



For Immediate Release

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Los Angeles Governance Reform Project Final Report Calls for Independent Redistricting, Larger City Council and Ethics Reform

Independent Poll Finds Voters Overwhelming Favor Reforms for LA and LAUSD

LOS ANGELES - Continuing to inform the debate on structural governance reform in the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Governance Reform Project (LAGRP) released its final recommendations. The comprehensive proposal advocates for an Independent Redistricting Commission, an expanded City Council, an expanded LAUSD Governing Board, and significantly stronger ethics rules, measures overwhelmingly favor by Los Angeles voters.

"The City of Los Angeles is at a pivotal moment in its history, and our final recommendations aim to address long-standing issues and usher in a new era of transparent, accountable, and community-driven municipal government," said Ange-Marie Hancock, Ph.D., co-chair of LAGRP and Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University "Reaching this goal will take a multi-faceted and multi-pronged approach. Our recommendations are intended to be considered as a comprehensive, research-based package that will help Los Angeles thrive."

The recommendations are the result of a nearly year-long extensive research process, outreach and engagement with stakeholder groups. To help inform the final recommendations, 12 focus groups were conducted by Ebony Marketing Systems and a poll of 1624 registered voters was conducted by Interviewing Services of America. The data revealed significant support for independent redistricting, an enlarged City Council and LAUSD Board and significantly stronger ethics rules.

"We took a research-informed approach, engaging with the diverse voices of Los Angeles to ensure our recommendations reflect the needs and aspirations of our city's residents," stated Gary Segura, Ph.D., co-chair of LAGRP and Professor at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. "These reform recommendations are interdependent and mutually reinforcing."

Below is a summary of the LAGRP's final recommendations and survey results:

1. Independent Redistricting Commissions:

- Establish two independent commissions, one for the City of Los Angeles and one for LAUSD.
- Commissioners selected through a multi-stage process, ensuring representation from all corners of the city.
- Implement a 3-year residency requirement, disclosure rules for political donations, and transparency regulations.
- Registered voters believe district lines are better drawn by a neutral agency (76% to 24%) and would vote "Yes" (75% to 25%),

2. Council and School Board Size:

- Increase the City Council to 25 members, with 20 elected by district and five at-large members.

- Expand the LAUSD Board from seven to eleven seats.
- Use the Independent Redistricting Commissions for both City Council and School Board seats.
- 76% of registered voters support the City Council being expanded to 21 seats, and 66% would support at least 25 seats. 71% of voters support an 11-seat School Board.

3. Ethics Reforms:

- Grant the Ethics Commission authority to approve City Council ethics legislation.
- Enable the Commission to place policy recommendations directly on the ballot with a supermajority vote.
- Expand the Commission from five to seven members, with the Mayor and City Council President each appointing one of the additional members.
- 8 in 10 voters surveyed believe the level of corruption in the LA City Council should raise concern and is more than most government bodies.
- 9 in 10 voters believe ethics rules should be reformed and made stronger (42%) or much stronger (47%).

The LAGRP strongly favors bringing these measures to the voters in November of 2024, an election in which voter participation would be highest. If passed by voters, an independent redistricting commission should be convened to create new districts for the 2028 elections.

For more information about LAGRP, and to download the executive summary of the final report visit www.lagovreform.org.

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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 not only inform the policy-making process but helps inform 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.

Media Notes

- **Focus Groups:** The Los Angeles Governance Reform Project contracted with Ebony Marketing Systems to conduct 12 focus groups of LA Voters, grouped by race and ethnicity as well as gender and sexual expression, between September 5 and October 4, 2023. Focus group informants represented every corner of Los Angeles (including all 15 council districts) and spanned socio-economic and occupational diversity. 56% had lived in Los Angeles 21 or more years; 44% 20 years or less.
- **Survey Research:** The Los Angeles Governance Reform Project retained Interviewing Services of America (ISA) to conduct a poll of 1624 registered voters representative of the diversity of the Los Angeles electorate. The poll was conducted in English and Spanish, by a mixture of online and telephone sampling between October 6 and October 20, 2023. Raw data were subject to post-stratification weighting to match known population characteristics. The margin-of-error is +/- 2.43%

