



## Dulce Vasquez for Los Angeles City Council

### 2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Los Angeles Mayor and City Council

**(1) Do you support increasing the number of seats on the Los Angeles City Council from the current 15 to a larger number of City Council members (<https://losangeles.cagreens.org/issues/los-angeles-city-council-size>)?**

**If so, how large and why? If so, would it be using single-seat or multi-seat districts and why?**

Yes, I want to increase the number of seats on the LA City Council. Angelenos deserve to have their voices heard, yet with the current makeup of 15 council members, each member represents 259,916 residents (more than any city council within the United States!). This allows communities to become overlooked and alienated from local politics. We should change the number of council members from the current 15 to 29. Having 29 city council members will put our constituents per district ratio (134,139 constituents per district) on par with two of California's next largest cities - San Diego (154,104 constituents per district) and San Jose (101,324 constituents per district).

Furthermore, it will also give Angelenos more representation than other large municipalities in the countries; New York City (172,631 constituents per district), Houston (146,194 constituents per district), and Phoenix (200,475 constituents per district). Lastly, having an odd number of council members would keep the City Council from falling into gridlock whenever a dispute over legislation comes up.

I'm also exploring a borough-type system, where you could have perhaps 5 councilmembers per district and a rotating delegate be the representative to City Council. I believe this would significantly cut down the fiefdom-type mentality that has led to some of the corruption issues that have plagued the city.

**(2) Do you support using ranked-choice voting (RCV) to elect the Los Angeles City Council (<https://losangeles.cagreens.org/issues/los-angeles-elections-ranked-choice-voting>)?**

**If so, do you support using RCV in conjunction with single-seat or multi-seat districts and why?**



Yes, I do support ranked-choice voting in LA elections as it provides more representation from communities, giving members of those communities a better chance of being elected. Ranked choice voting in conjunction with single-seat districts would provide each voter with a specific district representative who would be better able to properly represent the beliefs of the district. This system allows the voter to better display their beliefs, as they will not be stuck in a situation where they are choosing between only two candidates.

**(3) Do you support amending the process for Los Angeles City Council redistricting from the [current model](#) where elected officials appoint members to the Los Angeles City Council [Redistricting Commission](#) and then the Commission's recommendation is forwarded to the Los Angeles City Council for approval and/or amendment?**

**If so, what model would you support?**

Yes, I do support amending the process, I believe an independent commission should ultimately decide how district lines are drawn. Politicians should not have a say in who they want or don't want to represent. The establishment of an independent commission will allow Angelenos to better share their voice in the political system. I filed an ethics violation against the current incumbent because redistricting commissioners were throwing him a fundraiser while currently deciding our race's boundary lines. I strongly believe redistricting should be a separate process from the influence of the currently elected.

**(4) What model for Los Angeles City Council elections do you believe best provides the ability to meet the goals of the California Voting Rights Act, and why?**

Ranked Choice Voting model will be best for the LA City Council to be able to meet the goals of the California Voting Rights Act, since it increases the possibility of representatives of minority groups to become elected and have a city council that reflects them. As someone running for a district that has a historically low voter turnout, I have seen and heard the impact of representation—or lack thereof. Increased representation of candidates of color and other marginalized groups will encourage participation in these communities and decrease voter dilution and alienation. We can not expect all of our citizens to be engaged when they don't feel represented.

**(5) The Green Party strongly supports the direct democracy rights of initiative, referendum and recall; but believe these processes can be improved. Do you support amending the recall process for City Council members (and other elected officials) as [described in the City Charter](#)?**



### **If so, how and why?**

I support our direct democracy rights of initiative, referenda, and we have seen those rights be abused particularly over the last few years. The low threshold of getting a recall on the ballot is too low. And the ability to overturn ballot initiatives is too high and we saw that be abused with AB5 where corporate interests bought their way to a sweetheart deal by manipulating language. These are real concerns.

**(5a) Within reform of the recall process, do you support changing Los Angeles City Charter [Sec. 437. Election of Candidate to Succeed Recalled Officer](#) from a contingent run-off where if no replacement candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off is held between the top two finishers, to a single replacement election conducted by ranked-choice voting?**

### **Why or why not?**

Yes, I support reforming the recall process to become a single replacement election conducted by RCV. If we are to hold regular elections in the RCV model, then it only makes sense to do the same with the recall and replacement election. In addition, a run-off election essentially delays the representation of the constituents who are most impacted by the absenteeism of an elected official (i.e. a certain city council district's population would be affected by a run-off election for that district's city council member position).

**(6) Do you support convening a charter review commission to explore any/all of the above changes? Why or why not?**

Yes. The bickering between the appointed and the voted on commissions 20 years ago left many things undone. And charter reform won't cure all of our issues, we still have to have strong, bold leadership. But looking at our charter is one step in the right direction to implement some of these policies.

**If so, are there any other potential electoral and/or campaign finance reforms you would support to be considered by a charter review commission?**

I believe our campaign finance laws need to be reformed and considered. I am only taking individual contributions. I do not take money from PACs or Corporations. I believe this should be a law followed by all candidates so we can root out special interest in politics. We should also publicly fund campaigns to make running for office more accessible to candidates from underrepresented backgrounds.



**If so, what model would you support for a charter re-elected/appointed/citizens assembly/other - and why?**

The charter review commission should be made up first of all by people who reside within the boundaries of the city. After that, it should be made up of experts, local leaders, and community members that are a mixture of elected and appointed. The elected members would have diluting power those who are appointed. Ex-parte communications should not be allowed.

**(7) Are there any other potential electoral and/or campaign finance reforms you would support to be enacted by statute?**

- 1) One reform I would support is the implementation of Democracy Vouchers, as it would even the playing field for the everyday resident who doesn't have thousands of dollars to contribute to candidates in local elections. In turn the beliefs and values of the greater population will then be met and upheld, by the elected official best suited for the job, not just the beliefs of a handful of special interests. This reform of Proposition 112 would help in increasing the number of women and people of color donating towards campaigns running for election, and once again, help even the playing field. Whether the limit is set at \$100, like Seattle, or a different amount, it would encourage the average voter to become more involved in their city's politics and take some of the power away from special interest groups.
- 2) We can facilitate the process of re-enfranchising persons with criminal history by incorporating pre-registration before the person's sentence is up. Thus allowing an individual to have the right to vote immediately after getting released.
- 3) Finally, I would make election day a municipal holiday as it would improve voter turnout and activity on a city level.

**(8) If voters approve charter amendments to the number of seats/manner of election of City Council members and/or to the redistricting model itself, would you support an early redrawing of City Council districts as provided for in the Los Angeles [City Charter](#) before regular redistricting would occur in 2032?**

**Why or why not?**

Yes, I support an early redrawing of the City Council districts before 2032. Every voter should have their voices heard in City Hall and the current 15 district configuration doesn't allow that for every Angeleno. Dr. King once said that "justice too long delayed is justice denied." We cannot wait another decade for our fellow Angelenos to have their



voice heard in local politics and to receive representation. By not redrawing the maps now and wa representation to all residents of Los Angeles, then we would become complacent in harboring civic injustice upon our city. |ual

**(9) Please include a link on your website to your campaign platform, and to any other candidate questionnaires you filled out that you would like to share with us.**

- [www.dulcevasquez.com](http://www.dulcevasquez.com)

**(10) Would you be willing to attend a zoom/webinar with other candidates, sponsored by the Green Party, to talk about your electoral reform proposals?**

Yes.