

Communication from Public

Name: Mona Field
Date Submitted: 01/24/2024 08:30 PM
Council File No: 23-1027
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached.



January 24, 2024

Re: Council File 23-1027

At the last Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Council President Krekorian announced that the Committee would address the issue of comprehensive ethics reform in January. We believe there is ample time to put Ethics Reform on the November 2024 ballot. In doing so, the City Council would demonstrate its commitment to restoring the public trust that has been lost through the corrupt actions by former City Council members.

Regarding the Charter Commission, the CLA's 21-page report was not posted until January 22, 2024. We request that this committee refrain from taking action until the public has time to read it and offer meaningful feedback to the Committee.

Regarding the formation of the Charter Commission, we strongly believe that members should NOT be made up solely of political appointees. A portion of the commission should be selected via open application. The Commission must have the independence necessary to deliver real change at City Hall. Having appointed Commissions would do little to restore the public's faith in the outcome.

Regarding authority, we request that the CLA provide more information regarding options for the Charter Reform Commission to be able to place reform on the ballot. For example, Portland, Oregon's Charter Reform Commission had authority to place measures directly on the ballot.

Thank you,

Mona Field, President

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Jiyoung Carolyn Park

Date Submitted: 01/24/2024 09:33 PM

Council File No: 23-1027

Comments for Public Posting: The City Council has had the same number of seats since 1925 when the population of Los Angeles was less than 1 million. The population is now more than 4 times that. We need more council seats so we can have more responsive council member offices. As a former neighborhood council governing board member, I have personally experienced how much we need an expanded city council. My former council member never spoke with the neighborhood council and only sent a staff person during election season. Basic services like trash, potholes, and tree care were neglected, and community efforts to improve traffic and pedestrian safety were ignored. My district, CD 13, is very diverse and densely populated. My former council member focused on certain parts of the district and certain communities while ignoring others. As you know, districts are often referred to as fiefdoms due to the inordinate amount of power a council member wields over cronies and enemies. This would be more difficult with smaller districts. According to the Controller's office, CD 13 had one of the highest eviction notices issued in the past year or so. With smaller districts a district office could have reached more people to educate them about rent forgiveness programs when they were available. It's time to expand the city council and have better ratio of residents to council members like other major cities such as New York. If you truly care about your constituents, you will vote in favor.

Communication from Public

Name: Sean McMorris
Date Submitted: 01/25/2024 09:30 AM
Council File No: 23-1027
Comments for Public Posting: Please see California Common Cause's written public comments regarding a charter commission (Agenda Item 2).

January 25, 2024

Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance
200 North Spring Street
City Hall, Room 340
Los Angeles, California 90012



Re: Charter Reform

Dear Council President and Councilmembers:

We are pleased to see the City Council take up charter reform. Los Angeles has not had a comprehensive review and overhaul of its charter since the late 1990s. California Common Cause's position on a possible charter commission will depend on the details. But we want to emphasize that the creation of a charter commission is not a substitute for moving forward vital ethics reforms. Creation of a charter commission will be a long process, with no guarantee that the commission will move meaningful ethics reforms once it is established. In the meantime, the Council has a rare opportunity this year to place important ethics reforms on the November ballot, when Angelenos will also be voting for president and an independent redistricting commission.

For these reasons, we hope that the charter commission process does not stall current City and public efforts to place meaningful and much-needed reforms on the 2024 general election ballot. The responsibility to clean up our city's politics ultimately sits with you.

In addition to city council expansion, we are particularly supportive of another item before you. We hope that this Committee and the City Council will work to place Ethics Commission charter reforms on this year's ballot, which will go a long way in addressing trust and accountability at City Hall by increasing the independence of the Ethics Commission, securing adequate funding for the Commission's mandates, guaranteeing that Commission recommendations receive timely consideration, and by granting the Ethics Commission the authority to place campaign finance and ethics-related ordinances on the ballot if the City Council fails to legislate on such matters.

We look forward to engaging with the City Council on these matters.

Sincerely,
Sean McMorris
Ethics, Transparency & Accountability Program Manager
California Common Cause
smcmorris@commoncause.org