







LA GOVERNANCE REFORM PROJECT Public Briefing on Draft Recommendations

Thursday, June 15, 2023 12 PM - 1 PM





Raphael J. Sonenshein, Ph.D. Moderator



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- PROJECT SUPPORT FROM -





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UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs



THE GOALS OF REFORM

A city government that is responsive, accountable, equitable, and effective. To prevent corruption, improve governance, and enhance intergroup relations.

THE MOMENT Is now

The recording controversy was the impetus, but now the calls for reform are a wave from city hall to community and back. The council, civic and community groups, creative thinkers, and even the state are engaged.





Supported by philanthropy

Academically sound

Independent recommendations

Connected with stakeholders

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NOVEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023 Phase One

Project initiation, development of draft recommendations, and release of public report that provides rationale and research basis.



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Draft Recommendations

REDISTRICTING

A more open application process than ever before as to who can apply and geographic balance. A detailed plan for an independent LAUSD commission.

REDUCING SIZE OF COUNCIL DISTRICTS ETHICS REFORMS

Increase the council but also have a small number of at-large seats. New ways to calculate the cost of council expansion.



Innovative recommendations to empower the ethics commission.













INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

Establish two independent commissions, one for City of Los Angeles and one for LAUSD Seventeen-member commissions, built around geography Additional requirements to be a commissioner beyond state law Wider pool for applicant eligibility: adult residents Address the costs of simultaneously running two commissions













REDUCING SIZE OF COUNCIL DISTRICTS

Measuring representational value of smaller districts

Twenty-one districts plus four at-large members

The significance of mixed systems

Possible ways to cut costs of expansion; focus on overall council budget















ETHICS REFORMS

An additional focus beyond the original two topics

Critical in light of city hall scandals

Support for the first two reforms is likely contingent on ethics reforms

Key is to align empowered ethics commission and city council

Two primary recommendations:

- Commission approval of city council ethics legislation
- Authority to place policy recommendations directly on the ballot

Summary of Recommendations

Establish independent redistricting commission for City of Los Angeles Establish independent redistricting commission for LAUSD Reduce size of council districts: twenty-one districts plus four at-large members Ethics Commission approval of city council ethics legislation Authority for Ethics Commission to place policy recommendations directly on the ballot







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JUNE 2023 - NOVEMBER 2023

Bring draft recommendations to the community for discussion and feedback. Goal is to present proposal to the LA City Council in November 2023.













Timeline

NOV 2022 - JUNE 2023

JUNE 2023 - SEPT 2023

SEPT 2023 - NOV 2023

 Project initiation and development of draft recommendations by university leadership team

• Solicit community and other stakeholder input

- Present proposal to LA City Council to place on 2024 ballot
- Issue final set of recommendations

















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