



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 23-1027 - Agenda Item Number: Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Refo

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org

Wed, Apr 17, 2024 at 11:35 AM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website.Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Councils rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood

Name: Jacob Wasserman

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/03/2024

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 04/17/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-1027

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date: 04/18/2024

Item Number: Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform, 4

Summary: Please see attached Community Impact Statement

Ref:MSG10189655



Charter Reform Letter April 17 2024.pdf
98K

RE: Charter Reform Commission Creation - CF 23-1027
April 17th Coalition Letter

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to offer recommendations for a more independent charter reform process capable of delivering meaningful reforms to voters in 2026. We appreciate the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Reform (Ad Hoc Committee) to advance an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) to the November 2024 ballot. The time has come for the Ad Hoc Committee to move forward on creating a Charter Reform Commission (Commission) to undertake the first comprehensive review of our City Charter in a quarter century. If we are to create a new City Charter that is more representative of all Angelenos, we will need a Charter reform process that engages them as much as possible. Our recommendations are the following:

1. Prioritize independent selection methods for Commissioners:

Avoid the perception of bias by: a.) allowing no single elected official to appoint more than two members of the Commission, and b.) selecting a majority of Commissioners through an independent selection process.

A proposal discussed at the January 25th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee suggested that the Charter Reform Commission would include four Commissioners appointed by the Mayor and another four by the Council President. Structuring the Commission this way could give the appearance that a majority of the members are beholden to two of the most prominent members of City government.

When public trust in the reform process depends on the empowerment of a wider set of voices, it becomes vital to avoid the perception that the Commission is dominated by a small group of political insiders. We recommend that no single elected official should be able to select more than two of the Commissioners. We also recommend selecting the majority of Commissioners using a process similar to the one used to select members of the IRC. This would meet the need for City government input while enhancing the trustworthiness of the Commission itself.

2. Create clear community engagement standards:

Broaden public participation by directing the Commission to meet the same community engagement standards as the IRC (extended notice requirements, remote public comment, Spanish translation services, language justice plan, etc.).

The Commission's work must reflect the needs and interests of *all* city residents. This requires a comprehensive set of community engagement standards designed to make the Commission's activities more accessible, inclusive, and transparent for all members of the public. These standards should include, but are not limited to: extended notice requirements, options for remote public comment at all meetings, Spanish interpretation services at all meetings, and a comprehensive language justice plan¹ that provides language accessibility options and multilingual interpretation services. Enacting these standards will not only improve public engagement, but will make the Commission's recommendations more representative of our diverse city.

3. Require disclosure of *ex parte* (off-the-record) communications:

Promote transparency and trust by mandating Commissioners disclose *ex parte* communications with elected officials and their staff.

Commissioners should be required to disclose *ex parte* communications with elected officials and their staff. This will foster an environment of transparency and trust. We recommend mandating a straightforward disclosure process. This will hold Commissioners accountable, while reassuring the public that their decisions are based on independent analysis and public interest versus behind-the-scenes influence.

4. Mandate fair Commissioner removal procedures:

Safeguard the Commission's integrity by ensuring Commissioners cannot be removed by a single elected official, or without just cause.

We recognize that removal procedures are necessary to protect the ethics of the Commission. However, the Commission must also operate without the possibility of arbitrary or unwarranted intervention. Removing Commissioners must require clear and justifiable cause, and involve more than the decision of a single elected official. Such measures will protect City government and the Commission from the perception of retaliation if a Commissioner is removed. Commissioners will be able to fulfill their duties without the undue threat of removal or other political interests.

5. Enhance the effectiveness of the Commission:

Allow the Commission to place measures directly on the ballot with the support of a supermajority of the Commissioners.

Commissioners and City Councilmembers should be able to focus their reform work on a diverse set of impactful issues. The Commission should have the authority to, if necessary, place a measure on the ballot without Council approval, so long as it receives the support of a

¹ As adopted by City Council on November 8, 2023 (see: [Council File 23-0755](#)).

supermajority (3/4ths)² of the commission. This would guarantee our elected officials and Commission collaborate with each other in good faith to arrive at consensus. Allowing the Commission to place items directly on the ballot will enhance public trust in the effectiveness and reliability of the reform process.

As displayed during our last redistricting process, an advisory commission's work can be gutted or completely ignored by the Council. Empowering the Commission in this way sends a clear signal that reform *will* be headed to the ballot. With a near guarantee that at least some reform will reach the ballot, the public, press, and city officials will be encouraged to engage with the Commission early and often. This creates a more reliable path to meaningful reforms on the November 2026 ballot.

6. Put Commission recommendations on the November 2026 ballot:
Maximize the legitimacy of the reform process by setting the vote on Commission recommendations to engage as much of the public as possible.

To assure the broadest possible engagement and an authentic reflection of the community, it is essential that the Commission's recommendations are presented to the electorate at a time that historically sees higher voter turnout. We encourage the Commission's pivotal recommendations to be placed on the November 2026 General Election ballot, rather than the June 2026 Primary Election. It is proven that general elections attract greater public interest and media attention than do midterms. November 2026 is a prime opportunity to increase awareness and engagement with the Commission's recommendations. By aligning the presentation of these recommendations with a time of heightened civic participation, we can ensure greater scrutiny, discussion, and informed voting on these vital issues.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Fair Rep LA
Green Party of Los Angeles County
Ground Game LA
League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles
Los Angeles for Democracy Vouchers
MOVI, Money Out Voters In
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Represent Us Los Angeles

² Portland's Periodic Charter Review Commission has the authority to place a measure directly on the ballot if it receives the support of 15 out of their 20 commissioners: <https://www.portland.gov/charter/13/3>

Reseda Neighborhood Council
The River Project
Unrig LA