

# Unrig LA 3/6 Open Meeting

---

A promotional poster for an open meeting. The background is a dark, reflective glass building facade. The text is overlaid in white and orange. The date and time are in the top left, the logo is in the top center, the meeting topics are in the middle right, the RSVP link is in the bottom right, and the Zoom logo is at the bottom center.

MARCH 6TH  
**WEDNESDAY**  
6:30-7:30PM

**Unrig**  
LA

**OPEN MEETING:**

- Early Election Results
- Charter Ethics Reform

**RSVP: [bit.ly/unrig36](https://bit.ly/unrig36)**

zoom

# Notes on Election Results

---

- LA County & LA City: can avoid runoff w/ over 50%
- Most races (other than president): top 2 move on
- Won't have a good idea of full turnout until early next week
- Turnout can vary *widely* across districts in City of LA
- What's been counted so far
- Normal to see big swings from E-day (Changes after 2020)
- Mostly leftward shift from here on out
- LA Vote.net only shows LA County Results!!!

# Resources

---

- LA County Registrar [Live Results](#)
- Ballot Counting [Schedule](#)
- CA SOS [Live Results](#)
- [PDI Ballot Tracker](#)
- LA City [Ethics](#)

# Charter Ethics Reform CF 22-1232

---

- December 2021, the Ethics Commission created an ad hoc committee to explore charter reform.
- The Ethics Commission approved recommended changes on 8/22/22.
- Motion introduced by Council on 10/18/22 a few days after the release of the Fed Tapes.
- 13 neighborhood councils have weighed in to support
- 11/29/23 Ethics Commission President submitted a letter to the Council File urging the Council to agendaize this item.
- June 18th, 2024 is the deadline for Council to act for the November 2024 deadline

# Consequences of Failure on Ethics Charter Reform

---

- Ethics Commission currently lacks tools to adequately enforce / engender compliance
- \$5000 maximum fine in place since 1990s
- Has not increased with CPI unlike our donations limits which are tied to ordinance and not the Charter
- Compels Ethics Commission to automatically cut deals even in egregious cases
- Les Moonves/Ian Metrose Ethics stipulation agreement

# Basics of Charter Reform

---

- A city charter is the city's version of a constitution
- Changes to a city charter has to be approved by majority of voters.
- May be placed on the ballot by:
  - Initiative petition signed by 15% of total number of registered voters in the city
    - [https://clerk.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2022-04/Required\\_Signatures-Petitions.pdf](https://clerk.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2022-04/Required_Signatures-Petitions.pdf)
  - Elected charter reform commission's majority vote
  - LA City Council's majority vote (8/15)

# Ethics Charter Reforms: Background

---

- Was a model for the nation/world 30 years ago when created, now outdated.
- Strengths:
  - Handles wide mandate w/ few resources. Punches above its weight budgetarily.
  - Advanced searchable database of ethics/campaign finance records.
  - Many new tools to aggregate data
  - Assists w/ compliance re: some of the most strict ethics laws in the country.
  - Helpful resource for officials, candidates, & general public
- Weaknesses
  - Underfunded
  - LACC Rules Committee Graveyard
  - Lack of independence
  - Enforcement takes a long time, fines viewed as slap on wrist
  - Not equipped to directly address the pay to play corruption in the news

# Ethics Charter Reforms: Commission Recs

---

## The Good:

- Increase max fine per violation from 5-10k (plus enforcement costs)
- Independent counsel (SD), & Easier to appoint special counsel
- Recs have time 90 day time limit for action or become law
- Able to place proposed measures directly on Ballot (SF)
- Commissioners can't be city bidders, contractors, or developers.
- Streamline process for finding probable cause

## The Bad:

- Establish a minimum \$4.5 million budget with raises linked to CPI.
- Increases # of elected who can initiate removal & lowers threshold to majority.
- Still directly appointed by the elected officials they are responsible for overseeing.
- Former candidates, bundlers, political consultants, and elected officials eligible to serve as commissioners.

# Ethics Charter Reforms: Impact

---

Assuming issues w/ proposal are fixed:

- Strengthens independence of Independent Redistricting Commission
- Changes policy making dynamic at City Hall
- Empowered w/ budget to fulfill mandate
- Able to get objective legal advice
- Protected from retaliation
- Bigger stick
- Slightly more streamlined enforcement saves time & \$
- Changed culture w/ routine ethics compliance.

# Ethics Charter Reform

---

- Keep an eye out for an email when a meeting is scheduled this month
- Good Gov [Survey Results](#).

## GOOD GOV

*Survey Questions*



- 
- Experience
  - Priorities
  - “Clean Money” Efforts
  - Council Size
  - Democracy Vouchers
  - Council’s Auto-votes
  - Ethics Charter Reform
  - Charter Commission
  - Ballot Access
  - Remote Comment at Committees

---

[unrigla.org/survey24](http://unrigla.org/survey24)