-24	§§1202; 1700–1714	Allow Police, Airport, Harbor, and Recreation and Parks peace officers to transfer from LACERS to Tier 6 at City expense, with refunds for some officers who paid for earlier transfers.	To give these peace officers the option to join the Fire and Police Pension Plan.	58 percent Passed	None
Amendment HH*	11-5-24	§1108	Changed several governance provisions; allowed Pension Boards to appoint a temporary General Manager during a vacancy.	To allow temporary appointments when a Pension Board General Manager position is vacant.	81 percent Passed	Art.II, Art.IV, Art.V, Art.VI (see App. A)

Rejected Amendments

The following table lists proposed amendments to the City Charter that were placed on the ballot between 2001 and 2024 and **rejected by voters**.

Proposed Amendment	Election Date	Article/Sections Proposed to amend	Proposed Change	Voter Approval	Adopted
Amendment A	5-17-05	Article VI	Would have removed Charter restrictions on reorganizing security and law enforcement authority at City airports.	35 percent Failed	No
Amendment E	3-3-09	Article III	Would have allowed the City to offer economic incentives, such as tax breaks, for business development.	49 percent Failed	No
Amendment RRR	11-8-16	Article VI	Would have expanded the DWP Board to seven members with qualifications and stipends, required four-year strategic plans, modified contracting and rate-setting authority, allowed alternatives to civil service for DWP employees.	49 percent Failed	No

Amendment B	11-6-18	Article I §104(g)	Would have allowed the City to establish a municipal financial institution or bank.	42 percent Failed	No
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Further, in 1999 when voters considered the comprehensive Charter Reform package, they were also presented with two measures to increase the size of the City Council. Both failed.

Proposed Amendment	Election Date	Article/Sections Proposed to amend	Proposed Change	Voter Approval	Adopted
Amendment 3	6-8-99	Article II	Would have increased the City Council from 15 to 21 members.	37 percent Failed	No
Amendment 4	6-8-99	Article II	Would have increased the City Council from 15 to 25 members.	35 percent Failed	No

APPENDIX A

Summary of Significant Charter Amendments

Appendix A

The following appendix summarizes significant amendments to the City Charter **approved** by voters since 2001. For purposes of this report, amendments are considered significant if they resulted in substantial changes to City governance, operations, policies, or procedures, and or amended several provisions of the Charter.

Measure R (2006)

Sections amended: §§206, 470 (subsections (c)(11) and (l)) and 507), across 3 articles (Article II, Officers of the City; Article IV, Elections; Article V, Departments).

Measure R was approved on November 7, 2006, with 375,433 votes (59.53 percent). The ballot asked whether to change Councilmember term limits to three terms; restrict lobbyists from making campaign contributions and gifts and from becoming Commissioners; revise lobbyist registration thresholds; require contractors to certify compliance with lobbying laws; extend elected officials' post-employment restrictions; require ethics training; and revise requirements for independent expenditures and campaign communications.

The measure extended City Council term limits from two to three 4-year terms (§206). It also added §470(c)(11), which bars elected City officers and candidates from soliciting or accepting contributions from lobbyists or lobbying firms registered to lobby their office, and bars those lobbyists from making such contributions. The lobbyist registration thresholds, contractor certification, post-employment restrictions and ethics training were ordinance changes to the Municipal Code, not Charter amendments, however, voters approved them in the same measure.

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and League of Women Voters proposed the measure, and the City Council placed it on the ballot. Opposition to the amendment claimed it bundled a term-limit extension with ethics reforms, but a 2008 appellate ruling *Hernandez v. County of Los Angeles* upheld it because the 'single-subject rule' does not apply to Council-sponsored Charter amendments.

Charter Amendment J (2011)

Sections amended: §§344 and 684, across 2 articles (Article III, Finance, Budget and Contracts; Article VI, Proprietary Departments).

Amendment J was placed on the ballot on March 8, 2011 and passed with 175,271 yes votes (81.9 percent) to 38,705 no votes. The ballot asked whether to amend the Charter to (a) require the Department of Water and Power (DWP), for informational purposes, to submit to the City Council by March 31 each year a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), updated by May 31 with new information, and (b) establish procedures for making surplus transfers from the Power Revenue Fund to the City Reserve Fund.

The amendment's approval meant that the DWP Board must submit its preliminary budget to the Council by March 3, and update it by May 31 of that same year. The measure did not give the Council authority to approve or change that budget. For surplus transfers, the Board must receive audited financial statements by November 30 and notify the Council and Mayor by December 31 whether it consents to the transfer in full or intends to withhold all or part of it. The Board may withhold consent if it makes a preliminary finding that the transfer would have a material negative impact on DWP's financial condition in that year, and it must then give the Council and Mayor a detailed explanation. In that case, the City Administrative Officer reviews the Board's

findings and reports its own findings and recommendations to the Mayor and Council by February 28. The Board then decides whether to amend or uphold its finding.

Prior to the amendment, the Charter did not require DWP to submit its budget to the Council. The Charter already allowed surplus transfers from the Power Revenue Fund to the City Reserve Fund with the DWP Board's consent. It specified how a Power Revenue Fund surplus is defined and set deadlines and a procedure for the Board to consent or withhold consent.

Charter Amendment I (2011)

Sections amended: §683 (Article VI, Proprietary Departments).

Amendment I was approved on March 8, 2011, with 168,014 yes votes (77.9 percent). The ballot question asked whether to establish an Office of Public Accountability for the Department of Water and Power, overseen by an Executive Director appointed by a citizens committee and confirmed by the Council and Mayor for a five-year term, to provide public independent analysis of Department actions as they relate to water and electricity rates. The Office of the Ratepayer Advocate was also titled.

Amendment I created the Office of Public Accountability for DWP, whose role under §683(a) is to provide public independent analysis of DWP actions on water and electricity rates. A citizens committee appoints its Executive Director to a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the Council and Mayor and the Director is exempt from civil service. The Council sets by ordinance how the citizens committee is formed and the procedure for removing the Director, who may be removed only for reasons set by ordinance (§683(b)). The Office of Public Accountability must have access to the information it needs to fulfill its responsibilities, including its analysis of DWP rates; employ a Ratepayer Advocate, and issue public reports. DWP must fund it at no less than 0.025 percent of its prior-year water and electricity sales revenue. Subsection (b) was later amended by Amendment HH in 2024.

Charter Amendment L (2011)

Sections amended: §531 (Article V, Departments).

Amendment L was passed on March 8, 2011, with 136,676 yes votes (62.9 percent). The ballot question asked whether to incrementally increase the amount the City must dedicate each year from its General Fund to the Library Department to 0.0300 percent of the assessed value of all property in the City. It also asked whether to incrementally increase the Library Department's responsibility for its direct and indirect costs until it pays all of the costs. The stated purpose was to provide neighborhood libraries with additional funding to help restore service hours, purchase books, and support library programs.

The Library Department's guaranteed yearly funding had been 0.0175 percent of the assessed value of all City property. Amendment L raised it in yearly increments, reaching 0.0300 percent in fiscal year 2014–15. During the phase-in, at least 45 percent of each year's increase had to go toward restoring library services and programs, with the rest covering the Library Department's indirect costs. Starting in 2014–15, the Library Department pays all of its related costs, including employee health and dental benefits, pensions, building services, and utilities.

Charter Amendment B (2013)

Sections amended: §1703, (Article XI, Pension and Retirement Systems).

Amendment B was approved by voters on March 5, 2013. This measure added §1703, which authorizes the Council to allow police personnel transferred to the Police Department from the Department of General Services to transfer prior sworn City service from the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System to Tier 6 of the Fire and Police Pension Plan. Under this section, the member must pay the full actuarial cost of the transferred service, reduced by any funds transferred from the City Employees' Retirement System. Only prior sworn service for which the employee paid contributions and earned credit may be transferred. Charter Amendment SSS (2016) revised the section when voters gave Airport peace officers access to the Fire and Police Pension Plan. Charter Amendment FF (2024) revised it again, allowing Police, Airport, Harbor, and Recreation and Parks peace officers to transfer into that plan.

Charter Amendment 1 (2015)

Sections amended: §§204, 205, 206, 401, 402, 403, 404, 406, 409, 410, 412, 424, 426, 432, 452, 453, 462, 802 and 806, across 3 articles (Article II, Officers of the City; Article IV, Elections; Article VIII, Board of Education).

Amendment 1 was approved by voters on March 3, 2015, by 78 percent. The ballot asked whether to amend the City Charter to (1) change the City's primary and general election dates to June and November of even-numbered years beginning in 2020, so that City elections are held on the same dates as federal and state elections; (2) provide that, in 2015 and 2017 only, candidates be elected for a term of five and one-half years to transition to the new election dates; (3) adjust vacancy election schedules and allow temporary appointments to fill vacant offices until an election is held; (4) enable initiative and referendum elections to be scheduled at either the next City or next state election; and (5) allow initiative proponents to withdraw their measure before an election is scheduled.

City elections for Mayor, City Attorney, Controller and City Council moved from March and May of odd-numbered years to June and November of even-numbered years, beginning in 2020, to coincide with state and federal elections. To align with the new dates, officials elected in 2015 and 2017 served one-time terms of five and one-half years instead of four. Election schedules for filling vacancies were adjusted to the new dates, and temporary appointments were allowed to fill vacant seats until an election was held.

Charter Amendment 2 (2015)

Sections amended: §§401, 402, 403, 404, 406, 410, 412, 424, 426, 432, 802 and 806, across 2 articles (Article IV, Elections; Article VIII, Board of Education).

Amendment 2 was approved by voters on March 3, 2015, by 76 percent.

Amendment 2 changed Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education elections from odd-numbered to even-numbered years, to coincide with City, state and federal elections by 2020, with transitional terms for members elected in 2015 and 2017.

Charter Amendment C (2017)

Sections amended: §1070 (subsection (h)), (Article X, Employment Provisions).

Amendment C was approved by voters May 16, 2017, with 113,198 yes votes (57.14 percent). The ballot title was "Civilian Review of Police Disciplinary Matters." The ballot asked whether to amend the Charter to allow the City Council to provide that a police officer who is entitled to a Police Department Board of Rights hearing for a disciplinary matter may select a Board of Rights composed of all civilian members.

Amendment C revised §1070(h), which governs the composition of the LAPD Board of Rights. The standard Board remains two officers of the rank of captain or above and one civilian. The amendment authorizes the Council to adopt an ordinance giving the accused officer the option of having the complaint heard and decided by a Board of three civilians instead. If the Council adopts an ordinance, the Council may not repeal it for at least two years, and the Police Department must report to the Council on its effectiveness at the end of that period.

Charter Amendment BB (2022)

Sections amended: §371 (subsection (a)), (Article III, Finance, Budget and Contracts).

Amendment BB was approved by voters on June 7, 2022, with 373,956 yes votes (67.67 percent). The ballot question asked whether to amend the Charter to allow the City, on a competitive bid contract, to award a bid preference to a bidder located in the City. According to the City's impartial analysis, §371(a) previously allowed a bid preference only for bidders located in California or Los Angeles County; the amendment adds "City of Los Angeles" to the Charter's definition of "local."

Charter Amendment DD (2024)

Sections amended: §§204, 205, 245, 252, 272, 273, 281, 480–490 (added), 502, 514 and 702, across 4 articles (Article II, Officers of the City; Article IV, Elections; Article V, Departments; Article VII, City Ethics Commission)

Amendment DD was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, with 878,639 yes votes (74.37 percent). The ballot question asked whether to establish an independent redistricting Commission to redraw City Council district lines every ten years. The new §480 states that the Commission's purpose is to develop Council district boundaries through a fair, transparent, inclusive, and independent redistricting process that includes public participation and public access to its proceedings.

Before the amendment, an appointed advisory Commission recommended Council district boundaries after each federal Census, and the Council and Mayor made the final decision on those boundaries, by ordinance. Under the former §204, the advisory Commission's members were appointed by Councilmembers, the Mayor, the City Attorney and the Controller.

The new Independent Redistricting Commission adopts the final district boundaries itself, without involvement by the Council or Mayor (§481(d); §245(d)(9)). It has 16 members and four alternates, selected without involvement by elected officials, and a new Commission is formed after each Census by April 1 of each year ending in zero (§481(a)–(b)).

The City Clerk runs the application process with Ethics Commission oversight; eight members are drawn at random, one from each of eight equal-population regions, and those eight select the remaining eight (§483). Members must be City residents for at least five years; City employees and Commissioners from the prior two years, and people with certain political or lobbying ties, are ineligible. Commissioners may not discuss redistricting outside public meetings, must file financial disclosures, and may not support City candidates while serving.

The final redistricting map must be adopted by September 30 of each year ending in one (§487(a)), and districts must meet federal and state law and must be roughly equal in population, contiguous, and considerate of neighborhoods and communities of interest. The amendment also created a City Data Bureau to manage demographic and geographic data (§490).

Charter Amendment LL (2024)

Sections amended: §§802, 806 and 810–819, (Article VIII, Board of Education).

Amendment LL was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, with 1,031,836 yes votes (75.76 percent). The ballot question asked whether to establish an independent Redistricting Commission to redraw Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education district lines every ten years.

A new LAUSD Independent Redistricting Commission adopts the seven Board of Education district boundaries itself, without involvement by the Council or Mayor (§811(d)). It has 14 members and four alternates, formed after each Census by April 1 of each year ending in zero (§811(a)–(b)). Members must have lived in LAUSD for at least three years; LAUSD employees and Commissioners from four years prior, and people with certain political or lobbying ties are ineligible. The final redistricting map must be adopted by September 30 of each year ending in one and meet the same legal and mapping criteria as City Council districts (§§814, 817(a)).

Charter Amendment HH (2024)

Sections amended: §§212, 244, 261, 271, 401, 451, 452, 462, 502, 650, 683 and 1108, across 5 articles (Article II, Officers of the City; Article IV, Elections; Article V, Departments; Article VI, Proprietary Departments; Article XI, Pension and Retirement Systems).

Amendment HH was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, with 954,148 yes votes (81.30 percent).

The ballot question asked whether to require Commission appointees to file financial disclosures before they can be confirmed; clarify the Controller's auditing authority regarding City contractors; expand the City Attorney's subpoena power; authorize temporary appointments to certain general manager positions; establish a process to evaluate the impacts of laws proposed by initiative petition; and make other changes and clarifications regarding City governance, appointments, and elections.

Approval of HH allowed Councilmembers to serve without pay on Joint Powers Authority boards and treats a majority vote against a proposed action as disapproval without a separate vote. It clarifies the Controller's authority to access the records and staff of City contractors and subcontractors that receive or spend City funds. It also expands the City Attorney's power to subpoena witnesses and records when investigating violations of state or local law, though not to investigate City offices or employees. In the election provisions, it deletes obsolete election-date language and clarifies signature-gathering deadlines for initiative petitions. It allows the Council to send a proposed initiative or referendum ordinance to City departments for a report on its fiscal and other impacts before deciding whether to adopt it or submit it to the voters. It requires Commission appointees to file financial disclosures with the Ethics Commission and the Council before confirmation, and requires at least one Harbor Commissioner from San Pedro and one from Wilmington.

Amendment HH revised provisions added and changed by earlier amendments in this Appendix. It amended subsection (b) of §683, the Office of Public Accountability section created by Charter Amendment I (2011), which details how the office's Ratepayer Advocate is appointed. Amendment I created the office and had a citizens committee appoint its Executive Director; HH added a way to fill a vacancy in that position, allowing the Mayor to appoint a temporary

Executive Director, subject to Council confirmation, for up to six months without the citizens committee's approval.

Charter Amendment II (2024)

Sections amended: §§104, 201, 210, 233, 290, 291, 292, 293, 311, 320, 342, 343, 508, 561, 571, 594, 598, 604, 609, 632, 637, 1001, 1007 and 1010, across 6 articles: (Article I, Incorporation and Powers; Article II, Officers of the City; Article III, Finance, Budget and Contracts; Article V, Departments; Article VI, Proprietary Departments; Article X, Employment Provisions).

Amendment II was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, with 849,085 yes votes (72.86 percent).

The ballot question asked whether to clarify that the El Pueblo Monument and the Zoo are park property; clarify that departments may sell merchandise to support City operations; include gender identity in non-discrimination rules applicable to City employment; clarify the Airport Commission's authority to establish fees and regulations; and make other changes and clarifications related to City administration and operations.

The CAO's financial impact statement describes these changes as formalizing current practices without granting new powers to any department.

Charter Amendment ER (2024)

Sections amended: §§700, 701, 703, 706, 708, 710, 711 and 1001, across 2 articles (Article VII, City Ethics Commission; Article X, Employment Provisions).

Amendment ER was approved by voters November 5, 2024, with 874,383 yes votes (75.41 percent).

The amendment sets the Ethics Commission's minimum operating budget at \$7 million a year starting in fiscal year 2025–26, raises the maximum penalty from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per violation, requires the Council to hold a public hearing on Commission policy proposals within 180 days, and bars the appointment of relatives of elected City officials, campaign consultants or major campaign donors to the Commission.

APPENDIX B

Table of Pending Amendments
November 2026

Appendix B

This appendix presents a table of pending Charter Amendments on the November 2026 ballot.

Proposed Amendment	Election Date	Article Proposed to amend	Proposed Change
Amendment EE	11-3-2026	Art.I, Art. II, Art. IV, Art. V, Art. VII, Art. IX	Will raise maximum campaign penalty to \$15,000, require weekly Council meetings, raise referendum signatures from 10 percent to 15 percent, allow Police Inspector General and Fire Independent Assessor audit without board approval, and bars Ethics Commissioners from running for office for five years.
Amendment LA	11-3-2026	Art. I, Art. II, Art. III, Art. IV, Art. V, Art. VI, Art. X, Art. XI	Create a Capital Infrastructure Plan and two-year budget cycle, expands the Director of Public Works' authority, removes limits on City business enterprises and mortgaging City property, and revises contracting rules.
Amendment PL	11-3-2026	Art. I, Art. II, Art. IV	Replace the Area Planning Commissions with a Neighborhood Appeals Commission, gives the Planning Department authority over certain permits, and allows floor area rules to be changed by ordinance.
Amendment PRK	11-3-2026	Art. V	Raises minimum Parks and Recreation funding from 0.0325 percent to 0.0065 percent of assessed property value, phased over ten years.
Amendment PRT	11-3-2026	Art. VI	Requires Harbor funding for waterfront public access, allows Airport and DWP leases of up to 66 years, and requires three Airport Commissioners from the LAX area and two from the Van Nuys area
Amendment SC	11-3-2026	Art. VIII	Applies the City's Mayoral campaign finance rules, including the \$1,000 contribution limit, to Board of Education election