



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE REFORM TASK FORCE
BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL
1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025, 5:00 P.M.



I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Land Acknowledgment.

Interim Director Shadi Kardan called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Jayson Chan, administrative staff, conducted roll.

A quorum was established with 12 members present of 13 seats.

Present: Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, Nancy Yap, Rosa Soto, David Phelps, Julia Mockeridge, Gabriela Gironas, Steve Neal, David Green, Derek Hsieh and Interim Director Shadi Kardan

Absent: Brian Calderón-Tabatabai

Present: Thomas Faughnan, Senior Assistant County Counsel; Liliana Campos, Assistant County Counsel; Norayr Zurabyan, Assistant County Counsel; and Peter Bollinger, Assistant County Counsel.

The Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement was played.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Action Item: Approval of the July 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Julia Mockridge motioned to revise the July 9, 2025, meeting minutes to reflect that Derek Steele's proposed amendment to a motion by Marcel Rodarte was rejected.

Sara Sadhwani expressed having greater consciousness moving forward around ensuring female members voices are represented in the meeting minutes.

2 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

On motion of Julia Mockeridge, seconded by Rosa Soto, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 – Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai

Attachments: [July 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. Approval of Meeting Schedule

- Action Item: Approval of Governance Reform Task Force meeting dates for the remainder of 2025

Members expressed interest in holding regular Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) meetings at alternative venues and to potentially include weekends to enhance public access and participation.

Derek Hsieh motioned to adopt the proposed regular meeting dates and times through the end of the year, while tentatively adopting the proposed locations, and for members to work aggressively to find other locations, times, and opportunities to engage the public.

3 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

On motion of Derek Hsieh, seconded by John Fasana, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 – Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai

Attachments: [2025 Regular Meeting Schedule \(Additional Dates\)](#)

[Commissions Meeting Location List \(Sample\)](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

4. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on GRTF Bylaws

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on GRTF Bylaws. Potential vote to adopt proposed GRTF bylaws.

John Fasana inquired about the absence of Chair term limits. On behalf of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, Derek Hsieh stated it would be impractical to rotate the Chair given the limited existence of the GRTF, and that a chair can be removed and reappointed with majority vote.

Sara Sadhwani inquired about member vacancies and whether conflicts of interests were discussed in the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meetings. On behalf of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, Marcel Rodarte stated that vacancies would be discussed in consultation with County Counsel, but that it is the Board of Supervisors' responsibility to appoint replacements. Derek Hsieh stated that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee did not discuss disqualification based on conflicts of interest and would need to consult with County Counsel.

Julia Mockridge emphasized the importance of maintaining a quorum of the GRTF

and acting quickly to ensure any vacancies are fill timely.

Interim Director Shadi Kardan asked County Counsel to explain the potential process for filling vacancies on the GRTF. Assistant County Counsel, Liliana Campos explained that the Board of Supervisors has the discretion to appoint new members, as stated in the motion that established the GRTF. The GRTF may consider sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors to raise concerns about a vacancy and request further direction.

David Phelps inquired on the election process of a chair. Assistant County Counsel Norayr Zurabyan clarified that all nominations will be voted on in the order they are made. However, all nominations can be listed before each is brought forward for a vote.

John Fasana motioned to approve the GRTF bylaws as proposed by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Gabriela Gironas proposed an amendment to insert an equity statement as Chapter 1, Section 4 of the bylaws, renumbering the existing Section 4 and all following sections.

3 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item: 1 in person and 2 virtually.

On motion of John Fasana, seconded by Marcel Rodarte, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 – Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai

Attachments: [Proposed Governance Reform Task Force Bylaws](#)

5. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Budget Hearings and Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgency Legislation

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Budget Hearings and Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgency Legislation on their progress and workplan and possible action related thereto.

Derek Hsieh provided an update regarding the five-day posting requirement for non-urgency legislation, including potentially sending survey to stakeholders, such as County Departments, Unions, Community Groups, Chief Executive Office, and Board Offices, to outline opportunities for improvement and areas of strength.

Julia Mockeridge expressed interest in hearing recommendations on how to involve the community in the County's Public Budget Hearing meetings.

Derek Steele emphasized the need to coordinate with the budget cycle and bring

forward impactful recommendations that can be integrated into the process.

Sara Sadhwani supported the idea of a survey but expressed concern that it may not yield the specific feedback desired. She recommended considering a focus group led by a facilitator instead, while also acknowledging the time needed to contract with an external group.

Derek Steele agreed that focus groups are a good way to engage the community and gather information, also adding that it is important to also seek opinions from the Board Offices and the community.

Nancy Yap suggested including County employees in the public engagement process to get their input on how to improve budget transparency.

John Fasana inquired about the timeline for the implementation of the Public Budget Hearings. Senior Assistant County Counsel Thomas Faughnan indicated that it is in the Charter and took effect immediately, with the Chief Executive Office already engaged in the process since the last budget cycle.

Sara Sadhwani volunteered to join the Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Marcel Rodarte raised concerns about the poor response rates of surveys and supported the use of focus groups, but questioned whether the current budget could support the work.

John Fasana questioned the status of the Charter amendment submission. Senior Assistant County Counsel Thomas Faughnan indicated that Registrar-Recorder is in the process of filing the Measure G Charter amendments with the Secretary of State, and also noted that based on case and statutory law, the Charter amendment goes into effect 10 days after the election.

Gabriela Gironas encouraged members of the public to email opinions and suggestions to info@measureg.lacounty.gov.

1 member of the public in person addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

Interim Director Shadi Kardan inquired with County Counsel about the process for adding Sara Sadhwani to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Assistant County Counsel Norayr Zurabyan stated that if there were no objections, that can be the order.

Hearing no objections from the GRTF, Sara Sadhwani was added to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Budget Hearings and Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgency Legislation.

6. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the establishment of an Independent Ethics Commission

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the establishment of an Independent Ethics Commission on their progress and workplan and possible action related thereto.

Sara Sadhwani provided updates on the discussion of a potential workplan, which includes a research and information gathering phase, a report drafting phase, and a public feedback phase. The focus of the work would be on an Ethics Commission's structure, funding, and charter provisions. She also suggested that County Counsel provide an update on their Ethics Reform Report to discuss general provisions and structural considerations. Additionally, she proposed considering expert testimony on best practices from organizations like the LA City Ethics Commission and the Fair Political Practices Commission.

David Green appreciated the idea of having expert testimony.

Interim Director Shadi Kardan asked Rosa Soto to restate the positive remarks she had made during the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting. David Green also recognized Soto for her ethical conduct in helping people in need while simultaneously attending the subcommittee meeting. Rosa Soto highlighted the importance of attendance, communication, and member representation at the GRTF meetings, emphasizing that these elements must align with Measure G.

2 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

7. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Engagement

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Engagement on their progress and workplan and possible action related thereto.

Gabriela Gironas provided an update on the public engagement strategy, noting that it will involve collaborating with community organizations and identifying locations to engage the public. They aim to have a draft strategy ready for the next GRTF meeting.

Gabriela Gironas encouraged members of the public to email opinions and thoughts on public engagement within communities to info@measureg.lacounty.gov.

Gabriela Gironas inquired about the process for making public engagement a standing item on the regular GRTF meeting agenda. Assistant County Counsel Norayr Zurabyan clarified that the current item was placed on the agenda based on actions from the previous meeting and explained that the GRTF would need to vote to make the public engagement strategy a standing item on future agendas.

Gabriela Gironas motioned to make public engagement strategy a standing agenda item for the regular GRTF meetings.

Derek Hsieh proposed an amendment to the motion by Gabriela Gironas to include all Ad Hoc Subcommittee topics, excluding the GRTF Bylaws, as standing agenda items for the regular GRTF meetings.

Julia Mockeridge raised concerns that adding all topics would excessively extend the meetings. John Fasana suggested creating a consent calendar, where items could be discussed upon a Member's request. Marcel Rodarte supported the idea of a consent

calendar. Gabriela Gironas proposed creating a schedule with set time frames for agenda items, which would give the public more flexibility to attend meetings for specific topics of interest.

Gabriela Gironas accepted the proposed amendment by Derek Hsieh, with the understanding that items can be placed on a consent calendar and that the Ad Hoc Subcommittees could submit written reports rather than discussing their topics at every regular GRTF meetings.

Sara Sadhwani inquired about inviting experts to give testimony and presentations on specific Ad Hoc Subcommittee topics during regular GRTF meetings, suggesting this would better serve the public and the full GRTF body.

John Fasana suggested recording Ad Hoc Subcommittee meetings to reduce the need to include those topics on the regular GRTF meeting agenda and shorten the overall meeting duration. Marcel Rodarte appreciated the idea but recommended that subcommittee members use their best judgment to determine which topics are significant enough to be placed on the regular GRTF meeting agenda.

Steve Neal appreciated the idea of having a consent calendar and bringing Ad Hoc Subcommittee topics to the regular GRTF meeting agendas as needed.

1 member of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

Derek Hsieh proposed another amendment to the motion by Gabriela Gironas to have the Ad Hoc Subcommittee topics, except the GRTF bylaws, be standing items on the regular GRTF agendas until the appointment of a Chair, at which point the Chair would have the discretion to manage the agenda, including placing items on a consent calendar. Gabriela Gironas accepted the proposed amendment.

On motion of Gabriela Gironas, seconded by Derek Steele, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 – Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, Derek Hsieh, David Green, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai

8. Review Measure G Long-Term Goals

Discussion and Potential Action: Review Long-Term Goals of Measure G and consider establishing additional Ad Hoc Subcommittees to consider developing a workplan for key milestones, including:

- Elected County Executive (2028)
- Expansion of the Board of Supervisors from 5 to 9 Members (2032)

John Fasana expressed concern about the lack of clarity on the role of the elected County Executive, specifically that it could compete with the Board of Supervisors.

Derek Steele expressed concerns that Measure J could impact the creation of an elected County executive. In response, Sara Sadhwani stated that Measure G should proceed as voted, and any issues arising due to Measure J can be handled as they occur.

Gabriela Gironas motioned to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the creation of an elected County Executive.

Numerous Members expressed interest in volunteering for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, as motioned by Gabriela Gironas.

Marcel Rodarte suggested that the work should include discussions about the existing County elected officials, specifically their autonomy and budgets.

Julia Mockeridge proposed an amendment to the motion by Gabriela Gironas to have two ad hoc subcommittees: 1 for the elected County Executive and 1 for the expansion of the Board of Supervisors. Gabriela Gironas accepted the amendment.

Rosa Soto clarified that the subcommittees' role is to collect information and report back to the full body for discussion.

Marcel Rodarte noted that the full body would be responsible for most of the work regarding the elected County Executive and the expansion of the Board of Supervisors. He also suggested that, given the strong interest, members should volunteer for only one of the two Ad Hoc Subcommittees.

David Phelps noted that he had not volunteered for previous ad hoc subcommittees so he could potentially serve on the one focused on the elected County Executive.

5 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item: 4 virtually and 1 via written correspondence.

8 GRTF members expressed their interest in volunteering for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the elected County Executive. Assistant County Counsel Norayr Zurabyan suggested the creation of two subcommittees to ensure it is composed of less than a quorum of the GRTF members, with the understanding that the subcommittees do not communicate with each other on this topic.

John Fasana suggested that the full body discuss this topic before forming any ad hoc subcommittees.

Sara Sadhwani recommended against creating ad hoc subcommittees for these topics, citing the significant interest from all members.

7 GRTF members expressed their interest in volunteering for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the expansion of the Board of Supervisors.

Gabriela Gironas withdrew their motion to create ad hoc subcommittees for the elected County Executive and the expansion of the Board of Supervisors.

Sara Sadhwani motioned to agendize the Elected County Executive, expansion of the Board of Supervisors from 5 to 9 members, and the County Legislative Analyst to the next regular GRTF meeting.

On motion of Sara Sadhwani, seconded by Derek Hsieh, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 – Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, Derek Hsieh, David Green, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai.

Attachments: [Ordinance](#)

[Written Correspondence](#)

9. Oral report by County Counsel, as requested at the July 9, 2025, GRTF meeting, on documents presented by Task Force Member, John Fasana

Assistant County Counsel Peter Bollinger provided County Counsel's oral report as requested at the July 9, 2025, GRTF meeting.

Marcel Rodarte inquired about the GRTF's authority or responsibly regarding Measure J now that the Board has taken action. Senior Assistant County Counsel Thomas Faughnan explained that the focus of the GRTF is to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for implementing Measure G. The Board has already directed County staff to come back with options related to addressing the Measure J issue. He added that it could be possible that some of the recommendations the GRTF make might also include the implementation of Measure J in the new governance structure, but that is the limits of the GRTF's involvement in the Measure J issue. Counsel added that within the next month, there will be report backs to the Board to help them make decisions moving forward and recommended waiting to see the reports before the GRTF focuses on Measure J again.

Derek Steele commented that this is a "huge blunder" and someone should be held accountable for it. Member Steele went on to discuss the differences between Measure J and the Care First Community Investment (CFCI) and expressed his frustrations on the lack of understanding of the differences between the two and asked for Counsel's Measure J-related findings. Senior Assistant County Counsel Thomas Faughnan explained County Counsel's report-backs will address this issue and be made available to the public and the task force.

Marcel Rodarte motioned to continue Agenda Item 9 to the next regular GRTF meeting.

5 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force: 4 in-person and 1 virtually.

Rosa Soto commented on a forthcoming report from County Counsel regarding

Measure J, due in two weeks and added that she believes there is a distinction between Measure G and Measure J and the Board of Supervisors is handling it. Senior Assistant County Counsel Thomas Faughnan explained that the report back that is due two weeks is a confidential document for the Board of Supervisors, involving litigation options. He reassured the GRTF that other reports from County Counsel will be publicly available.

John Fasana expressed a need to document the events and errors of both the previous and current elections for the sake of clarity and accuracy and that it is critical to create trust with the voters. Additionally, he voiced concerns regarding the resolution of issues pertaining to Measure J and Measure G and hopes a declaratory relief will resolve the issue.

Marcel Rodarte motioned to call the question to end discussion and move to vote on his original motion.

Sara Sadhwani expressed concerns about the need to end the regular GRTF meeting and carry over agenda items to the next meeting. Additionally, she highlighted the need for more clarity on the GRTF's budget.

Rosa Soto asked to prioritize this item for the next regular GRTF meeting.

Marcel Rodarte amended his previous motions to agendize two items for the next regular GRTF meeting: first, the election of a Chair, and second, continuation of this item.

On motion of Marcel Rodarte, seconded by Derek Hsieh, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 – Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, Derek Hsieh, David Green, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Abstain: 2 – Derek Steele and John Fasana.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)

10. Oral report by the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisor, as requested at the July 9, 2025, GRTF meeting, on the GRTF budget and staffing.

Marcel Rodarte motioned to continue Agenda Item 10 to the next Governance Reform Task Force regular meeting.

On motion of Marcel Rodarte, seconded by Gabriela Gironas, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 – Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, Derek Hsieh, David Green, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David

Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Absent: 1 – Brian Calderón-Tabatabai.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

11. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Governance Reform Task Force, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Governance Reform Task Force subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Governance Reform Task Force on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governance Reform Task Force.

1 member of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Written Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

13. Adjournment of the July 23, 2025, Governance Reform Task Force meeting.

Interim Director Shadi Kardan adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.