



CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, September 15, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

**Chaminade College Preparatory – Condon Center 2nd Floor
23241 W. Cohasset Street, West Hills, CA 91304**

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

In conformity with the October 6, 2023 enactment of California Senate Bill 411 (Portantino) and La City Council Approval on November 1, 2023, the West Hills Neighborhood Council Government Relations Committee Agenda Committee meeting will be conducted virtually, telephonically and in person.

- To attend online via Zoom Webinar: Click or paste the following link into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391608200>
- To call in by phone, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: 883 160 8200, then press #.
- To attend in person, please attend Chaminade College Preparatory – Condon Center 2nd Floor, 23241 W. Cohasset Street, West Hills, CA 91304

This meeting is open to the public. Doors open 10 minutes before the meeting starts. Those who wish to speak during the meeting may be asked to complete a Speaker Card. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Co-Chair, Brenda Citrom, Co-Chair, Kim Koerber, Co-Chair, Aida Abkarians, Saif Mogri, Joan Trent, Faye Barta, Brian Murray, Brad Vanderhoof, Secretary
2. Comments from the Chairs.
3. General Public Comment
4. Review and Approval of August Meeting Minutes.
5. Discussion and Possible Action – Budget Request for \$400. For the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.
6. Discussion and Possible Action – Adoption of the MOU with the DWP.
7. Discussion and Possible Action - Charter Reform meetings and progress.

SB 411 Updates: If a Neighborhood Council has a quorum of board members in a physical location, board members who wish to join the meeting via teleconferencing must adhere to AB 2449 rules and regulations. If a Neighborhood Council does not have a quorum of board members in a physical location, they must adhere to SB 411 rules and regulations. 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. 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 comments in real time. 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.(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, 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.

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 Traduccion: Si requieres servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes de le evento. Por favor contacte Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org



West Hills Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 4670, West Hills, CA 91308-4670
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JOINT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES Chaminade High School

August 18, 2025

Revised August 19, 2025

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 (AB2449), Brenda Citrom, Kim Koerber, Saif Mogri (AB2449), Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb

Committee Members Absent: Steve Randall

Other Board Members Present: Brian Murray

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum: Chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM. A quorum was established.
2. Comments from the Co-Chairs: Joanne spoke about City Watch and some recent articles.
3. General Public Comment: None
4. Review and Approval of March, April, May, and June Meeting Minutes: The Committee did not meet in May. The other meeting minutes were approved.
6. CF 23-0600-S9 Increase in fees for LA Sanitation Services: Joanne spoke about the City Council's approval of increases. Solid waste fees are also increasing. After discussion, this item was tabled to September.
7. Mayor Bass is putting together a committee for Charter Reform for Discussion: Joanne spoke about Rick Cole, former Deputy Mayor, writing criticism of the Mayor. This item is also being addressed in Zoning and Planning. Aida asked what is the most important part of the charter for the WHNC to focus on. Budget and finance reform was suggested by several. This item tabled to September.
5. CF 25-0600-S7 – The 99 Neighborhood Councils requesting additional funding: Action on this item was taken at the June meeting. Joanne tabled this item to September

Chair Joanne Yvanek-Garb adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for September 14, 2025, 7:30 PM, Chaminade High School.

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Spending Request Form

Please print legibly or type

Date of submission:

9/15/25

Committee Name:

Government Relations

Chairperson/Stakeholder:

Joanne Yvanek

Date Approved by Committee:

Phone:

(818)347-6742

Email:

Joanne.WHNC@gmail.Com

Event/Activity

2025 Congress of Neighborhood Councils

Total Amount Requested:

\$400.

Budget Line Item:

Justification for request. This must include a statement about how the event/activity benefits the stakeholders of West Hills.

Attendance and training sessions will benefit how the board members interact with the community.

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

List all expense items, quantities, and amounts:

Item & Quantity	Amount
Defraying the cost of the Congress	\$400.

For Budget Committee/Controller Use Only:

Committee Approved

Budget Approved

Board Approved

LA City Charter Reform

In response to widespread public dissatisfaction with the city's governance, Los Angeles officials established a new Charter Reform Commission in August 2024. The commission is tasked with reviewing the current charter—in effect since 1999—and developing recommendations for potential revisions and amendments to be placed on the November 2026 ballot.

Key focus areas for reform

The new commission is examining a broad range of topics to improve city services and accountability:

- Government structure: Evaluating the number of council districts.
- Budgeting and contracting: Revising the city's budgeting and contracting processes.
- Filling vacancies: Creating a consistent procedure for filling vacancies in elected offices.
- Elected official accountability: Defining the rules for the censure and suspension of elected officers.
- Service delivery: Improving the delivery of core city services.

Commission makeup and process

The 13-member civilian board was established through a series of appointments:

- Appointment process: The Mayor appointed four members, the Council President and President Pro Tempore each appointed two, and those eight initial members selected the remaining five through an application process.
- Timeline: The commission will meet throughout 2025 and is scheduled to submit its proposed changes to the City Council in early 2026.

Background on the 1999 charter

The current city charter was adopted following voter approval in June 1999, replacing the previous 1925 charter. The 1999 charter aimed to improve city government responsiveness and included significant changes:

- It condensed the charter, making it more efficient and clear.
- It introduced the neighborhood council system.

- It increased the authority of the mayor and controller while decreasing the council's authority over boards and commissions.

The push for new reform

Despite the 1999 changes, many systemic problems remain, which spurred the current reform effort. The motivation for a new charter review includes:

- Challenges with service delivery amidst crises like homelessness and housing unaffordability.
- A crisis of trust and confidence in City Hall following instances of unethical conduct by city leaders.
- The desire to update governance to address new challenges that were not foreseen in the late 1990s.

What specific changes might be proposed for the city's contracting or budgeting?

Tell me more about specific areas the Commission is looking at

How does LA's charter reform compare to NYC's or Chicago's?



11 sites

- **Mayor Bass Launches Charter Reform Commission Application**

Mar 7, 2025 — All appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council. The Commission will have the authority to review the entire Charter and also specifically cons...

City of Los Angeles (.gov)

- **City Charter Reform - Adrin Nazarian**

Oct 3, 2023 — 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 th...

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- **About the Commission**

About the Commission. The Charter Reform Commission was established by Mayor Karen Bass and the Los Angeles City Council in August 2024. The Commission is taske...

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