

# Status Report

## Ad Hoc L.A. City Charter Reform Committee

First Meeting Date/Time: March 10, 2026, 7:00 PM – 8:40 PM

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### 1. Overview

The Ad Hoc L.A. City Charter Reform Committee convened its inaugural meeting to discuss the ongoing Los Angeles City Charter Reform process and to begin developing a strategy for stakeholder engagement and potential policy recommendations.

The meeting was well attended via Zoom and included both Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board members and community stakeholders. As this was the committee's first meeting, the discussion was intentionally informal to allow broad participation and encourage suggestions regarding the work of this newly formed committee. Future meetings will follow a more formal structure, with participation by non-committee Board members limited in order to facilitate committee business.

The committee reviewed the timeline established by the Charter Reform Commission. The Commission is scheduled to submit its recommendations to the Los Angeles City Council on **April 2, 2026**. From **April through June**, the City Council will review the recommendations and determine which proposals will be placed before voters. **July 3, 2026** is the deadline for the City Council to formally adopt any proposed reforms for placement on the **November 3, 2026 ballot**.

Due to the late formation of this ad hoc committee, members agreed that the committee's primary objective will be to review the Commission's recommendations, gather community input, and prepare Community Impact Statements (CIS) for VNC Board consideration and approval prior to submission to the appropriate Council File(s) related to Charter Reform.

### 2. Committee

The committee currently consists of six members, including three VNC Board members and three community Stakeholders, representing a range of perspectives and political viewpoints. Two of the Stakeholder members are active in the Venice community but not involved with the VNC, further broadening the diversity of perspectives represented on the committee.

Additional participants are welcome to join the committee. The current members are:

- Lisa Redmond — Co-Chair
- Robin Rudisill — Co-Chair
- Helen Fallon
- Rick Garvey

- David Ewing
- Gary Pearl

### **3. Outreach and Engagement Strategy**

The committee discussed a number of strategies to inform stakeholders about Charter Reform and to solicit community input on potential proposals.

Potential outreach initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Development of a dynamic survey that can be updated as feedback is received
- Collaboration with the VNC Outreach and Communications Committee to distribute informational email communications
- Engagement with community organizations and partner mailing lists to expand outreach beyond the VNC email list
- Preparation of newsletter content explaining Charter Reform and its relevance to residents
- Distribution of flyers with QR codes to provide easy access to surveys and informational resources
- Coordination with local media outlets to broaden public awareness
- Potential press releases related to the committee's work
- Exploration of grassroots digital media content, such as short informational videos
- Sharing outreach materials with other Neighborhood Councils

The committee also emphasized the importance of providing balanced educational materials that clearly present both the potential advantages and disadvantages of proposed reforms.

### **4. Potential Policy Topics Under Consideration**

The committee conducted a preliminary roundtable discussion to identify potential Charter Reform topics for review. Members agreed to focus on no more than 15–20 priority topics as the process moves forward.

#### **Governance and Representation**

- Expansion of the number of City Council members
- Formalization of the advisory role of Neighborhood Councils
- Ranked Choice Voting

- Lowering the voting age to 16 for City and LAUSD elections
- Expanding voting eligibility to non-citizens in City and LAUSD elections

### **Transparency and Accountability**

- Financial transparency and performance accountability
- Transparency in allocation of sales tax revenues
- Evaluation of City spending practices
- Increased transparency and competitive bidding requirements for City contracts

### **Planning, Land Use, and Public Assets**

- Restrictions on the sale of parkland
- Oversight and transparency regarding the sale of City property
- Replacement of Area Planning Commissions with a Neighborhood Appeals Commission
- Requirement for a Local Coastal Program (LCP)

### **Public Administration and Services**

- Infrastructure funding, planning, and budgeting reforms
- Structure of the City Attorney position (elected vs. appointed)
- Police accountability and governance structure
- Improved coordination between City departments and LAUSD

### **Civic Participation and Public Engagement**

- Expanding opportunities for Neighborhood Councils to provide comment via Zoom or telephone
- Increasing public awareness of Neighborhood Councils and civic participation opportunities
- Public education on how to engage with City processes such as Council Files
- Protection to protest and 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights

Additional topics raised during discussion included emergency preparedness coordination (including FEMA and flood insurance issues), separation of Venice to an independent city (“Vexit”), oversight of homelessness spending, and broader civic participation initiatives.

## 5. Next Steps

### Immediate Actions

- Update the Ad Hoc Committee webpage with Charter Reform resources and information
- Develop a newsletter for distribution to the VNC mailing list explaining Charter Reform and how stakeholders can participate
- Monitor the release of the Charter Reform Commission recommendations
- Obtain the City Council meeting schedule for April–June 2026 once available
- Develop and distribute a community survey to gather stakeholder input
- Coordinate with the VNC Outreach and Communications Committee on outreach materials and messaging
- Identify priority Charter Reform topics for further analysis
- Begin drafting potential Community Impact Statements (CIS)

### Next Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026 — 6:00 PM

## 6. Relevant Links

- The Charter Reform Item Tracker is a resource from the Commission that lists all actions taken so far: <https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/resources-materials/charter-reform-item-tracker>
- Resources and Materials relevant to the Charter Reform, including meeting agendas and minutes, presentations, staff reports, CIS received and much more: <https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/resources-materials>
- Charter Reform Commission meeting schedule: <https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/commission-meeting-schedule>
- Draft Charter language so far: <https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/resources-materials/draft-charter-language>
- March 10, 2026 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting minutes: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting69b743fc97d10.pdf>
- March 19, 2026 Ad Hoc Committee Agenda: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting69b743756feb1.pdf>
- Yo Venice blog post on the Ad Hoc Committee first meeting: <https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/resources-materials/draft-charter-language>