



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, October 20, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

**Chaminade College Preparatory – Condon Center 2nd Floor
23241 W. Cohasset Street, West Hills, CA 91304**

Enter Chaminade through the Cohasset Street entrance between Woodlake and Platt Avenues. Drive through the parking lot, bear left and continue over the hill until you see the Condon Family Technology Center on the left. Park in the nearest lot.

In conformity with the October 6, 2023 enactment of California Senate Bill 411 (Portantino) and La City Council Approval on November 1, 2023, the West Hills Neighborhood Council Government Relations Committee Agenda Committee meeting will be conducted virtually, telephonically and in person.

- To attend online via Zoom Webinar: Click or paste the following link into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391608200>
- To call in by phone, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: 883 160 8200, then press #.
- To attend in person, please attend Chaminade College Preparatory – Condon Center 2nd Floor, 23241 W. Cohasset Street, West Hills, CA 91304

This meeting is open to the public. Doors open 10 minutes before the meeting starts. Those who wish to speak during the meeting may be asked to complete a Speaker Card. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Co-Chair, Brenda Citrom, Co-Chair, Kim Koerber, Co-Chair, Aida Abkarians, Saif Mogri, Joan Trent, Brian Murray, Brad Vanderhoof, Secretary
2. Comments from the Chairs.
3. General Public Comment
4. Review and Approval of September Meeting Minutes.
5. Discussion and Possible Action - Charter Reform meetings and progress.

SB 411 Updates: If a Neighborhood Council has a quorum of board members in a physical location, board members who wish to join the meeting via teleconferencing must adhere to AB 2449 rules and regulations. If a Neighborhood Council does not have a quorum of board members in a physical location, they must adhere to SB 411 rules and regulations. In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1. The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time. Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be

required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.(i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph, provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.(ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.(iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

Public Input: Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

The Americans With Disabilities Act - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

Public Posting of Agendas - WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Platt Village, on the Southside of Pavilions, closest to Nothing Bundt Cakes at 6534 Platt Avenue, West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to [L.A. City's Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

Notice to Paid Representatives -If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics@lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Public Access of Records - In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: www.westhillsnc.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the WHNC's executive director via email at michelle.ritchie@westhillsnc.org

Reconsideration and Grievance Process - For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.westhillsnc.org

Servicios De Traduccion: Si requiereservicios de traducción, favor de avisar al ConcejoVecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes delevanto. Por favor contacteMichelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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JOINT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES Chaminade High School September 15, 2025

Revised September 16, 2025

The Committee shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the committee members present at a duly noticed regular or special Government Relations Committee meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Brenda Citrom, Kim Koerber, Brian Murray, Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Committee Members Absent: Faye Barta, and Saif Mogri

Other Board Members Present: None

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. A quorum was established.

2. Comments from the Co-Chairs: None

3. General Public Comment: None

4. Approval of August Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved.

Brian Murray was added to the committee.

5. Budget Request for \$400 for the Congress of Neighborhoods:

Aida Abkarians – Yes, Faye Barta – Absent, Brenda Citrom – Yes, Kim Koerber – Yes,
Saif Mogri – Absent, Joan Trent – Yes, Brad Vanderhoof – Yes, Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Yes
Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 2, Recusal – 0

The request is approved and will be sent to the Budget Committee.

6. Adoption of the MOU with the DWP: Joanne explained the 2023 MOU was never approved by the WHNC. Aida suggested having a speaker from DWP explain the MOU. Joanne said she will contact Tony Wilkinson from the Panorama City NC.

7. Charter Reform meetings and progress: Weekly commission meetings are ongoing.

Brenda relayed a message from Saif Mogri asking for an item on the Immigration Act be included in the October agenda.

Chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for October 20, 2025, 7:30 PM, Chaminade High School.

LA City Charter Reform

In response to widespread public dissatisfaction with the city's governance, Los Angeles officials established a new Charter Reform Commission in August 2024. The commission is tasked with reviewing the current charter—in effect since 1999—and developing recommendations for potential revisions and amendments to be placed on the November 2026 ballot.

Key focus areas for reform

The new commission is examining a broad range of topics to improve city services and accountability:

- Government structure: Evaluating the number of council districts.
- Budgeting and contracting: Revising the city's budgeting and contracting processes.
- Filling vacancies: Creating a consistent procedure for filling vacancies in elected offices.
- Elected official accountability: Defining the rules for the censure and suspension of elected officers.
- Service delivery: Improving the delivery of core city services.

Commission makeup and process

The 13-member civilian board was established through a series of appointments:

- Appointment process: The Mayor appointed four members, the Council President and President Pro Tempore each appointed two, and those eight initial members selected the remaining five through an application process.
- Timeline: The commission will meet throughout 2025 and is scheduled to submit its proposed changes to the City Council in early 2026.

Background on the 1999 charter

The current city charter was adopted following voter approval in June 1999, replacing the previous 1925 charter. The 1999 charter aimed to improve city government responsiveness and included significant changes:

- It condensed the charter, making it more efficient and clear.
- It introduced the neighborhood council system.

Comments

LA WATCHDOG - The Charter Reform Commission has developed four focus groups: Planning and Infrastructure, Good Government, Government Structure, and Personnel. But what about the City's recent billion-dollar fiscal crisis and its Structural Deficit that is expected to exceed \$600 million over the next four years.

In June, the City passed a **"resolution declaring a State of Emergency"** based on fiscal circumstances resulting from decreased revenues and increased liabilities."

Understandably so. As part of its efforts to eliminate a billion-dollar budget shortfall and to restore the Reserve Fund, the City is laying off 614 employees and eliminating 961 positions. And even then, the City approved a budget that is not really balanced when considering the underfunding of liability claims, underestimated expenditures, inadequate reserves, and overly optimistic revenue projections because of the falloff in tourism, the impact of tariffs on the port, the lack of support from Washington, and the not so robust economy.

Next year, the City Administrative Officer's Four-Year Budget Outlook is projecting a shortfall of \$90 million, again based on optimistic revenues assumptions and underestimated expenditures. It does not include the necessary resources for public safety and the City's infrastructure, the two core responsibilities of the City.

And over the next four years, the Structural Deficit is projected to be over \$600 million when adjusted for future budget busting labor agreements beginning in 2027. And again, this is based on optimistic assumptions and does not include adequate resources for public safety (fire, police, and emergency management) and our failing infrastructure.

These shortfalls do not consider the City's \$10-15 billion deferred maintenance budget. This includes \$5 billion for our streets and sidewalks, \$2 billion for recreation and parks, \$8 billion for compliance with the Clean Water Act, including \$2.2 billion over the next three years, the necessary upgrades to its outdated management information systems, and the upgrading of the equipment and fleets of the Police and Fire Departments.

It also does not include the lowering of the unfunded pension liability of over \$7 billion.

Nor does it include the City's capital projects, including the Los Angeles River (\$1.2 billion), the Convention Center (\$2 billion), or the 5 million square foot Civic Center. Or the billions required to build and maintain permanent supportive and interim housing for the homeless. And what about the 2028 Olympics?

Given the City's fiscal crisis, its Structural Deficit, and the billions in deferred maintenance, the City's budget and financial condition should be the top priority for the Charter Reform Committee with the goal that the City must live within its means so that it can provide basic services to all Angelenos and avoid any future fiscal crisis.

(Jack Humphreville writes the LA Watchdog column for CityWatch, where he covers city finances, utilities, and accountability at City Hall. He is President of the DWP Advocacy Committee, serves as the Budget and DWP representative for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, and is a longtime Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate. With a sharp focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency, Jack brings an informed and independent voice to Los Angeles civic affairs. He can be reached at lajack@gmail.com.)

- It increased the authority of the mayor and controller while decreasing the council's authority over boards and commissions.

The push for new reform

Despite the 1999 changes, many systemic problems remain, which spurred the current reform effort. The motivation for a new charter review includes:

- Challenges with service delivery amidst crises like homelessness and housing unaffordability.
- A crisis of trust and confidence in City Hall following instances of unethical conduct by city leaders.
- The desire to update governance to address new challenges that were not foreseen in the late 1990s.

What specific changes might be proposed for the city's contracting or budgeting?

Tell me more about specific areas the Commission is looking at

How does LA's charter reform compare to NYC's or Chicago's?



11 sites

- **Mayor Bass Launches Charter Reform Commission Application**

Mar 7, 2025 — All appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council. The Commission will have the authority to review the entire Charter and also specifically cons...

City of Los Angeles (.gov)

- **City Charter Reform - Adrin Nazarian**

Oct 3, 2023 — MOTION -- The current version of the Los Angeles City Charter was developed in the late 1990's through the combined efforts of two charter reform commissions th...

City of Los Angeles (.gov)

- **About the Commission**

About the Commission. The Charter Reform Commission was established by Mayor Karen Bass and the Los Angeles City Council in August 2024. The Commission is taske...

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Show all



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
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Empower Yourself

Empower Your Community

EmpowerLA



WHY

Neighborhood Councils?

Los Angeles is a BIG City



About 4 Million People



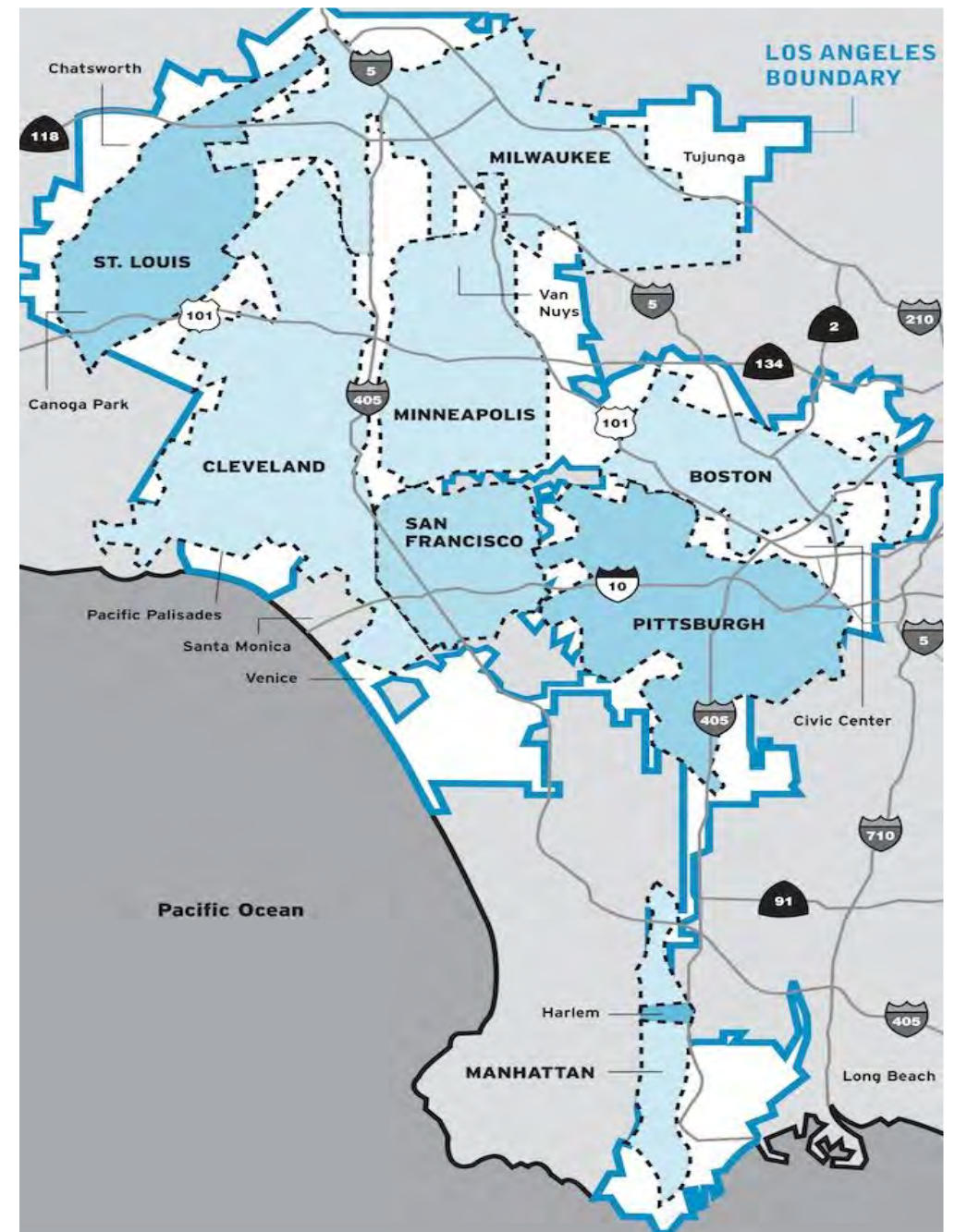
465 Square Miles



7,366 Miles of Streets

CD

15 Council Districts – Each Representing over 260,000 constituents



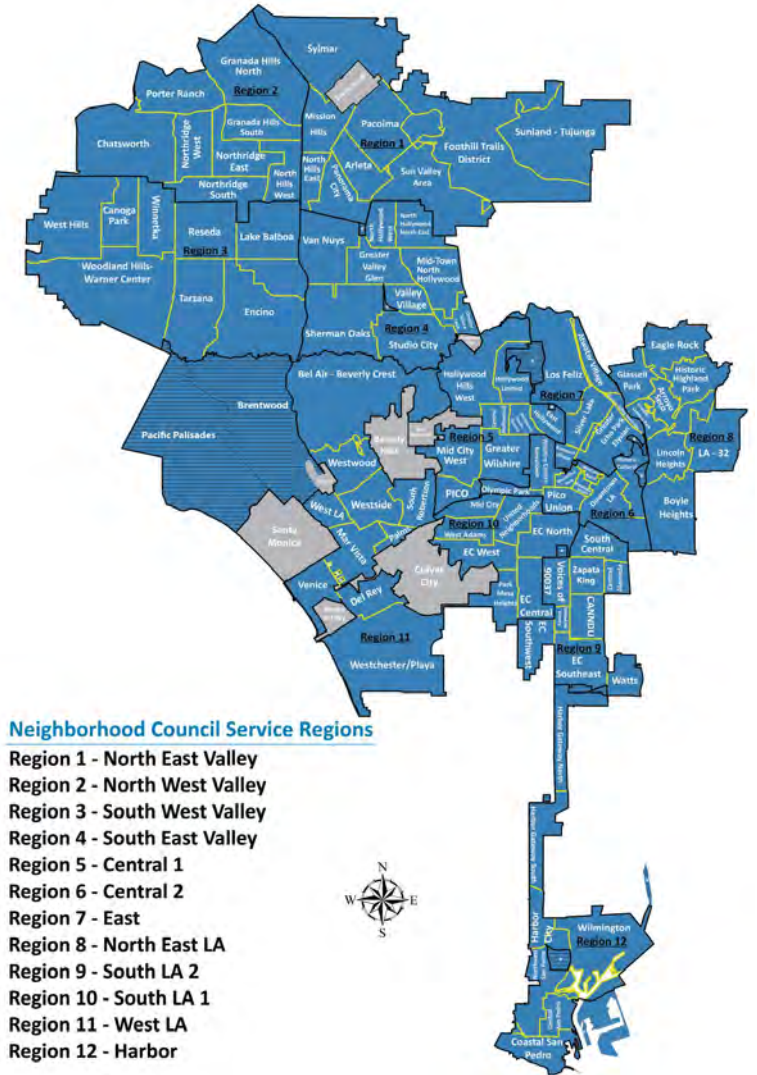
WHAT

Are Neighborhood Councils?

**How many Neighborhood Councils
are in the City of Los Angeles?**

99

*Each Neighborhood Council represents from 20,000
to 100,000 people*



WHEN

The Creation of Neighborhood Councils

On June 8, 1999

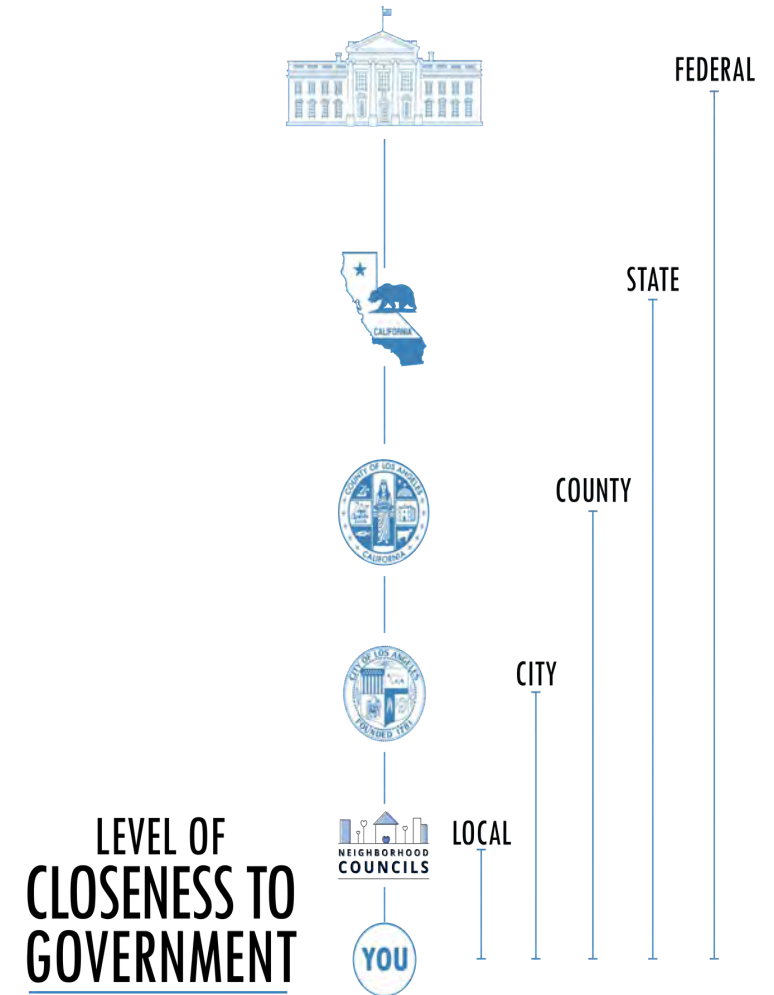
Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved (60%) a new Los Angeles City Charter, the first comprehensive revision of the City's governing document in 75 year.

60%



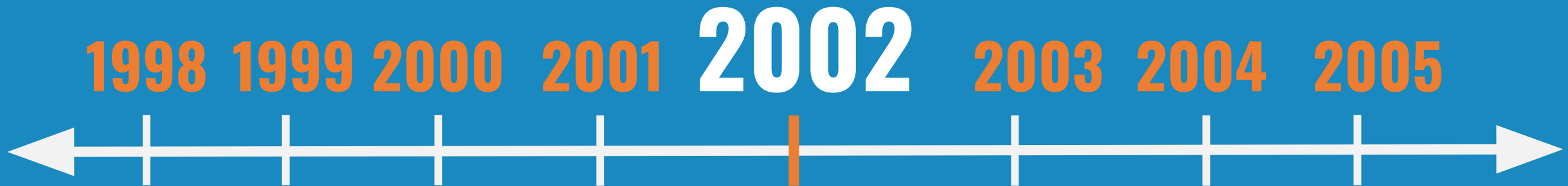
The new City Charter

created a new system of Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to promote **greater participation** in government and giving residents an even larger role in determining the quality of their lives.



**WHE
N**

Were Neighborhood Councils Formed?



The first two (2) Neighborhood Councils were formed in 2002



**WH
O**

Are The Neighborhood Councils?

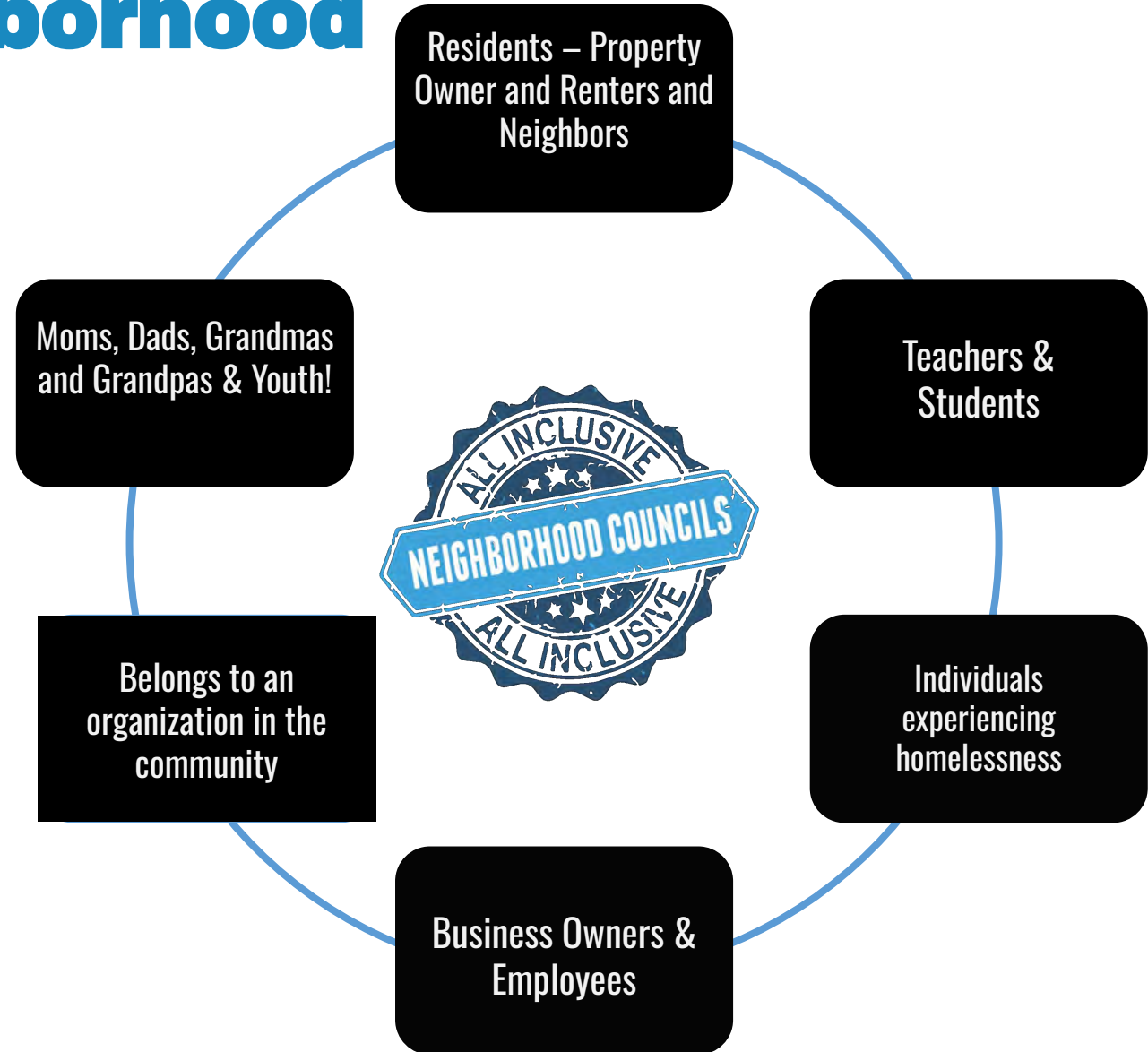
Their members are everyday Angelenos like YOU!

WHO

Are Our Neighborhood Councils?



Neighborhood Councils are made up of volunteer, elected public servants who serve as board members.



WHO

Are Our Neighborhood Councils?

Neighborhood Councils are comprised of “Community Stakeholders”



Those who live, work, study, worship or own real property in the neighborhood.

A “Community Interest Stakeholder” is also...



...is a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the Neighborhood Council’s boundaries and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, nonprofit and/or religious organizations

WHO

Are Our Neighborhood Councils?

YOUTH SEATS

- **Stakeholders in the Neighborhood Council**
 - This could mean that you live and/or go to school in the NCs service area
- **Between the ages of fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) at the time you are appointed to this seat.**
- **Some youth seats are**
 - appointed at a meeting - you have to contact the board and complete an application
 - others require you to run during the Neighborhood Council election cycle

WHERE

**DO NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCILS MEET?**



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

WHY

The Purpose of Neighborhood Councils



ADVICE

Community Impact
Statements & Budget
Advocates



REPRESENT

Outreach



COLLABORATE

With community
and government

Each Neighborhood Council receives public funds of \$25,000/year to support their communities.



**Elysian Valley Riverside NC
2023 Senior Spring Celebration**



**Greater Cypress Park NC
2023 Waste Bin Community Improvement Project**



**Central Hollywood NC
2023 Community Input on
Mixed-Use Development**

99NCs.com

Scan the QR code and find your local Neighborhood Council



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
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EmpowerLA@LAcity.org

EmpowerLA.org/Councils for a full listing of all 99 Neighborhood Councils



Valley Office

14410 Sylvan Street, Ste. 401
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818-374-9898
818-374-9977 fax

Charter Reform Recommendations

- Clarity and Accessibility of Language
- Strengthening Purpose and Mission
- Inclusive Stakeholder Representation
- Enhancing the Role and Capacity of the Department
- Expanding Neighborhood Council Functions and Impact
- Expanding Neighborhood Councils role in City budgeting and resource allocation



Article IX, Section 900: Purpose

States the purpose of the creation of a citywide system of Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

“To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs.”

Recommendation:

Replace the term “citizen” with “civic” to allow for more inclusive language. Neighborhood Councils are open to all stakeholders, regardless of immigration status.

Article IX, Section 901: Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Establishes the Department and outlines its core duties.

Recommendation:

Clarifying language by replacing the term “Officers” with “Board Members”

Article IX, Section 902: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Establishes the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and gives them the responsibility for policy setting and policy oversight, approval of contracts and leases, and promulgation of rules and regulations.

Recommendation:

Clarifying the Commission's role in approval of contracts and leases *prepared on behalf of Neighborhood Councils or the Neighborhood Council System.*

Article IX, Section 903: General Manager

Places the day-to-day management of the Department on the General Manager who is appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 904: Development of the Neighborhood Council Plan

Lays out the required components of the “Plan” for a System of Neighborhood Councils:

- Shall seek public input
- Contain statement of goals, policies and objectives
- establish the method by which boundaries are determined
- Must ensure all areas of City are given equal opportunity to form
- Sets the procedures and criteria for certification
- Requires all certified to adopt fair and open procedures for how business is conducted

Recommendation:

Update to section title to “Development and Maintenance of the Neighborhood Council Plan.”

Article IX, Section 905: Implementation of the Plan

Sets a clear timeline for the development and adoption of the Plan.

Recommendation:

Update to section title to “Initial Implementation of the Plan”

Article IX, Section 906: Certification of Neighborhood Councils

Specifies the requirements for official recognition and certification of a Neighborhood Council.

- Submission of Bylaws to the Department
- Petition for Certification and Approval

Recommendation:

Update section to clarify that Bylaws must specify the method officers and Board Members are selected.

Replace the phrase “everyone who lives, works, or owns property in the area (Stakeholders)” with “all stakeholders as defined by City Ordinance.” This will be inclusive of Community Interest Stakeholders.

Article IX, Section 907: Early Warning System

Establishes procedures for receiving input from Neighborhood Councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees, Boards, and Commissions.

Recommendation:

Change the section title to “Advance Notice and Opportunities for Input.”

Article IX, Section 908: Powers of Neighborhood Councils

Allows City Council to delegate authority to Neighborhood Councils to hold public hearings before the Council makes decisions on matters of local concerns.

Recommendation:

Expand this section to provide clearer and more comprehensive description of the work of Neighborhood Councils. Include their role as advocates to the City, responsibility of outreach, organizing community forums, collaborating, mobilizing, strengthening community engagement, and representation.

Article IX, Section 909: Annual City Budget Priorities

Provides Neighborhood Councils the opportunity to present the Mayor and City Council an annual list of priorities for the City Budget.

Recommendation:

Work with the Mayor and City Council to develop a City budget feedback mechanism.

Article IX, Section 910: Monitoring City Services

Gives Neighborhood Councils an oversight role to actively monitor the delivery of services within their boundaries.

Recommendation:

Retitle section to ‘City Services Reporting and Collaboration.’

Create a feedback mechanism to collect community input on quality of City services, report on progress of City initiatives, identify opportunities, and foster partnerships between Neighborhood Councils and City government.

Article IX, Section 911: Appropriations

Requires the Mayor and City Council to appropriate funds for the Department and startup funds for the Neighborhood Council system.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 912: Review

Requires the Mayor and City Council to appoint a commission to evaluate the provisions of Section 900, and regular adopted pursuant to the Section 900 no later than seven years after the adoption of the Charter.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 913: Transfer of Powers

Provided a period of stability and protection for the new Department. For the first five years after the Neighborhood Council Plan was implemented, the Mayor and City Council could not transfer the powers and duties of the Department to any other City Department or agency.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 914: Effect Ordinances

Clarifies that while the Charter and the Plan create the framework, the City Council retains the ultimate power to legislate on matters concerning Neighborhood Councils.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Closing and Next Steps

- Submit formal Department Recommendations
- Continue to engage 99 Neighborhood Councils in the Charter Reform process, opportunities, and methods for input
- Board of Neighborhood Commissioner's Presentation and Recommendations (January 2026)

99NCs.com

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