



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 7:30PM

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 January 1, 2026 enactment of California Senate Bill 707 (Durazo) and LA City Council File 23-1114, the West Hills Neighborhood Council Government Relations Committee Meeting, will be conducted virtually, telephonically and in person. All are invited to attend and participate.

- 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 9160 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 Quorum: Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Co-Chair, Brenda Citrom, Co-Chair, Kim Koerber, Co-Chair Aida Abkarians, Saif Mogri, Joan Trent, Faye Barta, Brian Murray, Brad Vanderhoof, Secretary
2. Comments from the Chairs.
3. General Public Comment
4. Review and Approval of February 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes.
5. Discussion and possible action on Development of a CIS to extend NC elections until 2029. Reference “City Clerk Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Budget”
6. Discussion and possible action on updating the WHNC CIS to the Charter Reform Commission CIS #25-0869 in support of an amended statement per Joanne’s recommendation that NCs are no longer only advisory but also participatory because we interact with county, city, state, and federal agencies and that we are elected officials. The WHNC CIS we have submitted thus far was one of 3 NCs that submitted a formal CIS. There were 345 personal letters from the community
7. Basic Review of SB707 & Brown Act changes, Council File #25-1358.
8. Discussion and possible action on whether to support the LANCC Charter Reform recommendations.

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. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(3).

The 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. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(4). 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 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. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(5).

A legislative body that provides a time 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 paragraph (5), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(6)(A).

A legislative body that does not provide a time 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 paragraph (5), or otherwise to be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(6)(B).

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 Traducción: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org

IT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. LET'S BUILD A COMMUNITY.



West Hills Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
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JOINT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Chaminade High School

February 23, 2026

Revised February 24, 2026

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, Faye Barta (virtual), Brenda Citrom, Glenn Jennings, Kim Koerber, Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Committee Members Absent: Saif Mogri, and Brian Murray

Other Board Members Present: None

Numbers refer to agenda items.

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. A quorum was established.
2. Comments from the Co-Chairs: Joanne discussed the Charter Reform Commission meeting she, Brenda, and Joan attended. Since there were 30 speakers for public comment, the Chair limited time to one minute. There were an additional 20 speakers on Zoom.
3. General Public Comment: None
4. Approval of December Meeting Minutes: No action taken.
6. February 18-2026 Charter Reform Commission meeting and progress: Joanne proposed requesting NC's no longer be considered advisory, but participatory to all LA City, LA County, State of California, and Federal government agencies. She added a sentence to proceed the above to state that NC Board Members are elected by stakeholders.

CIS in Support if Amended of CF Previously Addressed with Added Comments Above:

Aida Abkarians – Yes, Faye Barta – Yes, Brenda Citrom – Yes, Glenn Jennings – Yes,
Kim Koerber – Yes, Saif Mogri – Absent, Brian Murray – Absent, Joan Trent – Yes,
Brad Vanderhoof – Yes, Joanne Yvanek-Garb – Yes
Yes – 8, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 2, Recusal – 0
The CIS will be sent to the WHNC Board.

5. City Clerk's wanting to extend NC elections until 2029: There is no available Council File to file a CIS. Item tabled to March.

Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 16, 2026, 7:30 PM, Chaminade High School.

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA

PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
CITY CLERK

RUBEN VIRAMONTES
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

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clerk.lacity.gov

November 21, 2025

The Honorable Karen Bass, Mayor
City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall
Attention: Elyse Matson, Budget Director

SUBJECT: CITY CLERK FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dear Mayor Bass:

The Office of the City Clerk (City Clerk) respectfully transmits its Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Proposed Budget for your consideration, adhering to the guidelines set forth in the Mayor's Budget Policy letter dated October 6, 2025, and the Office of the City Administrative Officer's (CAO's) instructions. We recognize that FY 2026-27 is expected to bring similar budgetary challenges as the previous year, characterized by rising liability costs, potentially lower revenues, and the need for fiscal stability.

This year's budget request totals **\$30,996,258**. The budget prioritizes resource realignment and strategic investments necessary to maintain mandated services, ensure fiduciary oversight for elected offices, and uphold our mission of providing equitable access to City government for all Angelenos.

Addressing Fiscal Constraints and Mandatory Reductions

Departments were tasked with submitting a five percent reduction proposal as part of the FY 2026-27 budget. The City Clerk's General Fund target was set at \$873,888. The City Clerk respectfully requests that this target be reduced to \$640,508 as the original target included \$4,667,598 in one-time Municipal Election costs, which should have been excluded from the calculation.

To meet the mandatory reduction target, the City Clerk proposes not conducting the Hybrid Neighborhood Council (NC) Elections in 2026-27, which would achieve \$915,000 in savings. With no available vacancies, any alternative salary cuts would necessitate layoffs and inevitably impact the City Clerk's core functions. Furthermore, mandated contractual services—such as the operation of the Council File Management System and interpretation costs for City Council Committee Meetings—cannot be reduced without severely hindering critical services and public access to government.

Proceeding with the \$915,000 reduction from NC Elections will prevent the City Clerk from staffing polling places and processing Vote-By-Mail (VBM) ballots. If NC Elections are

postponed, this delay will need to be extended for two fiscal years, as the permanent and seasonal staff who execute the NC Elections also perform all Municipal Election duties, including petition review for candidate certification, ballot initiatives, and referendums. This postponement would also likely result in current Board Members having to extend their terms from two years to four years, which violates NC bylaws.

Historically, NC Boards have experienced high turnover. The City Clerk anticipates that forcing volunteers who agreed to a two-year term to serve four years will result in a higher degree of turnover for the majority of NCs. Additionally, all 99 NCs include one or two Youth Board members. Postponement will disqualify most, if not all, of these youth, as they will become adults during the extended period.

FY 2026-27 Key Priorities and Strategic Resource Requests

To mitigate the impact of the necessary reductions, the City Clerk is focusing its strategic planning on core objectives for the upcoming fiscal year.

The department's budget proposal is guided by the City Clerk's long-term objectives of Online Service Expansion, an Informed Public, Administrative Efficiency, and Workforce Sustainability. We are prioritizing resource realignment and strategic investments necessary to maintain mandated services, ensure administrative support for elected offices, and uphold our mission of providing equitable access to City government.

1. Ensuring Workforce Sustainability and Administrative Efficiency

To mitigate staff retention issues and the need to build institutional knowledge, the City Clerk is making the following requests:

- **Management Analyst – Fiscal Support (Mayor and City Council Administrative Support Program 1407):** A Management Analyst is urgently requested to assume responsibilities in fiscal contracting. This is necessary because a 120-day appointee currently managing the high demands of processing accounting documents and contracts monthly for elected offices will not be extending their term. This request ensures service continuity, and that contracts are processed in a timely and accurate manner.
 - **Resource Repurposing Offset:** This position is fully offset by the deletion of a vacant Executive Administrative Assistant II, resulting in a net cost of \$3,091. The existing duties of the deleted position will be absorbed internally.
- **Management Analyst – HR Support (General Administration and Support Program 1450):** A Management Analyst is requested to assist the Human Resource Services Section (HRSS) management team, resulting in a net cost of \$10,619. This position is vital for managing the anticipated workload associated with the cyclical rollover of Council Offices and the imminent adoption of the Council Aide classification Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Management Analyst will also help implement new procedures to mitigate risk in Employee Relations and oversee the newly developed Mentorship Program.

- o **Resource Repurposing Offset:** This request is offset by the deletion of a Senior Administrative Clerk. Efficiencies gained through the WorkDay system allow existing staff to absorb the deleted position's duties, enabling the department to pursue higher priority services like managerial development and program implementation.

2. Workforce Regularization to Preserve Institutional Knowledge (No added cost)

As part of the continuous effort to enhance staff retention and preserve institutional knowledge, the City Clerk proposes the regularization of eight (8) resolution authorities across various programs (at no added cost):

Division/Program	Positions to be Regularized	Authority Type
General Administration and Support (1450)	One (1) Accounting Records Supervisor I One (1) Personnel Records Supervisor One (1) Accountant One (1) Accounting Clerk	Resolution
Mayor and Council Support (1407)	Two (2) Accounting Clerks	Resolution
Records Management (1405)	One (1) Administrative Clerk	Resolution
Technology and Support (1449)	One (1) Information Systems Manager I	Resolution

The regularization of these positions is instrumental in providing continuity for human resources, fiscal, and accounting services to the elected offices and smaller departments.

3. Charter-Mandated Election Administration and Business Improvement Districts

This budget includes mandatory requests to meet election obligations and for the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) for FY 2026-27:

- **November 2026 General Election County Costs:** The City Clerk projects that it will need \$11,000,000 to pay the County of Los Angeles for conducting the November 2026 General Election. This is a mandatory expense and falls under the 1402-City Elections and Business Improvement Districts program, aligning with the Mayor's priority to "Make LA Shine."
- **Ballot Measure Voter Information Pamphlets (VIPs):** Anticipated costs for salaries, overtime, and expenses totaling \$4,284,136 are requested for preparing VIPs for various ballot measures in 2026-27.
- **November 2026 General Election City Clerk Costs:** Funds amounting to \$181,692 are required for the City Clerk's direct responsibilities related to the Election, including performing outreach, translating ballot measures, and printing voter information guides and postcards.

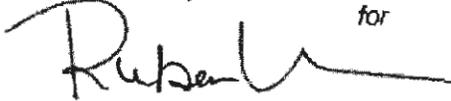
- **BIDs Trust Fund Obligations:** Due to a legally mandated obligation to pay assessments for City-owned parcels, general benefit obligations, public works, and CRA/LA costs, the City Clerk requests \$5,322,197 for the BID Trust Fund.
- **As-Need Funding Restoration:** The City Clerk requests \$292,213 to restore the Elections As-Needed (1070) base budget to prior year levels, necessary to avoid service impacts to the City's Municipal Elections.

4. Online Service Expansion and Transparency

The City Clerk continues its commitment to enhanced transparency and access to City governance. We plan to continue improving public-facing portals for better tracking of contracts and more efficient processing of payments. Furthermore, this budget sustains necessary funding for Spanish interpretation services for Council and Committee meetings to maintain transparency and address equity for mono-lingual Spanish stakeholders.

The City Clerk appreciates your commitment to developing a budget focused on positive outcomes and results. The proposals herein effectively leverage existing resources and address critical needs to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of the City Clerk's services as we strive to meet the demands of FY 2026-27.

Sincerely,

 for

Patrice Y. Lattimore
City Clerk

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA

PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
CITY CLERK

RUBEN VIRAMONTES
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

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clerk.lacity.gov

February 24, 2026

Honorable Members of the
Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-1358 MOTION (PADILLA -RODRIGUEZ)
REGARDING SENATE BILL 707 IMPACTS AND READINESS**

Honorable Members:

The Office of the City Clerk (City Clerk) submits its response to Council File No. 25-1358 Motion regarding Senate Bill (SB) 707 Impacts and Readiness.

RECOMMENDATION

NOTE and FILE the City Clerk report dated February 24, 2026, inasmuch as the report is for informational purposes only.

BACKGROUND

On December 10, 2025, the City Council adopted Motion (Padilla-Rodriguez) instructing the City Clerk to report on the impacts SB 707 will have on City procedures and the changes necessary for compliance with the Bill.

SB 707, signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 3, 2025, significantly expands the Ralph M. Brown Act. The key mandates of this legislation include requiring a two-way telephonic option for public comment, providing Spanish translations for agendas, offering interpretive services during Council meetings, and updating the legislative body's dedicated webpage.

IMPACTS ON CITY PROCEDURES AND NECESSARY CHANGES

The City Clerk has identified specific changes necessary to comply with SB 707. These changes are primarily administrative and focus on improving the accessibility and translation of meeting and public comment information on the legislative body's main webpage. The required updates are:

- Providing a direct link to the online Council meeting agendas.
- Electronically and physically posting translated Council agendas in all applicable languages for each meeting.
- Offering a general explanation of the public meeting process, including procedures for both in-person and remote public comment.
- Implementing functionality to translate the public meeting webpage into all applicable languages.
- Ensuring closed captioning for the broadcasted Council meeting.
- Providing interpretive and translation services for the Council meeting.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The City Clerk already provides many of the services required by SB 707 as standard practice.

The only remaining requirements to implement are:

1. Electronic and physical posting of translated Council agendas.
2. Publication of a general explanation of the public meeting process and procedures for public comment on the legislative body's main webpage.

These two changes are expected to be completed and rolled out by the July 1, 2026 deadline. All other requirements are already routinely met.

SB 707 requires Council meeting agendas to be translated into all "applicable languages." An "applicable language" is defined as one "spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of the applicable population, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, provided that 20 percent or more of the population that speaks that language in that city or county speaks English less than 'very well.'"

Based on the 2024 American Community Survey data for the City of Los Angeles, Spanish is the only language that meets this threshold, as it is spoken at home by 39 percent of the population. Consequently, the City Clerk will proceed with translating and posting Council meeting agendas in Spanish, both electronically and physically.

Further, a general explanation of the public meeting process and procedures for public comment is currently provided in all City Council meeting agendas. This information will be expanded and made available on the legislative body's main webpage as well.

FISCAL IMPACT

The recommendation to note and file this report will have no fiscal impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed with ClerkSign

Feb 24, 2026 1:41PM 

Patrice Y. Lattimore
City Clerk

PYL/RV/AS:ih

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 707 (Durazo)
As Amended September 5, 2025
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Makes numerous changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act), including new public access and participation requirements for specified legislative bodies, new exemptions from certain teleconferencing requirements for subsidiary bodies and multijurisdictional bodies, extensions of law providing exemptions from certain teleconferencing requirements for specified legislative bodies or under specified circumstances, and additional changes.

Major Provisions

- 1) Defines a new category of legislative body for the purposes of the Brown Act, an "eligible legislative body," to mean any of the following:
 - a) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.
 - b) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more.
 - c) A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.
 - d) The board of directors of a special district that has an internet website and meets any of the following conditions:
 - i) The boundaries of the special district include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the special district has over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
 - ii) The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.
 - iii) The special district has annual revenues, based on the most recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the California State Controller, that exceed \$400 million, adjusted annually for inflation, as specified, and the special district employs over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
- 2) Requires, beginning July 1, 2026, eligible legislative bodies described above to meet additional public access and participation requirements, until January 1, 2030. These requirements include providing (a) an opportunity for public attendance and comment via a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform, (b) *approving a policy and following specified procedures regarding disruption of telephonic or internet service during meetings*, (c) reasonable assistance with translation and interpretation services at public meetings, and (d) translation of agendas and specified website content into all applicable languages, as specified. Eligible legislative bodies must also actively encourage public participation, including by members of the public in underrepresented and non-English-speaking communities, among other specified requirements.

- 3) Revises and recasts teleconferencing provisions applicable to health authorities and during a state of emergency, and expands these provisions to include a local emergency, as specified.
- 4) Extends the sunset date to January 1, 2030, on teleconferencing flexibility provisions allowing remote participation of an individual legislative body member based on "just cause" and "emergency circumstances," *and expands "just cause" to include specified military service.*
- 5) *Extends the sunset date to January 1, 2030, on teleconferencing flexibility provided to neighborhood councils and student body associations.*
- 6) Provides teleconferencing flexibility to subsidiary bodies and multijurisdictional bodies, as specified, until January 1, 2030.
- 7) Clarifies the existing authority of a legislative body to remove or limit participation by persons who disrupt, disturb, impede, or render infeasible the orderly conduct of a meeting applies to members of the public participating in a meeting via a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform.
- 8) Provides that teleconferencing requirements do not apply to remote participation by a member of a legislative body with a disability, as specified.
- 9) Makes permanent provisions of law governing the use of social media platforms by members of legislative bodies by removing the sunset date of January 1, 2026.
- 10) Clarifies the circumstances under which an agenda must provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on an item that has already been considered by a committee, as specified.
- 11) Makes numerous additional technical, clarifying and conforming changes.

COMMENTS

- 1) *Brown Act Legislation Post-COVID.* Responding to the continued conflict between the Brown Act's requirements for in-person attendance and associated notice and posting requirements, and public health concerns with in-person meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of bills were approved by the Legislature in the past several years to provide relaxed teleconferencing requirements under specified circumstances or for specified types of legislative bodies, or both. These include:
 - a) AB 361 (Robert Rivas), Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021, allowed local agencies to use teleconferencing without having to post agendas at each teleconference location, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda, make each teleconference location accessible to the public, and require at least a quorum of the legislative body to participate from within the local agency's jurisdiction, and provided similar authorizations for state agencies subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act and legislative bodies subject to the Gloria Romero Open Meetings Act of 2000.
 - b) AB 2449 (Blanca Rubio), Chapter 285, Statutes of 2022, allowed, until January 1, 2026, members of a legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing without

identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting, and without making each teleconference location accessible to the public, for "just cause" or in emergency situations.

- c) AB 557 (Hart), Chapter 534, Statutes of 2023, eliminated the January 1, 2024, sunset date on AB 361, changed the requirement for a legislative body to make specified findings in order to continue using AB 361 teleconferencing provisions, and made other minor changes.
- d) SB 411 (Portantino), Chapter 605, Statutes of 2023, allowed a neighborhood council in the City of Los Angeles to teleconference without meeting all of the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act.
- e) AB 1855 (Arambula), Chapter 232, Statutes of 2024, allowed a community college student body association or any other student-run community college organization to teleconference without meeting all of the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act.

Additional prior bills that are relevant to this bill include:

- a) AB 922 (Mullin), Chapter 89, Statutes of 2020, created a new exception to a prohibition in the Brown Act against serial communications by a majority of a local legislative body's members, if they are using social media in specified ways, until January 1, 2026.
 - b) SB 1100 (Cortese), Chapter 171, Statutes of 2022, allowed the presiding member of a local legislative body to remove an individual for disrupting a local agency's meeting, defined "disrupting" for this purpose, and outlined the procedure that must be followed before an individual may be removed.
 - c) SB 537 (Becker) of 2023 would have allowed multijurisdictional, cross-county local agencies with appointed members to teleconference without meeting all of the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act. SB 537 was subsequently amended to address a different subject matter.
- 2) *Legislative Efforts This Year.* A number of bills have been working their way through the legislative process this year to extend sunset dates on the bills noted above, or to create new exceptions to the rules that generally apply to teleconferenced meetings under the Brown Act. These include:
- a) AB 259 (Rubio) extends, until January 1, 2030, the sunset date on AB 2449 (Blanca Rubio) for just cause and emergency situations.
 - b) AB 409 (Arambula) extends, until January 1, 2030, the sunset date on the provisions of law enacted by AB 1855 (Arambula) for community college organizations.
 - c) AB 467 (Fong) extends, until January 1, 2030, the sunset date on SB 411 (Portantino) for the City of Los Angeles neighborhood councils.
 - d) SB 239 (Arreguín) allows subsidiary bodies of a local agency to use teleconferencing without having to notice and make publicly accessible each teleconference location.

Please refer to the policy committee analysis for additional background.

According to the Author

The Brown Act since 1954 has served as the minimum standard for how the public can access their local meetings and for how local agencies conduct meetings. As technology has improved, the Legislature has made thoughtful changes to modernize the Brown Act. In addition, the pandemic has helped bring along other technological advancements.

SB 707 will modernize Brown Act rules for government bodies to improve transparency and expand public access. This bill will help governments better serve their communities and increase the public's access to meetings, especially for disabled, working, and non-English speaking communities. Since the bill's introduction, and at every stage of the legislative process, my office has worked closely with stakeholders – listening to their feedback and incorporating many of their suggested changes. This bill signifies a momentous time in the history of Brown Act where many stakeholders worked together in a fair compromise.

SB 707 presents an opportunity to strengthen our governments and empower community members to be engaged. We have thoughtfully integrated provisions from other Brown Act-related bills authored by Senator Arreguin, Assemblymember Fong, Assemblymember Arambula, and Assemblymember Rubio. Ultimately, we aim to create robust public meetings and increase participation across the state. If we don't make updates to the Brown Act, we lose on extending current provisions that give cities and counties flexibility, and we lose the opportunity to further engage with the public.

SB 707 creates a historic path forward to strengthen our governments and empower our community members statewide - it's time for Brown Act to be modernized.

Arguments in Support

A coalition of support, including the California State Association of Counties, the Rural County Representatives of California, the Urban Counties of California, and others, write, "SB 707 represents will update the Brown Act in a way that balances the concerns of local governments and government transparency advocates alike. SB 707 will:

- 1) Improve access to local government meetings by requiring remote meeting participation for the public for county boards of supervisors, city councils, and some special district governing board meetings.*
- 2) Expand participation among underrepresented groups and communities by requiring agenda translations into other languages for the first time in the history of the Brown Act. SB 707 would also require outreach to underrepresented groups, establish the right for Brown Act body members with disabilities to participate in meetings remotely, and require accommodation of interpretation.*
- 3) Heighten accountability by expanding requirements for closed session personnel actions for officers and department heads and restricting the use of special meetings to discuss compensation of legislative body members.*
- 4) Extend and improve existing law for community college student board meetings, neighborhood council meetings, meetings held during emergencies, remote meeting participation for members, and rules for social media engagement.*

- 5) *Improves representation on local advisory bodies by allowing new flexibility for members of non-decision-making bodies – but excludes elected members or bodies dedicated to police oversight, elections, privacy, budgets, or taxes.*

Arguments in Opposition

The League of California Cities, in opposition to a prior version of this bill, writes, "...The bill also creates inequities by tying its mandates to population thresholds. SB 707 defines 'eligible legislative bodies' to include:

- 1) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more;
- 2) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more;
- 3) A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more; or
- 4) The board of directors of a special district whose boundaries include a population of 200,000 or more and that has an internet website.

"This definition means that cities of similar size will be treated very differently. For example, approximately 100 cities with populations under 30,000 would be exempt. Yet another 100 cities with the same population levels would fall under the bill's mandates simply because they are located in larger counties. Governor Newsom highlighted the same problem in his 2021 veto of AB 339, noting that population-based mandates create unnecessary complexity and barriers to participation. The undue burden of the requirements is compounded by their inequitable application.

"If a city council qualifies as an 'eligible legislative body,' it would face a broad range of new requirements under SB 707. These include:

- 1) Providing two-way telephonic or audiovisual access for all meetings, with business halted in the event of service disruption that can seriously hamper important, time-sensitive proceedings;
- 2) Translating agendas into all 'applicable languages,' defined as those spoken by 20 percent or more of residents with limited English proficiency;
- 3) Designating a physical location for 'community translations' and allowing members of the public to post their own translations without any standards or limits;
- 4) Expanding outreach efforts to groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings;
- 5) Creating and maintaining a dedicated, multi-language webpage for public meetings, prominently linked from the city's homepage, with translated explanations of meeting procedures, calendars of all meetings, and links to agendas and participation instructions; and
- 6) Developing and maintaining electronic systems for agenda requests, either through email or integrated agenda management platforms.

"Taken together, these obligations will result in a significant new cost and workload for many jurisdictions..."

FISCAL COMMENTS

- 1) Ongoing costs to local agencies of an unknown but likely significant amount to meet new Brown Act requirements, such as providing translation services and two-way telephonic services or audiovisual platforms for public meetings, and performing numerous new administrative duties. Local agencies may also incur additional legal costs due to increased legal exposure. However, any costs imposed on local agencies as a result of this bill are not state-reimbursable. Proposition 42, passed by voters on June 3, 2014, amended the state Constitution to require all local governments to comply with the California Public Records Act (CPRA) and the Brown Act, and eliminated reimbursement to local agencies for costs of complying with the CPRA and Brown Act.
- 2) Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown amount to the courts to adjudicate violations of this bill in civil actions brought to enforce this bill. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The fiscal year 2025-26 state budget provides \$82 million ongoing General Fund to the Trial Court Trust Fund for court operations.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 24-6-10

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

NO: Alvarado-Gil, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Seyarto, Strickland

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caballero, Choi, Grayson, Hurtado, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Reyes, Rubio, Valladares

ASM LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 6-2-2

YES: Carrillo, Pacheco, Ramos, Blanca Rubio, Stefani, Ward

NO: Ta, Hoover

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ransom, Wilson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-4-0

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Ahrens, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

NO: Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: September 5, 2025

CONSULTANT: Angela Mapp / L. GOV. / (916) 319-3958

FN: 0001783

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COALITION (LANCC) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER REFORM

Submitted to the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission

Better Government Committee

January 21, 2025

The LANCC Committee's Process

- The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) Charter Reform Recommendation committee was created by a vote of LANCC at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 1
- During the committee's weekly public meetings, we came up with our own recommendations, including input from the public, that we wanted to see in the Charter. We reviewed 192 Charter Reform related CISs written since October 13, 2022. We considered the recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates.
- We voted on each of the ideas we culled from these sources. Votes went from agreement (yes or no) with no discussion to agreement (yes or no) requiring discussion for a full meeting.
- Every agreed upon item was written into a copy of the Charter
- The marked-up Charter that comes from this process was approved by LANCC January 3, 2026
- Charter numbers referenced in this presentation reflect the LANCC marked-up copy

Neighborhood Councils

- There is no serious discussion of Neighborhood Councils in the Charter. Article IX in the existing Charter, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, is about DONE, BONC, and establishing the NC system.
- If DONE happened to be removed, another support structure could be developed to support Neighborhood Councils. If the Neighborhood Councils happen to be removed, DONE would have no purpose. DONE is not the Neighborhood Councils and the Neighborhood Councils are not DONE.
- To address this, we moved DONE and BONC to Article V, Departments, and renamed Article IX Neighborhood Councils. During this exercise we added NC impacts into the Charter descriptions of the impacted bodies. In this writing, Neighborhood Councils are more directly woven into the fabric of the City.
- We removed language about forming the NC system
- Named ourselves Elected Advisors to the City Government

Neighborhood Councils (continued)

- Neighborhood Councils need codified authority to operate within their lane.
- Recognition of Neighborhood Councils by City Council is essential. We have the right to advise, but are sometimes not given the opportunity to do so.
- Neighborhood Councils shall have the right to speak, in person and telephonically, before all public meetings of the City
- Neighborhood Councils delivering a Community Impact Statement shall be in a separate queue from public comment and shall be given five minutes to speak
 - NCs shall have the right to speak whenever an item appears on an agenda, even in cases where that item has already been heard by a committee
 - Neighborhood Councils, regardless of the City's position, may deliver to any governmental agency a statement passed in a Brown Act public meeting at which there is quorum. The City may create and require language to indicate the NC is speaking for itself and not the City.
- Neighborhood Councils shall be authorized to form Alliances
 - Neighborhood Councils may contribute funds or equivalent (including, but not limited to, websites, licenses, and meeting spaces) for the benefit of the Alliances.

Neighborhood Councils (Continued)

- Neighborhood Councils shall monitor the delivery of City services in their respective areas and the City at-large. City services shall include all departments defined in the Charter and created by ordinance, joint power commissions, and offices of elected officials.
- City Departments, Commissions, and Offices that issue permits, approvals, or regulatory decisions following a public hearing (including but not limited to the City Planning Department, Department of Cannabis Regulation, and any successor or related offices) and ministerial construction projects that bypass City Planning and go directly to the Department of Building and Safety shall give NCs a minimum of 30 calendar days to weigh in
 - The Department of City Planning shall ensure that all documents related to a case before the Department, including ministerial projects that bypass the Department of City Planning and go directly to the Department of Building and Safety are made public and posted to the online case file.
- Even if a board member's economic interest is foreseeable and material, they do not have a legal conflict of interest unless the decision's impact on his or her economic interest is different from the general public's impact
 - [This comes from a finding of City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo](#)

Neighborhood Councils (Continued)

- Updated definition of stakeholder to match the definition voted by City Council
- In the interest of efficiency, Neighborhood Councils may include consent calendars on their agendas. Items on consent calendars may include common agenda items including, but not limited to, approval of minutes and the Monthly Expenditure Report and may include agenda items voted by a committee.
 - Any member of the board shall have the ability, at the meeting, to request an agenda item on the consent calendar be removed from consent and heard on its own. The meeting chair shall remove the requested consent agenda item if requested. Removal shall not be a topic for discussion.
 - The public shall have the opportunity to make public comment on the items on the agenda items in the consent calendar.
- Capitalized Neighborhood Councils throughout
- See marked-up Charter sections 254, preamble to "GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO DEPARTMENTS," Section 550, Article IX

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

- Moved from Article IX to Article V
- DONE must become better at being the source of City information for the NCs. Different Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates have differing levels of knowledge resulting in the same question being answered differently depending on which NEA you talk to
 - We have asked, and we ask again, the Department to maintain a database of knowledge articles for the benefit of the Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates and the NCs
- We added a list of items DONE should not do
 - Substitute its judgment for that of elected NCs
 - Use its resources to request NCs advocate for any legislative position
 - Create policies that become de facto regulations

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (Continued)

- Added an employment requirement that the DONE General Manager have public policy experience
- Provided NCs the opportunity to submit questions to ask GM candidates during the employment interview
- See marked-up Charter Section 599

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC)

- Moved from Article IX to Article V
- Increased the number of commissioners from seven to nine with the two additional commissioners being at-large and appointed by Neighborhood Councils
- At the same time as departments, Neighborhood Councils shall submit their budget request for the following year. The two at-large BONC commissioners shall be a single point-of-contact and shall organize the requests into a single request for the Mayor's consideration.
- Give BONC oversight responsibilities over DONE
- Make BONC an appeals body for NCs and/or board members seeking redress for actions by DONE and/or the City Clerk
- Members of BONC shall not be permitted to vote at Commission meetings if they have not completed their required training within 30 days of being seated and to be able to continue voting their required training must be current.
- See marked-up Charter Sections 311 and 599

Budget

- The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and LANCC support
 - Transparent labor negotiations where there is public outreach before, during, and after the negotiations so the public can understand the direction of the negotiations and provide public comment
 - The City Council shall not approve labor agreements that would create a current or future deficit
 - As part of budget planning, the CAO shall prepare a four-year budget outlook that reflects realistic anticipated raises for City Employees
 - Two-year budgets. This is also supported by the City Controller and the LA 2020 Commission. See report in [Council File 14-1184](#).
 - Five-year capital infrastructure plan that is updated bi-annually.
 - The reserve fund shall be maintained at a minimum of 5% of the total budget (current City policy). The Reserve Fund shall only be drawn upon during a declared emergency and may not be used to balance the rest of the budget
- During budget challenges, the percentage of Neighborhood Councils budget reductions shall not be greater than that of the office of the Mayor. When the Mayor's office budget is restored after the budget challenge, the Neighborhood Councils budgets are similarly restored.
- See marked-up Charter Sections 219, 291, 312, 321

Office of Transparency and Accountability

- Recommended by the Los Angeles 2020 Commission. See report in [Council File 14-1184](#). Consistently requested by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates.
- The Office of Transparency and Accountability would be an independent watchdog. The office serves as the people's financial guardian, reviewing contracts, scrutinizing expenditures and sounding the alarm when the numbers stop adding up. (Some language taken from OJ Oleka, CEO of the State Financial Officers Association. [Article by OJ Oleka](#))
- The Office of Transparency and Accountability is a truth-telling body that operates independently of elected officials and provides unbiased facts to the public.
- See marked-up Charter section 295

City Council Activities

- Update to codify mandatory telephonic public comment. Working people cannot go downtown to get on a queue where they hope to get one minute to speak.
- City Council members shall actively vote yes, no, or abstain and they shall be visible to the public for the vote to count
- Each City Council member shall meet with each NC in its district no less than once a year
- Council members shall file a Form 51 when recusing from a vote
- Members of the City Council and all Commissioners shall not be permitted to vote at City Council and Committee or Commission meetings if they have not completed their required training within 30 days of being seated and to be able to continue voting their required training must be current.
- Limit the ability of the City Council to adopt ordinances impacting the Neighborhood Council Plan to administrative or ministerial actions. Anything else must go to the ballot for the public to decide. Specifically, the City Council may not, through ordinance, change Neighborhood Council composition and terms of board members.
- Each City Councilmember shall, on an annual basis at a minimum, meet with each Neighborhood Council located wholly or partially within the Councilmember's district if the Neighborhood Council desires the meeting
- See marked-up Charter Section 242, 250, 501, 907

Ethics Commission

- Increase the number of Commissioners from five to seven
 - One of the new Commissioners is appointed by the Neighborhood Councils and one is appointed by the Ethics Commission itself
 - City Council does not confirm the selections by the Ethics Commission and NCs
- The Ethics Commission shall have the ability to send items directly to the ballot when the City Council does not advance a recommendation or heavily amends a recommendation
- Increase the Ethics Commission budget to \$9 million, adjusted year-by-year based on the change in the City's revenues
 - Allow the budget not to be increased in the case of a declared fiscal emergency
- Increased the time for adjudication of Ethics complaints from four years to five
- See marked-up sections 470, 700, 703, 711, 803

City Attorney

- Added Neighborhood Councils to the entities to which the City Attorney provides legal advice
- The City Attorney shall give advice or opinion in writing when requested by a Neighborhood Council President or Chair
- The City Attorney shall not limit public interactions for Neighborhood Councils more than it does for City Council
- See marked-up section 271

Ongoing Charter Reform

- We envision a more regular Charter Reform process. Don't wait 25 years or more to review the Charter. No less than every ten years, the City should review the Charter and determine whether or not we need an update.
- The Charter Reform Commissions may send recommendations to the ballot when the City Council does not advance a recommendation or heavily amends a recommendation
- See marked-up Charter Section 130.

Wrap Up

- Thank you for making the time to hear us out. We are greatly appreciative and are looking forward to seeing the Commission's final recommendations.
- If you have any question when you review these materials, feel free to email Kay Hartman, the committee chair, at kay.hartman@palmsnc.la