



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308
WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG
MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, March 18, 2024 @ 7:00PM

Chaminade College Preparatory– Condon Center 2nd Floor

23241 W. Cohasset Street, West Hills, CA 91304

Enter Chaminade through the Cohasset Street (security booth) entrance between Woodlake and Platt Avenues. Drive through the parking lot, bear left and continue over the paved hill and around the roadway until you see the Condon Family Technology Center on the left. Park in the nearest lot.

Members of the public have the option to attend in person or remotely during the in-person committee meeting.

- Members of the public wishing to attend remotely via Zoom Webinar: Click or paste the following link into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391608200>
- Members of the public wishing to attend and participate by telephone, dial (669) 900-6833, then enter the following when prompted: **8839 160 8200** and press #.

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum **Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Chair** **Clarice Chavira, Chair**

- Aida Abkarians Saif Mogri Steve Randall Joan Trent
 Faye Barta Mark Neudorff Myrl Schreiberman Brad Vanderhoof, Secretary

2. Comments from the Chairs.
3. General Public Comment.
4. Review and Approval of January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
5. Discussion and Possible Action, including submission of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) and / or resolution to Council File No. 23-114 Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils / SB 411 / Teleconferencing / Remote Meetings / Brown Act Modification / California Government Code / COVID-19 Pandemic to authorize the use of teleconferencing for meetings of this committee, in accordance with the rules established by Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. Draft committee resolution attached.
6. Discussion and Possible Action, including submission of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) and board resolution to Council File No. 23-114 Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils / SB 411 / Teleconferencing / Remote Meetings / Brown Act Modification / California Government Code / COVID-19 Pandemic to authorize the use of teleconferencing for meetings, including board meetings and committee meetings, in accordance with the rules established by Senate Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. Draft board resolution attached.
7. Discussion and Possible Action, including submission of a Community Impact Statement and/or written letter or memo, to Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, regarding DONE's Recommendations for Charter Amendments, January 22, 2024 without input from Neighborhood Councils.
8. Discussion for future agenda items.
9. Schedule next meeting for April 15, 2024 at 7:00pm.
10. Meeting adjournment.

Public Input: Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

The Americans With Disabilities Act - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

Public Posting of Agendas - WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Platt Village, on the Southside of Pavilions, closest to Nothing Bundt Cakes at 6534 Platt Avenue, West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, www.westhillsnc.org You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to [L.A. City's Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

Notice to Paid Representatives -If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Public Access of Records - In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: www.westhillsnc.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the WHNC's executive director via email at michelle.ritchie@westhillsnc.org

Reconsideration and Grievance Process - For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.westhillsnc.org

Servicios De Traducción: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
JOINT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Chaminade High School
January 22, 2024
Revised January 24, 2024

The Committee shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the committee members present at a duly noticed regular or special Government Relations Committee meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta, Clarice Chavira, Saif Mogri, Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Committee Members Absent: Saif Mogri, and Mark Neudorff

Other Board Members Present: Glenn Jennings, Carolyn Poppert

Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. A quorum was established.

Comments from the Co-Chairs: None

General Public Comment: None

Approve November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Future agenda items: None

Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for February 26, 7:30 PM, Chaminade High School.

West Hills Neighborhood Council
Resolution of the Government Relations Committee
(Senate Bill 411)

I am a chair of the Government Relations Committee and certify that on March 18, 2024, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by the Government Relations Committee with a quorum of _____ (number) committee members present in-person and that by a vote of _____ (number) yes, _____ (number) no, and _____ (number) abstentions adopted the following resolution:

The Government Relations Committee ____ approves / ____ does not approve meeting virtually for **committee** meetings [because of increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants].

The Government Relations Committee ____ approves / ____ does not approve meeting virtually for **board** meetings [because of increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants].

Chair:

Public Input: Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, an issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the committee.

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The Committee shall take official action by a simple majority of yes and no votes cast by the committee members present at a duly noticed regular or special Government Relations Committee meeting, not to include abstentions. There shall be no proxy voting.

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta, Clarice Chavira, Saif Mogri, Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Committee Members Absent: Saif Mogri, and Mark Neudorff

Other Board Members Present: Glenn Jennings, Carolyn Poppert

Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. A quorum was established.

Comments from the Co-Chairs: None

General Public Comment: None

Approve November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Future agenda items: None

Co-chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for February 26, 7:30 PM, Chaminade High School.

West Hills Neighborhood Council
Resolution of the Government Relations Committee
(Senate Bill 411)

I am a chair of the Government Relations Committee and certify that on March 18, 2024, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by the Government Relations Committee with a quorum of _____ (number) committee members present in-person and that by a vote of _____ (number) yes, _____ (number) no, and _____ (number) abstentions adopted the following resolution:

The Government Relations Committee _____ approves / ___ does not approve meeting virtually for **committee** meetings [because of increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants].

The Government Relations Committee _____ approves / ___ does not approve meeting virtually for **board** meetings [because of increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants].

Chair:

West Hills Neighborhood Council Resolution
(Senate Bill 411)

I, Charlene Rothstein declare that I am the President of the West Hills Neighborhood Council (NC) and that on April 4, 2024, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by this NC with a quorum of _____ (number) board members present in-person and that by a vote of _____ (number) yes, _____ (number) no, and _____ (number) abstentions adopted the following resolution:

The West Hills Neighborhood Council ____ satisfies / ____ does not satisfy the $\frac{2}{3}$ board requirement of Senate Bill 411 codified as Section 54953.8 of the Government Code of the State of California, as an amendment to the Ralph M. Brown Act, and __ approves / ____ does not approve meeting virtually for **committee** meetings [because of increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants].

The West Hills Neighborhood Council ____ satisfies / ____ does not satisfy the $\frac{2}{3}$ board requirement of Senate Bill 411 codified as Section 54953.8 of the Government Code of the State of California, as an amendment to the Ralph M. Brown Act, and __ approves / ____ does not approve meeting virtually for meetings of the **Board** [because of increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants].

President:

Charlene Rothstein

December Announcements

From: Prabhjot Chamber <prabhjot.chamber@lacity.org>

[sent from empowerla.org](#)

Sent: Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 3:19 pm

To: whnc@empowerla.org

 Images not displayed. [SHOW IMAGES](#) | [ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER](#)

Hello West Hills Leaders,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I wanted to send everyone my announcements along with the monthly profile as I will be unable to attend tonight's Special Meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Bylaws Workshop 10/05/23 via zoom

To further support your knowledge and efforts, all the training materials are readily available on our Empower LA website. Access the Bylaws [training slides](#), [video recording](#)

Job call: General Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

The City of Los Angeles is looking for a new General Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment - apply by Friday December 8, 2023!

The General Manager heads a staff of 33 in the department which supports LA's Neighborhood Council system. Together, LA's 99 Neighborhood Councils form the grassroots

The hiring process is led by the City of LA Personnel Department. Read the full job description and requirements to be a candidate, and learn how to apply, at <http://tiny.cc>

SURVEY: HELP CHOOSE THE NEXT GENERAL MANAGER!

The Mayor's Community Engagement team would like to hear what's important to you in the next General Manager. If you're a current or former Neighborhood Council member

ELA Youth Conference - January 27, 2024

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) will be hosting its first EmpowerLA Youth Conference! The conference will be at City Hall and will feature content from all over Los Angeles. Conference information and [application](#) can be found at empowerla.org/civicyouth.

Workshop topics will include the history and role of the Neighborhood Council system and how youth can make a difference in the issues affecting their neighborhoods. Participants will have service learning experiences. At the conclusion of the conference, attendees will receive resources, including a headshot photo, be connected to their local Neighborhood Council

SB411 and City Council

Sacramento, California – Senate Bill 411, authored by Senator Anthony J. Portantino (D – Burbank), was signed into law on October 9, 2023, by Governor Newsom. The bill

On Wednesday, November 1, the LA City Council approved a motion allowing Neighborhood Councils to virtually conduct their meetings. This was a requirement in SB411

The next step for your Neighborhood Council is to take action if they want to meet virtually.

Here are some essential guidelines on how to take the required action and leverage the recently approved SB411.

- Take action at an upcoming board meeting.

You can use the following motion to initiate the process of transitioning to virtual meetings:

Sample Motion: Discussion and Possible Action to file a (Community Impact Statement (CIS) or board resolution) to authorize the use of teleconferencing for Neighborhood Councils pursuant to Bill 411 and the subsequent motion passed by the City Council on November 1, 2023. The special teleconferencing rules available to Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils are **increased accessibility, increased community engagement, health and safety of the participants, etc.**].

- Sample community impact statement/board resolution, here is a [sample](#) for your NC use.

NOTE: [SB411-Section 54953.8.\(2\)\(B\) states](#). "If the city council adopts a resolution described in subparagraph (A), an eligible legislative body may elect to use teleconferencing to notify the city council if it elects to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section and its justification for doing so."

[SB411-Section 54953.8.\(4\)\(c\) states](#). "As used in this section, "eligible legislative body" means a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to this chapter.

NC Funding Training

If your Neighborhood Council will appoint new financial officers for the next fiscal year, any interested board members are highly encouraged to complete the NC Financial

April Training Dates:

1) NC Financial Officer Funding System Portal Training:

- Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, 2pm - 4pm
- Tuesday, December 26th, 2023, 6pm - 8pm

2) NC Funding Workshops: **Contracts and Leases**

- Thursday, December 7, 2023, 2pm - 4:30pm
- Thursday, December 21, 2023 6pm - 7:30pm

Please RSVP at our website [HERE](#)

The NC Funding Program training sessions are open to all Board members as well as stakeholders. These are the required training for board members serving as Financial Officers online on Cornerstone. Feel free to reach out to me if you have trouble logging in Cornerstone.

Please feel free to reach out should anyone have any questions! I am always here to help. I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Years! Thank you!

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2023 Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 411 into law, which modifies the Brown Act to authorize eligible legislative bodies to use teleconferencing, as prescribed, if the City Council has adopted an authorizing resolution and two thirds (2/3) of an eligible legislative body votes to use the alternate teleconferencing provisions;


WHEREAS, SB 411 defines "eligible legislative body" for this purpose to mean a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to the act;

WHEREAS, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Neighborhood Councils met using teleconferencing and many community members found the ability to join meetings remotely eased the process of being involved in their neighborhoods; and

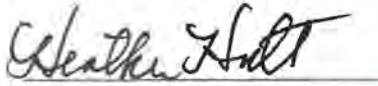
WHEREAS, Neighborhood Councils should be able to increase participation by meeting remotely if they think it is in the best interest of their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles authorizes Neighborhood Councils to use teleconferencing pursuant to California Code Section 54953.8.

PRESENTED BY:


HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

OCT 10 2023

PK



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GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV

TITLE 5. LOCAL AGENCIES [50001 - 57607] (Title 5 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81.)

DIVISION 2. CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OTHER AGENCIES [53000 - 55821] (Division 2 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81.)

PART 1. POWERS AND DUTIES COMMON TO CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OTHER AGENCIES [53000 - 54999.7] (Part 1 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81.)

CHAPTER 9. Meetings [54950 - 54963] (Chapter 9 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1588.)

54950. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

(Added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1588.)

54950.5. This chapter shall be known as the **Ralph M. Brown Act.**

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 115.)

54951. As used in this chapter, "local agency" means a county, city, whether general law or chartered, city and county, town, school district, municipal corporation, district, political subdivision, or any board, commission or agency thereof, or other local public agency.

(Amended by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1417.)

54952. As used in this chapter, "legislative body" means:

- (a) The governing body of a local agency or any other local body created by state or federal statute.
- (b) A commission, **committee**, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decisionmaking or advisory, created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body. However, advisory **committees**, composed solely of the members of the legislative body that are less than a quorum of the legislative body are not legislative bodies, **except that standing committees of a legislative body, irrespective of their composition, which have a continuing subject matter jurisdiction, or a meeting schedule fixed by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body are legislative bodies for purposes of this chapter.**
- (c) (1) A board, commission, **committee**, or other multimember body that governs a private corporation, limited liability company, or other entity that either:
 - (A) Is created by the elected legislative body in order to exercise authority that may lawfully be delegated by the elected governing body to a private corporation, limited liability company, or other entity.
 - (B) Receives funds from a local agency and the membership of whose governing body includes a member of the legislative body of the local agency appointed to that governing body as a full voting member by the legislative body of the local agency.

(2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), no board, commission, **committee**, or other multimember body that governs a private corporation, limited liability company, or other entity that receives funds from a local agency and, as of February 9, 1996, has a member of the legislative body of the local agency as a full voting

member of the governing body of that private corporation, limited liability company, or other entity shall be relieved from the public meeting requirements of this chapter by virtue of a change in status of the full voting member to a nonvoting member.

(d) The lessee of any hospital the whole or part of which is first leased pursuant to subdivision (p) of Section 32121 of the Health and Safety Code after January 1, 1994, where the lessee exercises any material authority of a legislative body of a local agency delegated to it by that legislative body whether the lessee is organized and operated by the local agency or by a delegated authority.

(Amended by Stats. 2002, Ch. 1073, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2003.)

54952.1. Any person elected to serve as a member of a legislative body who has not yet assumed the duties of office shall conform his or her conduct to the requirements of this chapter and shall be treated for purposes of enforcement of this chapter as if he or she has already assumed office.

(Amended by Stats. 1994, Ch. 32, Sec. 2. Effective March 30, 1994. Operative April 1, 1994, by Sec. 23 of Ch. 32.)

54952.2. (a) As used in this chapter, "meeting" means any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, including teleconference location as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

(b) (1) A majority of the members of a legislative body shall not, outside a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing an employee or official of a local agency, from engaging in separate conversations or communications outside of a meeting authorized by this chapter with members of a legislative body in order to answer questions or provide information regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency, if that person does not communicate to members of the legislative body the comments or position of any other member or members of the legislative body.

(3) (A) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing a member of the legislative body from engaging in separate conversations or communications on an internet-based social media platform to answer questions, provide information to the public, or to solicit information from the public regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body provided that a majority of the members of the legislative body do not use the internet-based social media platform to discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. A member of the legislative body shall not respond directly to any communication on an internet-based social media platform regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body that is made, posted, or shared by any other member of the legislative body.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, all of the following definitions shall apply:

(i) "Discuss among themselves" means communications made, posted, or shared on an internet-based social media platform between members of a legislative body, including comments or use of digital icons that express reactions to communications made by other members of the legislative body.

(ii) "Internet-based social media platform" means an online service that is open and accessible to the public.

(iii) "Open and accessible to the public" means that members of the general public have the ability to access and participate, free of charge, in the social media platform without the approval by the social media platform or a person or entity other than the social media platform, including any forum and chatroom, and cannot be blocked from doing so, except when the internet-based social media platform determines that an individual violated its protocols or rules.

(c) Nothing in this section shall impose the requirements of this chapter upon any of the following:

(1) Individual contacts or conversations between a member of a legislative body and any other person that do not violate subdivision (b).

(2) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at a conference or similar gathering open to the public that involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or to public agencies of the type represented by the legislative body, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specified nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to allow members of the public free admission to a conference or similar gathering at which the organizers have required other participants or registrants to pay fees or charges as a condition of attendance.

(3) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at an open and publicized meeting organized to address a topic of local community concern by a person or organization other than the local agency, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

(4) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at an open and noticed meeting of another body of the local agency, or at an open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of another local agency, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled meeting, business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

(5) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at a purely social or ceremonial occasion, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

(6) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at an open and noticed meeting of a standing **committee** of that body, provided that the members of the legislative body who are not members of the standing **committee** attend only as observers.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 89, Sec. 1. (AB 992) Effective January 1, 2021. Repealed as of January 1, 2026, by its own provisions. See later operative version added by Sec. 2 of Stats. 2020, Ch. 89.)

54952.2. (a) As used in this chapter, "meeting" means any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, including teleconference location as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

(b) (1) A majority of the members of a legislative body shall not, outside a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing an employee or official of a local agency, from engaging in separate conversations or communications outside of a meeting authorized by this chapter with members of a legislative body in order to answer questions or provide information regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency, if that person does not communicate to members of the legislative body the comments or position of any other member or members of the legislative body.

(c) Nothing in this section shall impose the requirements of this chapter upon any of the following:

(1) Individual contacts or conversations between a member of a legislative body and any other person that do not violate subdivision (b).

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(3) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at an open and publicized meeting organized to address a topic of local community concern by a person or organization other than the local agency, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled

program, business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

(4) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at an open and noticed meeting of another body of the local agency, or at an open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of another local agency, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled meeting, business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

(5) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at a purely social or ceremonial occasion, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

(6) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative body at an open and noticed meeting of a standing **committee** of that body, provided that the members of the legislative body who are not members of the standing **committee** attend only as observers.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

(Repealed (in Sec. 1) and added by Stats. 2020, Ch. 89, Sec. 2. (AB 992) Effective January 1, 2021. Section operative January 1, 2026, by its own provisions.)

54952.3. (a) A legislative body that has convened a meeting and whose membership constitutes a quorum of any other legislative body may convene a meeting of that other legislative body, simultaneously or in serial order, only if a clerk or a member of the convened legislative body verbally announces, prior to convening any simultaneous or serial order meeting of that subsequent legislative body, the amount of compensation or stipend, if any, that each member will be entitled to receive as a result of convening the simultaneous or serial meeting of the subsequent legislative body and identifies that the compensation or stipend shall be provided as a result of convening a meeting for which each member is entitled to collect compensation or a stipend. However, the clerk or member of the legislative body shall not be required to announce the amount of compensation if the amount of compensation is prescribed in statute and no additional compensation has been authorized by a local agency.

(b) For purposes of this section, compensation and stipend shall not include amounts reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred by a member in the performance of the member's official duties, including, but not limited to, reimbursement of expenses relating to travel, meals, and lodging.

(Added by Stats. 2011, Ch. 91, Sec. 1. (AB 23) Effective January 1, 2012.)

54952.6. As used in this chapter, "action taken" means a collective decision made by a majority of the members of a legislative body, a collective commitment or promise by a majority of the members of a legislative body to make a positive or a negative decision, or an actual vote by a majority of the members of a legislative body when sitting as a body or entity, upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order or ordinance.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1671.)

54952.7. A legislative body of a local agency may require that a copy of this chapter be given to each member of the legislative body and any person elected to serve as a member of the legislative body who has not assumed the duties of office. An elected legislative body of a local agency may require that a copy of this chapter be given to each member of each legislative body all or a majority of whose members are appointed by or under the authority of the elected legislative body.

(Amended by Stats. 1993, Ch. 1138, Sec. 7. Effective January 1, 1994. Operative April 1, 1994, by Sec. 12 of Ch. 1138.)

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use

teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e).

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory **committee** to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory **committee** has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in either of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (A), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), and every 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

(B) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(f) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:

(A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:

(i) A two-way audiovisual platform.

(ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.

(B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the

in-person location of the meeting.

(D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) One of the following circumstances applies:

(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.

(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.

(g) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(h) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(i) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(j) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.

(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.

(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).

(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (f), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

(5) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(6) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(7) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

(8) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

(9) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

(k) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

(Amended (as amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 285, Sec. 1) by Stats. 2023, Ch. 534, Sec. 1. (AB 557) Effective January 1, 2024. Repealed as of January 1, 2026, by its own provisions. See later operative version, as amended by Sec. 2 of Stats. 2023, Ch. 534.)

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e).

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory **committee** to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory **committee** has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in either of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (A), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), and every 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

(B) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(2) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.

(Amended (as amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 285, Sec. 2) by Stats. 2023, Ch. 534, Sec. 2. (AB 557) Effective January 1, 2024. Operative January 1, 2026, by its own provisions.)

54953.1. The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to prohibit the members of the legislative body of a local agency from giving testimony in private before a grand jury, either as individuals or as a body.

(Added by Stats. 1979, Ch. 950.)

54953.2. All meetings of a legislative body of a local agency that are open and public shall meet the protections and prohibitions contained in Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

(Added by Stats. 2002, Ch. 300, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2003.)

54953.3. A member of the public shall not be required, as a condition to attendance at a meeting of a legislative body of a local agency, to register his or her name, to provide other information, to complete a questionnaire, or otherwise to fulfill any condition precedent to his or her attendance.

If an attendance list, register, questionnaire, or other similar document is posted at or near the entrance to the room where the meeting is to be held, or is circulated to the persons present during the meeting, it shall state clearly that the signing, registering, or completion of the document is voluntary, and that all persons may attend the meeting regardless of whether a person signs, registers, or completes the document.

(Amended by Stats. 1981, Ch. 968, Sec. 28.)

54953.5. (a) Any person attending an open and public meeting of a legislative body of a local agency shall have the right to record the proceedings with an audio or video recorder or a still or motion picture camera in the absence of a reasonable finding by the legislative body of the local agency that the recording cannot continue without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that constitutes, or would constitute, a persistent disruption of the proceedings.

(b) Any audio or video recording of an open and public meeting made for whatever purpose by or at the direction of the local agency shall be subject to inspection pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1), but, notwithstanding Section 34090, may be erased or destroyed 30 days after the recording. Any inspection of an audio or video recording shall be provided without charge on equipment made available by the local agency.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 615, Sec. 205. (AB 474) Effective January 1, 2022. Operative January 1, 2023, pursuant to Sec. 463 of Stats. 2021, Ch. 615.)

54953.6. No legislative body of a local agency shall prohibit or otherwise restrict the broadcast of its open and public meetings in the absence of a reasonable finding that the broadcast cannot be accomplished without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that would constitute a persistent disruption of the proceedings.

(Amended by Stats. 1994, Ch. 32, Sec. 6. Effective March 30, 1994. Operative April 1, 1994, by Sec. 23 of Ch. 32.)

54953.7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, legislative bodies of local agencies may impose requirements upon themselves which allow greater access to their meetings than prescribed by the minimal standards set forth in this chapter. In addition thereto, an elected legislative body of a local agency may impose such requirements on those appointed legislative bodies of the local agency of which all or a majority of the members are appointed by or under the authority of the elected legislative body.

(Added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 968, Sec. 29.)

54953.8. (a) (1) An eligible legislative body may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 54953 if the eligible legislative body complies with paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive.

(2) An eligible legislative body may only use teleconferencing as described in this section after all the following have occurred:

(A) The city council for a city described in subdivision (c) considers whether to adopt a resolution to authorize eligible legislative bodies to use teleconferencing as described in paragraph (1) at an open and regular meeting.

(B) If the city council adopts a resolution described in subparagraph (A), an eligible legislative body may elect to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section if two-thirds of the eligible legislative body votes to do so. The eligible legislative body shall notify the city council if it elects to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section and its justification for doing so.

(C) Upon receiving notification from a legislative body as described in subparagraph (B), the city council may adopt a resolution to prohibit the eligible legislative body from using teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

(3) After completing the requirements in paragraph (2), an eligible legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the eligible legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(F) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the city in which the eligible legislative body is established.

(G) At least once per year, at least a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body shall participate in person from a singular physical location that is open to the public and within the boundaries of the eligible legislative body.

(4) An eligible legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do the following, as applicable:

(A) If the meeting is during regular business hours of the offices of the city council member that represents the area that includes the eligible legislative body, the eligible legislative body shall provide a publicly accessible physical location from which the public may attend or comment, which shall be the offices of the

city council member who represents the area where the eligible legislative body is located, unless the eligible legislative body identifies an alternative location.

(B) If the meeting is outside regular business hours, the eligible legislative body shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate any member of the public that requests an accommodation to participate in the meeting. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "accommodation" means providing a publicly accessible physical location for the member of the public to participate from, providing access to technology necessary to participate in the meeting, or identifying locations or resources available that could provide the member of the public with an opportunity to participate in the meeting.

(b) The legislative body shall comply with all other requirements of Section 54953.

(c) As used in this section, "eligible legislative body" means a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to this chapter.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

(Added by Stats. 2023, Ch. 605, Sec. 2. (SB 411) Effective October 8, 2023. Repealed as of January 1, 2026, by its own provisions.)

54954. (a) Each legislative body of a local agency, except for advisory **committees** or standing **committees**, shall provide, by ordinance, resolution, bylaws, or by whatever other rule is required for the conduct of business by that body, the time and place for holding regular meetings. Meetings of advisory **committees** or standing **committees**, for which an agenda is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54954.2, shall be considered for purposes of this chapter as regular meetings of the legislative body.

(b) Regular and special meetings of the legislative body shall be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except to do any of the following:

- (1) Comply with state or federal law or court order, or attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the local agency is a party.
- (2) Inspect real or personal property which cannot be conveniently brought within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or personal property.
- (3) Participate in meetings or discussions of multiagency significance that are outside the boundaries of a local agency's jurisdiction. However, any meeting or discussion held pursuant to this subdivision shall take place within the jurisdiction of one of the participating local agencies and be noticed by all participating agencies as provided for in this chapter.
- (4) Meet in the closest meeting facility if the local agency has no meeting facility within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, or at the principal office of the local agency if that office is located outside the territory over which the agency exercises jurisdiction.
- (5) Meet outside their immediate jurisdiction with elected or appointed officials of the United States or the State of California when a local meeting would be impractical, solely to discuss a legislative or regulatory issue affecting the local agency and over which the federal or state officials have jurisdiction.
- (6) Meet outside their immediate jurisdiction if the meeting takes place in or nearby a facility owned by the agency, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the facility.
- (7) Visit the office of the local agency's legal counsel for a closed session on pending litigation held pursuant to Section 54956.9, when to do so would reduce legal fees or costs.

(c) Meetings of the governing board of a school district shall be held within the district, except under the circumstances enumerated in subdivision (b), or to do any of the following:

- (1) Attend a conference on nonadversarial collective bargaining techniques.
- (2) Interview members of the public residing in another district with reference to the trustees' potential employment of an applicant for the position of the superintendent of the district.

(3) Interview a potential employee from another district.

(d) Meetings of a joint powers authority shall occur within the territory of at least one of its member agencies, or as provided in subdivision (b). However, a joint powers authority which has members throughout the state may meet at any facility in the state which complies with the requirements of Section 54961.

(e) If, by reason of fire, flood, earthquake, or other emergency, it shall be unsafe to meet in the place designated, the meetings shall be held for the duration of the emergency at the place designated by the presiding officer of the legislative body or his or her designee in a notice to the local media that have requested notice pursuant to Section 54956, by the most rapid means of communication available at the time.

(Amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 257, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2005.)

54954.1. Any person may request that a copy of the agenda, or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet, of any meeting of a legislative body be mailed to that person. If a local agency has an internet website, the legislative body or its designee shall email a copy of, or website link to, the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet if the person requests that the item or items be delivered by email. If the local agency determines it is technologically infeasible to send a copy of all documents constituting the agenda packet or a link to a website that contains the documents by email or by other electronic means, the legislative body or its designee shall send by mail a copy of the agenda or a website link to the agenda and mail a copy of all other documents constituting the agenda packet in accordance with the mailing requirements established pursuant to this section. If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Upon receipt of the written request, the legislative body or its designee shall cause the requested materials to be mailed at the time the agenda is posted pursuant to Section 54954.2 and 54956 or upon distribution to all, or a majority of all, of the members of a legislative body, whichever occurs first. Any request for mailed copies of agendas or agenda packets shall be valid for the calendar year in which it is filed, and must be renewed following January 1 of each year. The legislative body may establish a fee for mailing the agenda or agenda packet, which fee shall not exceed the cost of providing the service. Failure of the requesting person to receive the agenda or agenda packet pursuant to this section shall not constitute grounds for invalidation of the actions of the legislative body taken at the meeting for which the agenda or agenda packet was not received.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 763, Sec. 1. (SB 274) Effective January 1, 2022.)

54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

(2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an internet website, the following provisions shall apply:

(A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.

(B) An online posting of an agenda, including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used internet search applications.

(ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

(iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.

(C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an internet website and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:

(i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an internet website with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.

(iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

(iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

(D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

(i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an internet website of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.

(ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on their own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.

(1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.

(2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).

(3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was

continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.

(4) To consider action on a request from a member to participate in a meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances, pursuant to Section 54953, if the request does not allow sufficient time to place the proposed action on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made. The legislative body may approve such a request by a majority vote of the legislative body.

(c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

(d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:

(1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

(Amended (as amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 285, Sec. 4) by Stats. 2023, Ch. 131, Sec. 91. (AB 1754) Effective January 1, 2024. Repealed as of January 1, 2026, by its own provisions. See later operative version, as amended by Sec. 92 of Stats. 2023, Ch. 131.)

54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

(2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an internet website, the following provisions shall apply:

(A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.

(B) An online posting of an agenda, including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used internet search applications.

(ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

(iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.

(C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an internet website and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:

(i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an internet website with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.

(iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

(iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

(D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

(i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an internet website of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.

(ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on their own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.

(1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.

(2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).

(3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.

(c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

(d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:

(1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.

(Amended (as added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 285, Sec. 5) by Stats. 2023, Ch. 131, Sec. 92. (AB 1754) Effective January 1, 2024. Operative January 1, 2026, by its own provisions.)

54954.3. (a) Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a **committee**, composed exclusively of members of the legislative body, at a public meeting wherein all interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the **committee** on the item, before or during the **committee's** consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the **committee** heard the item, as determined by the legislative body. Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that item.

(b) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a) is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting the total amount of time allocated for public testimony on particular issues and for each individual speaker.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the legislative body of a local agency limits time for public comment, the legislative body of a local agency shall provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the legislative body of a local agency.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if the legislative body of a local agency utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.

(c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 507, Sec. 1. (AB 1787) Effective January 1, 2017.)

54954.4. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that Section 12 of Chapter 641 of the Statutes of 1986, authorizing reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state pursuant to that act, shall be interpreted strictly. The intent of the Legislature is to provide reimbursement for only those costs which are clearly and unequivocally incurred as the direct and necessary result of compliance with Chapter 641 of the Statutes of 1986.

(b) In this regard, the Legislature directs all state employees and officials involved in reviewing or authorizing claims for reimbursement, or otherwise participating in the reimbursement process, to rigorously review each claim and authorize only those claims, or parts thereof, which represent costs which are clearly and unequivocally incurred as the direct and necessary result of compliance with Chapter 641 of the Statutes of 1986 and for which complete documentation exists. For purposes of Section 54954.2, costs eligible for reimbursement shall only include the actual cost to post a single agenda for any one meeting.

(c) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that complete, faithful, and uninterrupted compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code) is a matter of overriding public importance. Unless specifically stated, no future Budget Act, or related budget enactments, shall, in any manner, be interpreted to suspend, eliminate, or otherwise modify the legal obligation and duty of local agencies to fully comply with Chapter 641 of the Statutes of 1986 in a complete, faithful, and uninterrupted manner.

(Added by Stats. 1991, Ch. 238, Sec. 1.)

MOTION

The current version of the Los Angeles City Charter was developed in the late 1990's through the combined efforts of two charter reform commissions that conducted an extensive review and analysis of every section of the prior charter. That charter reform process was the outgrowth of widespread dissatisfaction with the responsiveness of municipal government at the time, which was most dramatically evidenced by a secession movement in the San Fernando Valley that nearly succeeded.

Twenty-three years after that overhauled charter went into effect, the City faces new challenges that could not have been foreseen then, as well as new opportunities for progress, improved services, greater accountability and more responsiveness. The delivery of core city services has been severely challenged in recent years by overlapping crises of homelessness, housing unaffordability, a global pandemic, economic strain, climate change urgency and threats to public safety, among other things. At the same time, City government has been rocked by the unethical conduct of some city leaders that has caused a crisis of trust and confidence.

In light of these circumstances, many parts of the Charter have come into question in recent years, including those involving the City's land use process, role of the Ethics Commission, delivery of City services, vacancies in City elected offices, censure and suspension, and others. The City's Charter is in need of both minor revisions in the short term and a major overhaul in the long term. It is important for the City Council to engage with the public to start this work now.

In addition to addressing the issues of the current Charter, the City should also create a process for a periodic review of the Charter. The process to update the City Charter in the late 1990s was chaotic due to the lack of a predefined process. To draft a new Charter, two different commissions were created, one elected by the voters and the other appointed by the City Council. It was initially unclear which commission had what authority. The dueling commissions later came together to present a unified set of Charter reform changes to the voters, but the process to arrive at a unified set of reforms was unnecessarily confusing, disorderly and acrimonious.

To ensure that future Charter updates are more orderly, the City Council should establish a process for periodic review of the City Charter. Periodic charter review commissions can address governance issues by gradually proposing amendments with a regular cadence, rather than the current process of completely overhauling the Charter. In 2007, Portland, Oregon voters adopted a regular Charter Review Commission and starting in 2010, it has referred nine amendments to the ballot, all of which were overwhelmingly adopted by voters. A similar process for Los Angeles is worthy of consideration.

SEP 19 2023

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WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance from the City Attorney and City Clerk, be directed to report with best practices for a Charter reform process and options to create a commission to evaluate and provide recommendations on Charter reform for the 2024 or 2026 ballots.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney, CLA, CAO, Ethics Commission and the Planning Department each be requested to report back with separate recommendations for identifying and prioritizing sections in the Charter that would benefit from reform to modernize the City's organizational infrastructure and/or support more strategic citywide policies.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the CLA seek input from Council Offices and other City stakeholders regarding Charter reform and include in the aforementioned report these concerns and/or recommendations.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance from the City Attorney and City Clerk, be directed to report with options for creating a process for periodic review of the City Charter.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

PRESENTED BY: Marqueece Harris-Dawson
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY: Tom M. [Signature]

ORIGINAL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

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MAGGIE QUIROZ
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CALIFORNIA



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MAYOR

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January 22, 2024

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform

c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER AMENDMENTS; CF 23-1027

On December 12, 2023 the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion requesting that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, among other departments, report on recommendations for identifying and prioritizing sections in the Charter that would benefit from reform to modernize the City's organizational infrastructure and/or support more strategic Citywide policies.

Background:

The history of Neighborhood Councils (NCs) in Los Angeles is rooted in the late 1990s when the City responded to residents' growing desire for increased community participation and reduced centralized control. This led to the establishment of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) in 1999. The City Charter played a crucial role in creating a framework for the innovative Neighborhood Council system, introducing advisory councils in specific neighborhoods. The Charter recognized the importance of local empowerment and sought to decentralize decision-making,

allowing communities to have a direct say in local governance. The establishment of Neighborhood Councils marked a significant step towards fostering civic engagement, collaboration, and responsiveness to the diverse needs of Los Angeles neighborhoods, as outlined in the City Charter's commitment to empowering local communities.

Collaborating closely with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, DONE ensures inclusivity, transparency, and responsiveness to the unique needs of each neighborhood, remaining a key component of Los Angeles' innovative approach to local governance. In the present day, the collaboration between the Neighborhood Council system, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners continues to evolve. These councils actively engage with communities, influence local policies, and contribute to tangible impacts. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment remains dedicated to fostering active civic participation and empowering residents to directly impact their communities.

As we transition to the next phase of our Department, it is essential to consider recommendations that align with the current needs of the Neighborhood Council (NC) system. Notably, the City Charter has remained unchanged since its last amendment in 1999. Therefore, incorporating these recommendations becomes imperative to ensure that our Department evolves effectively and remains responsive to the dynamic requirements of the NC system in the present day.

Section 900 - Purpose

Recommendation: Clarify and strengthen the language around the purpose of empowerment. Emphasize inclusivity, community engagement, and the promotion of local democracy. Align the purpose with contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Justification: *This recommendation advocates for clarifying and strengthening the language around the purpose of neighborhood empowerment, emphasizing inclusivity, community engagement, and the promotion of local democracy. By changing the term "citizen" participation to "civic" participation, the intention is to foster a more inclusive environment that recognizes and embraces the diversity of individuals contributing to community development. This adjustment acknowledges that participation in local governance extends beyond citizenship, ensuring that stakeholders, regardless of their status, are actively encouraged to engage in the democratic process. The call to align the purpose with contemporary challenges and opportunities reflects the dynamic nature of communities, emphasizing the need to address evolving needs and embrace innovative approaches to neighborhood empowerment. In essence, this recommendation seeks to*

create a more inclusive, community-driven, and responsive framework for neighborhood empowerment that reflects the diverse and changing demographics of the city.

Section 901 - Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Recommendation: Enhance the role and resources of the Department to better support neighborhood councils. This includes increased staffing, streamlined processes, and improved coordination with other city departments to facilitate smoother implementation of neighborhood empowerment initiatives.

Justification: *The recommendation aims to enhance the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's support for neighborhood councils through various strategies. This includes increasing staffing, streamlining processes, and improving coordination with other city departments. Additionally, there is a focus on outreach and inclusivity, suggesting targeted strategies to engage underrepresented communities in the Neighborhood Council formation process. The proposal also includes expanding training programs, facilitating resource sharing, implementing regular assessment systems, exploring innovative communication channels, and conducting periodic reviews of duties to ensure relevance and effectiveness. These comprehensive recommendations aim to strengthen neighborhood empowerment initiatives and adapt to evolving community needs.*

Section 903 - General Manager

Recommendation: Define the qualifications and expectations for the General Manager. Encourage the appointment of individuals with a strong background in community development, leadership, a demonstrated commitment to community empowerment, and a comprehensive understanding of the infrastructure and workings of the Neighborhood Council system. Consider mechanisms to involve community stakeholders in the selection process, such as seeking input from Neighborhood Councils, to enhance community representation and confidence.

Justification: *The recommendations focus on optimizing the role of the General Manager within the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. They propose clearly defining qualifications, emphasizing community development, leadership, and commitment to empowerment. To ensure inclusivity, an open appointment process involving community input, especially from Neighborhood Councils, is encouraged. The suggestions include expanding the General Manager's responsibilities for community engagement through initiatives like town hall meetings and forums. Ongoing professional development and*

training programs are recommended, emphasizing community development and collaboration with Neighborhood Councils. To enhance accountability, this recommendation advocates for clear performance metrics transparently shared with the public. Additional recommendations include encouraging staff diversity, fostering collaborative decision-making, engaging in strategic planning and innovation, establishing regular communication channels with Neighborhood Councils, emphasizing community-driven decision-making, and implementing a continuous improvement framework within DONE.

Section 909 - Annual City Budget Priorities

Recommendation: Enhance the involvement of Neighborhood Councils in the annual city budgeting process. Facilitate meaningful participation, prioritize community-driven projects, and establish mechanisms for transparent budget allocation. Further study of a possible Charter amendment is recommended to determine the best method to reach meaningful participation from all Neighborhood Councils, with an emphasis on Neighborhood Councils in communities of low civic-participation.

Justification: *This recommendation advocates for enhancing the involvement of Neighborhood Councils in the annual city budgeting process, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity, community-driven initiatives, and transparent governance. By facilitating meaningful participation, it aims to prioritize community-driven projects and ensure that budget allocation aligns with the diverse needs of neighborhoods. The call for a further study on a possible Charter amendment demonstrates a proactive approach to exploring mechanisms that would foster meaningful participation from all Neighborhood Councils, with a specific emphasis on those in communities of great need. This reflects an awareness of the unique challenges and needs in different communities, acknowledging the importance of tailoring strategies to ensure equitable representation and engagement. Overall, this recommendation seeks to strengthen the democratic process by actively involving Neighborhood Councils in budget decisions, fostering community-driven priorities, and promoting transparency in the allocation of resources.*

Section 910 - Monitoring of City Services

Recommendation: Strengthen the role of Neighborhood Councils in monitoring city services. Establish mechanisms for regular feedback, reporting, and collaboration with relevant city departments to address service gaps and improve responsiveness.

Justification: *This recommendation underscores the importance of empowering Neighborhood Councils by enhancing their role in monitoring city services, reflecting a commitment to localized governance and community engagement. By establishing mechanisms for regular feedback, reporting, and collaboration with relevant city departments, the recommendation seeks to create a more responsive and accountable system. This approach not only allows Neighborhood Councils to actively participate in shaping local policies but also ensures that community needs are accurately identified and addressed. Strengthening the role of Neighborhood Councils in monitoring city services promotes transparency, encourages civic participation, and fosters a sense of community responsibility. Ultimately, this recommendation aligns with the principles of promoting collaboration between communities and city departments to enhance the quality and effectiveness of services tailored to the unique needs of each neighborhood.*

Section 911 - Appropriation

Recommendation: Explore the feasibility of establishing an independent budgeting process for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, as is currently being discussed for the Ethics Department under CF 23-1010. This proposition is rooted in the provisions outlined in sections 900 and 901 of the charter, which entrust the department with the crucial responsibility of aiding Neighborhood Councils in fostering greater responsiveness of local government to community needs.

Justification: *By developing an independent budgeting process for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the City Council can enhance the department's capacity to fulfill its mandate effectively and ensure that resources are allocated in a manner that prioritizes and addresses the unique requirements of diverse communities within Los Angeles. This initiative aligns with the spirit of community empowerment and collaborative governance, fostering a more responsive and inclusive local government.*

Section 1001.a. - Exemptions

Recommendation: Recommend the inclusion of exempt, full-time positions within the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment as categorically exempt from Charter Section 1000 - Civil Service provisions. Currently, these positions (Project Assistants, Project Coordinators, Senior Project Coordinators, and Principal Project Coordinators) are designated as exempt under Section 1001.a.18 as Officers of Election, which is the most fitting category to describe the nature of their work in supporting the bi-annual Neighborhood Council elections.

Justification: *As part of a comprehensive review of the Charter, it would be highly advantageous to independently classify and categorize these positions based on the full scope of their responsibilities in supporting the Neighborhood Council System. These exempt positions play a crucial role in ensuring government accountability to the communities they serve. By categorizing them independently, the City Council can better acknowledge and address the unique functions these positions fulfill, fostering a more streamlined and efficient organizational structure that aligns with the department's overarching goals of empowerment and responsiveness.*

Conclusion

While these are our recommendations, which we believe will bring the Charter into alignment with current needs, we feel it is beneficial to get Neighborhood Council feedback and have their opinions heard. Engaging Neighborhood Councils in the process ensures that their unique perspectives and insights are considered, enhancing the inclusivity and relevance of the proposed changes. These recommendations collectively aim to strengthen the framework of neighborhood empowerment, fostering a more collaborative, transparent, and impactful relationship between communities and local government. Implementation of these suggestions, with input from Neighborhood Councils, will contribute to the overall success of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and enhance the vibrancy of Neighborhood Councils within the city. This collaborative approach reflects our commitment to democratic governance and active community participation, aligning with the principles of transparency and responsiveness in local decision-making.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vanessa Serrano".

**Vanessa Serrano, Interim General Manager
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment**