



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

June 12, 2018

MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL & CHARTER AMENDMENT COMMITTEE  
City of Long Beach

RECOMMENDATION:

**To consider and receive comments from the community regarding the following proposed amendment to the Long Beach City Charter:** City of Long Beach Citizens Redistricting Commission Measure. A charter amendment and ordinance to require the creation of a citizens commission of Long Beach residents, to determine the boundaries of City Council districts at least every ten years after the national census for members of the Long Beach City Council.

DISCUSSION:

City Charter Amendment Process

Under State law, a majority of Long Beach voters must approve any City Charter Amendment. The next available date to place this Charter amendment on the ballot will be November 6, 2018. To consider this amendment for the November 6, 2018 election, State law requires that there be three public hearings/meetings over the next 60 days. At each of these hearings/meetings there will be opportunities for discussion, receiving community input, and making changes to the Charter amendment language. The hearing/meeting dates are as follows:

- June 12, 2018 – First public hearing: Receive staff presentation, hear public comment, direct staff to gather any further information or implement changes.
- July 17, 2018 – Second public hearing: Receive any updated information, hear public comment, direct staff to gather any information or make amendment changes.
- August 7, 2018 – Final meeting: Receive any updated information, hear public comment, make any final amendment changes, and if the City Council so chooses, adopt the required resolutions to place the Charter amendment on the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Discussion of proposed amendments has no fiscal impact.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

**Consider proposed amendment to the Long Beach City Charter, receive comments from the community, and refer for second hearing on July 17.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach  
Dated: June 4, 2018



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
**CITY AUDITOR LAURA DOUD**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 31, 2018

Members of the Long Beach City Council  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: Proposed Charter Amendments**

Dear Long Beach City Councilmembers:

Over the last few years, members of the community, City Commissions, and many of you have discussed ways to make our government more effective, efficient, and ethical. We strongly support efforts that open our city government to smart reforms.

Together, we are putting forward five charter amendments for consideration for the November ballot. They include a redistricting commission, an ethics commission, strengthening our term limit laws, defining the authority of the City Auditor, and consolidating our utility departments.

We believe these changes are good government measures and look forward to working with the City Council to put these measures before the voters of Long Beach to consider.

We look forward to the Charter Amendment committee meetings in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Robert Garcia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura L. Doud", written in a cursive style.

City Auditor Laura L. Doud



**City of Long Beach**  
*Working Together to Serve*

**Memorandum**  
**Councilmember Al Austin**  
**Eighth District**

**R-21**

**Date:** November 7, 2017

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*  
Councilmember Suzie Price, Third District *SP*  
Councilmember Daryl Supernaw, Fourth District *DS*  
Councilmember Dee Andrews, Sixth District *DA*

**Subject:** **Measures to Promote Good Government and Public Confidence for Long Beach City Government**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Request the Mayor to convene the Charter Amendment Committee of the City Council within 30 days to discuss placing a charter amendment before the voters to establish a City Ethics Commission, and to establish a Citizen Redistricting Commission, in order to promote good governance and ensure public confidence in Long Beach city government, and request the City Clerk and City Attorney to develop framework options for the Committee to consider.**

**BACKGROUND:**

This is an important time in the public discourse to ensure that there is confidence in our government institutions. From the national to local governments, there has been an erosion of trust and confidence.

Nearly every major city in California has previously taken steps to provide additional accountability for their elected officials. Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Berkeley and Oakland all have established Ethics Commissions to review matters ranging from conflict of interest to campaign finance. These commissions enhance the public trust in the ethics enforcement process by assigning these responsibilities to a quasi-independent entity.

Furthermore, many local governments are following the lead established by the State of California in 2008 to establish an independent commission to determine the district boundaries for legislators. This further helps restore confidence in governance, and that the representatives are being chosen by the voters, rather than the representatives choosing their voters.

The City Council, as the Charter Amendment Committee, can review the different frameworks and models for these good government practices, and provide an opportunity for the voters of Long Beach to have a say in establishing these additional tools for public trust.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is not a significant fiscal impact with this recommendation, and the costs for proceeding with charter amendment measures will be determined.

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, PROPOSING AN  
AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER CREATING A  
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
follows:

Section 1. That the City Council, pursuant to its right and authority under  
Long Beach City Charter §1903 and California Government Code §34458, and all other  
applicable California law, proposes that the City Charter be amended as shown in  
Attachment "A".

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption  
by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council  
of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 by the  
following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Noes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Absent: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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Exhibit "A"

Proposed Charter Amendment

[attached behind this page]

DRAFT

MEASURE “ \_\_\_\_ ”

SECTION 1. THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH DO HEREBY AMEND THE LONG BEACH CITY CHARTER BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE \_\_\_\_ TO THE CITY CHARTER:

**“ARTICLE – CITIZENS’ REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.**

**Section \_\_\_\_ – REDISTRICTING BY ORDINANCE.**

Every ten (10) years, the City Council shall by ordinance redraw electoral district lines to be used for all elections of City Council members, including their recall, and for filling any vacancy in the office of member of the City Council, after the effective date of the redistricting ordinance. Districts so formed shall each contain, as nearly as practicable, equal portions of the total population of the City as shown by the Federal Census immediately preceding the formation of districts. The first ordinance shall be adopted not later than December 31, 2021, and each subsequent tenth anniversary of that date.

**Section \_\_\_\_ – COMMISSION CREATED.**

A Citizens’ Redistricting Commission is hereby created to advise the City Council on the drawing of City Council electoral district boundaries.

**Section \_\_\_\_ - ORGANIZATION.**

(a) The Citizens’ Redistricting Commission shall be composed of residents of the City of Long Beach. Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. No member shall hold elective office in the City or be an employee of the City, during their term on the Commission.

(b) Members shall be appointed at the time the redistricting ordinance is required to be considered, and shall serve until the redistricting ordinance is adopted.

**Section \_\_\_\_ - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To review United States decennial census data and related demographic information, hold public hearings and seek public input, and render recommendations to the City Council for the adjustment of boundaries to City Council electoral districts to ensure that electoral districts so formed shall each contain, as nearly as practicable, equal portions of the total population of the City. All districts shall be redrawn in conformance with requirements of Federal and State law and, to the extent feasible, shall keep neighborhoods and communities intact, utilize natural boundaries or street lines, and be geographically compact.

(b) No recommendation shall be made by the Commission except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Commission. Failure of the Commission to make a recommendation in any year within the time prescribed shall be deemed to mean a recommendation that no change be made. Each recommendation shall be made in writing. Before it submits any such recommendation to the City Council, the Commission shall conduct at least one public hearing on the matter. When such recommendation has been submitted to the City Council, it shall not thereafter be amended by the Commission unless referred back from the City Council.

(c) To perform such other duties as may be established by this Charter or the City Council."

## SECTION 2. Approval, Filing and Recordation of Charter Amendment.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 34460, if approved by a majority of voters, the Mayor and City Clerk shall certify, authenticate and attest to the passage of this Charter Amendment. The City Clerk shall also (i) record one copy of this Charter Amendment with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office, (ii) file one copy in the City's archives and (iii) file one copy with the California Secretary of State. Each copy recorded with the County Recorder and filed in the City's archives shall also be filed with the following:

(a) Certified copies of all publications and notices required of the City by State law in connection with the calling of an election to propose the Charter Amendment.

(b) Certified copies of any arguments for or against the Charter Amendment that were mailed to voters pursuant to California Elections Code Sections 9281 and 13303.

(c) A certified abstract of the vote at the election at which the Charter Amendment was approved by the voters.



SECTION 3. Ratification and Effective Date. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 34459, this Charter Amendment shall be deemed ratified if approved by a majority of the eligible voters of the City of Long Beach voting at the General Election of November 6, 2018. However, this Charter Amendment shall not take effect until it has been accepted and filed by the Secretary of State pursuant to Government Code Section 34460.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this Charter Amendment or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Charter Amendment and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the People of the City of Long Beach at a General Election held on November 6, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT GARCIA  
Mayor of the City of Long Beach

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monique De La Garza  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

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Charles Parkin  
City Attorney