

Joint Statement from California Common Cause, the LA Governance Reform Project and OUR LA on the LA City Council's Proposal Establishing an Independent Redistricting Commission

Los Angeles – California Common Cause, OUR LA and the LA Governance Reform Project today issued the following joint statement in response to the Los Angeles City Council's proposal to establish an independent redistricting commission (IRC):

"We congratulate the City Council for taking this important first step. The proposal for establishing an IRC is well formulated, and we believe a version of it should be placed on the ballot next year. However, the proposal doesn't go far enough, and the Council has additional work to do to sufficiently address Angelinos' well-warranted concerns over governance in the city.

"In addition to an independent redistricting commission, we share four overarching goals as part of this solution:

1. The city council should be expanded to reduce the size of the current districts and increase points of representation between Angelinos and the City.
2. The city's ethics rules and ethics commission should be strengthened to ensure greater transparency in city government and more rigorous oversight of elected officials.
3. An IRC should also be established for the LAUSD School Board to improve transparency and fairness.
4. Additionally, the LA Governance Reform Project recommends that the LAUSD board be expanded to ensure closer representation between the residents of the district and its leadership. California Common Cause and the OUR LA coalition are considering their positions.

"The creation of an IRC is not the be-all, end-all to achieving structural reform in city government. Recapturing the trust of Angelinos lost amid the 2022 tapes scandal is paramount and a multifaceted challenge. While an IRC for the Council is an important first step, this process of reform must continue with additional proposals placed in front of the voters next November."

California Common Cause, OUR LA and the LA Governance Reform Project have each been actively engaged in researching, developing, and engaging the public on reforms to city government in Los Angeles. The groups have a collective goal of local government that is more responsive, accountable, and representative of the people it serves.

###

About California Common Cause

California Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to building a democracy that includes the voices of all of California's communities. We work on voting rights, redistricting reform, government transparency, money in politics, and other democracy issues with the goal of ending structural inequities in our state and local democracies and creating governments at all levels that are accountable to and reflective of all Californians. Learn more at <https://www.commoncause.org/california/>.

About the LA Governance Reform Project

The Los Angeles Governance Reform Project (LAGRP) brings together academics and researchers, from across the region to develop independent governance reform proposals that will advance a more transparent, accountable, and community-driven City of Los Angeles municipal government. The LAGRP's mission is to produce independent nonpartisan reform recommendations informed by research and practice that inform the policy-making process and broader civic and community engagement.

To maintain the independence of this project, this work is being funded entirely by private philanthropy, including the California Community Foundation, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, and the Weingart Foundation. Learn more at <https://www.lagovreform.org/>.

About the OUR LA Coalition

OUR LA is a multiracial, multi-generational, multi-issue, and intersectional coalition of community-based organizations and racial justice advocates committed to community voice, multiracial solidarity, power-building, racial equity, structural reform, and transparency. Learn more at <http://www.ourla.org>.