



## Los Angeles County Ethics Commission

### Background

In 2024, Los Angeles County voters passed Measure G, which requires the creation of an independent Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance to promote ethical, transparent, and accountable County government.

The Los Angeles County Ethics Commission is expected to serve as an independent ethics oversight body for the County. The Commission's role includes overseeing and enforcing laws related to campaign financing, lobbying, conflicts of interest, governmental ethics, and related matters; providing strategic oversight of the Office of Ethics Compliance; adopting rules, regulations, policies, complaint procedures, and penalty guidelines; issuing formal opinions; and adjudicating enforcement matters, including making final decisions following administrative hearings and imposing penalties where authorized.

The Office of Ethics Compliance will carry out the Commission's day-to-day work, which includes education and training, advice and guidance, public transparency and disclosure administration, investigations, audits, referrals to other enforcement agencies, and public reporting.

Ethics Commissioners may be asked to review sensitive or complex matters and must exercise independent judgment, fairness, impartiality, and discretion. Commissioners shall not act as representatives of any nominating authority, elected official, organization, or interest group.

The Commission will meet at least six times per calendar year, and meetings will be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Commissioners will need to prepare for meetings, review materials, participate in hearings or other Commission activities, complete required trainings or disclosures, and comply with applicable ethics and service restrictions.

The time commitment is subject to change and may vary based on the Commission's meeting schedule, agenda items, enforcement matters, hearings, subcommittee meetings, preparation time, and other Commission business. Commissioners should expect to spend approximately 5 to 20 hours per month on Commission-related work. During start-up, the time required initially may be greater. Commissioners are expected to receive \$250 per meeting and reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, in accordance with applicable County Code and policies.

### Structure of the Ethics Commission

The Los Angeles County Ethics Commission will have seven members. Applications submitted through this process may be reviewed for consideration by the applicable nominating authority and/or the initial Ethics Commission, subject to the final ordinance and formal appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

The appointment structure includes the following nominating authorities:

- **Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) initial nomination / County Executive seat beginning in 2029-** One member will initially be nominated through the GRTF process following a public recruitment and application process. Beginning January 1, 2029, this member will instead be nominated by the elected County Executive. This nominee must have a background in public information and public meetings, community outreach and engagement, or using technology as it relates to open government. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2029.
- **Chair of the Board of Supervisors nomination-** One member will be nominated by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. This nominee must have a background in public policy or public law. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2030.
- **Assessor nomination-** One member will be nominated by the Assessor. This nominee must have a background in campaign finance, accounting, auditing, and compliance with ethics laws in the public or private sector, or protection of whistleblowers. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2027.
- **Commission-nominated public applicant pool-** Once the first three nominees are appointed, the Commission will nominate the remaining four members at a public meeting following a public recruitment and application process, which should include outreach to communities that are underrepresented in the County's political process. These nominees should be broadly representative of the general public, and at least one Commission-nominated member must reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The initial terms for two Commission-nominated seats will expire on June 30, 2028, and the initial terms for the remaining two Commission-nominated seats will expire on June 30, 2031.

After the initial staggered terms, Commissioners will serve five-year terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30. A member who has served a complete five-year term is not eligible for reappointment. If a replacement has not been appointed by the end of a member's term, the member may continue serving in a holdover capacity until a new member is appointed, for a period not to exceed one year.

Nominating authorities shall value lived experience, community leadership, traditional and non-traditional expertise, and working-class accessibility. Nominating authorities and the Board shall consider relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for the County's diverse demographics, to the extent feasible and permissible by law.

Commissioners may also be subject to attendance requirements, including possible vacancy provisions for missed meetings, ceasing to be a county resident, removal, or other circumstances specified by ordinance.

## Application Overview

The County of Los Angeles is accepting applications for individuals interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission.

**The application period will be open from July 6, 2026, through July 26, 2026.**

The information submitted in this application will be used to determine eligibility, qualifications, and suitability for consideration for the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission and for review, nomination, and appointment purposes.

Applications and related materials may be public records subject to disclosure under the California Public

Records Act, except as otherwise protected by law. Application materials may also be reviewed, discussed, displayed, posted, recorded, or otherwise made available as part of a public screening, interview, nomination, or appointment process, including at a public meeting or in materials provided to the GRTF, the Ethics Commission, the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors, or other applicable nominating or appointing authority. Interviews may be recorded for review by applicable nominating or appointing authority.

The review and selection process may include initial screening or narrowing by an ad hoc committee, subcommittee, staff, or other reviewing body. The process may also include use of publicly discussed or approved screening criteria, a rubric, or a narrowing process. Not all applicants will be interviewed or selected as finalists.

Applicants selected as finalists may have their names, application materials, responses, qualifications, and related information released publicly, posted with meeting materials, discussed at a public meeting, and considered during public comment, public interviews, deliberations, nomination, and appointment proceedings.

Finalists may be asked to participate in a public interview before the GRTF or another nominating or appointing authority. Public interviews may be livestreamed, recorded, posted, or otherwise made available to the public. Deliberations regarding applicants, finalists, nominees, rankings, alternates, or recommendations may occur in closed session to the extent permitted by law, and any final recommendation, nomination, or appointment action may be reported or acted upon publicly.

Do not submit Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, financial account numbers, or other personal identifying information that is not requested in this application.

Submitting an application does not guarantee nomination or appointment. Information provided in the application may be used to determine which nominating authority or background requirement may be applicable.

# Section 1 - Minimum Requirements

Fields marked with a red asterisk must be completed.

First Name

Sean

Middle Name

Eric

Last Name

McMorris

Email Address

Primary Phone Number

Home Address

Is your mailing address different from your home address?

Are you currently a resident of Los Angeles County?

Yes

In which Supervisorial District do you reside? If you are not sure, please click [here](#) to help determine your supervisorial district in Los Angeles County.

Note: Staff may verify district information as part of the application review process.

Do you reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County? If you are not sure, please click [here](#) to help determine whether your home address is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

No

Note: At least one Commission-nominated member of the Ethics Commission must reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Staff may verify this information as part of the application review process.

If appointed, are you willing and able to attend Commission meetings, required trainings/orientations, hearings, and related activities, including matters involving ethics, transparency, accountability, compliance, and enforcement?

Yes

When are you generally available for Commission meetings?

Either

**Do you need accommodation or assistance to participate in the application, interview, orientation, or appointment process?**

Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests: Ethics Commissioners will be required to file a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, disclosing financial interests as required by law.

**Are you willing to complete and file a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests?**

Yes

## Section 2 - Disqualifying Interests

Appointment to the Ethics Commission is subject to eligibility requirements and restrictions involving current, planned, or prior activities, roles, or relationships. The following questions are used to help confirm eligibility and identify any issues that may require additional review. A “Yes” or “Not sure” response does not automatically disqualify you, but additional information may be requested.

**Are you currently running, or planning to run, for elected office in Los Angeles County or for any other elected office in a jurisdiction that intersects/overlaps with Los Angeles County?**

No

**In the last two years, have you served as a County elected official?**

No

**In the last two years, have you been a candidate for County elected office?**

No

**In the last two years, have you been an immediate family member of a County elected official?**

No

Note: For this application, immediate family means spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, or child of a County elected official.

**In the last two years, have you served as an employee or paid consultant to a County elected official?**

No

**In the last two years, have you served as an employee or paid consultant to a candidate for County elected office, or to a campaign committee controlled by a County elected official?**

No

**In the last two years, have you served as an officer or paid employee of a political party?**

No

**In the last two years, have you been registered as a County lobbyist?**

No

In the last two years, have you qualified as a [“major donor”](#) under the Political Reform Act, generally meaning that you made contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year?

No

**In the last two years, have you contributed more than \$1,000 total to one or more candidates for Los Angeles County elected office?**

No

**Are there any other facts or circumstances that may raise a question about your eligibility or ability to be impartial on the Ethics Commission?**

No

# Section 3: Required Acknowledgements

If appointed, Ethics Commissioners may be subject to restrictions during service and, in some cases, for one or two years after your service ends, unless preempted or prohibited by law. Please carefully review each statement below and indicate your acknowledgment at the end of this section.

- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from seeking County elected office during my service and for two years after my service ends, and from seeking other elected office in a jurisdiction that overlaps with Los Angeles County during my service, subject to the final ordinance and applicable law.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from serving as an officer or employee of a political party during my service.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from employing, or being employed as, a person required to register as a county lobbyist during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from employment, contractual relationships, gifts, or compensation from County elected officials during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that, if appointed, Ethics Commissioners may be restricted during their service from endorsing, supporting, opposing, contributing to, volunteering for, or working on behalf of any candidate or ballot measure in a County election, or any County elected official running for any elected office, subject to the final ordinance and applicable law.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from receiving a no-bid County contract during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that Ethics Commissioners must exercise independent judgment and not serve as representatives of the person or entity involved in their nomination or appointment.
- I understand that, in connection with Commission-nominated seats, Commission members may be subject to a no-contact rule prohibiting communications with County elected officials or their agents about whom the Commission should nominate, except through public comment at a Commission meeting.

## Acknowledgement

Yes, I acknowledge all of the statements above.

## Section 4 - Background and Experience

Please keep responses brief and focused. The questions below are intended to help identify whether applicants have background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge in areas identified for the Ethics Commission’s appointment structure. Applicants are not required to select a nominating authority or appointment category.

### Why are you interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission?

I am interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission because I believe independent ethics oversight is essential to maintaining public trust in government, and because my professional and public service experiences have prepared me to help the Commission fulfill that responsibility.

As Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager for California Common Cause, my work centers on conducting comparative legal and policy analyses of state and local laws governing governmental ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest, transparency, public meetings, elections, and accountability. I research and evaluate legal frameworks, analyze proposed legislation, develop policy recommendations, publish original research, and assist policymakers and local jurisdictions in evaluating and implementing ethics and transparency reforms. Through this work, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of both the legal framework governing ethics laws and the practical considerations involved in administering effective ethics programs.

I have also actively participated in Los Angeles County's public process to establish this Ethics Commission by researching ethics commission models from throughout California, preparing written public comments, proposing model Charter and ordinance language, and providing oral testimony during publicly noticed Governance Reform Task Force and Board of Supervisors meetings. In addition, I authored a comprehensive guide on ethics commission best practices to help inform the County's deliberations.

My service on the San Gabriel Planning Commission has further strengthened my appreciation for impartial decision-making, careful preparation, due process, and the consistent application of adopted laws. Serving as one of the inaugural Commissioners would be both an honor and a significant responsibility. The Commission's early decisions will help establish its credibility and shape public confidence for years to come.

If appointed, I would approach the position with independence, humility, and integrity. I understand that an Ethics Commissioner must evaluate evidence objectively, apply the law fairly and consistently, respect due process, and make decisions free from favoritism or preconceived outcomes. Those are responsibilities I would be honored to undertake in service to the residents of Los Angeles County.

**Open Government, Public Information, and Public Engagement. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.**

- Public information
- Public meetings
- Community outreach and engagement
- Technology as it relates to open government

### Please briefly describe the background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge for each area selected above.

My professional work has focused on improving government transparency, expanding meaningful public participation, and strengthening public access to information at both the state and local levels. As Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager for California Common Cause, I research and analyze laws governing transparency, public meetings, campaign finance, governmental ethics, and accountability, while developing policy recommendations and educational resources that help policymakers and the public better understand those laws.

Public participation has been a central focus of my work. I have prepared written public comments and provided oral testimony before the California Legislature, the Los Angeles County Governance Reform Task Force, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, city councils, ethics commissions, charter

reform bodies, and numerous other public agencies. These experiences have reinforced the importance of ensuring that public meetings are transparent, accessible, and meaningful opportunities for civic engagement.

I also authored a statewide report examining remote public participation practices in 119 California cities and developed recommendations to improve public access to local government decision-making. In addition, I have produced research and guidance on ethics commissions, campaign finance systems, and transparency laws to assist policymakers, journalists, advocates, and members of the public in understanding complex legal and policy issues.

Technology has become an increasingly important component of my work. I regularly evaluate how technology can improve government transparency and public access through electronic disclosure systems, digital public records, and remote participation. I am also developing a prototype interactive ethics commission website and ordinance generator designed to help policymakers and local jurisdictions better understand and evaluate different ethics commission structures and governance options.

If appointed, I would support practices that promote openness, encourage meaningful public participation, and ensure that the Commission remains transparent, accessible, and accountable to all Los Angeles County residents.

**Public Policy and Public Law. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.**

Public policy

Public law

**Please briefly describe the background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge for each area selected above.**

My professional career has centered on researching, analyzing, and improving public policy and public law relating to governmental ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest, transparency, open meetings, elections, and accountability.

As Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager for California Common Cause, I conduct comparative legal and policy analyses of state and local statutes, ordinances, regulations, and proposed legislation. My responsibilities include evaluating legal frameworks, preparing legislative analyses, developing policy recommendations, drafting proposed legislative language, and assisting policymakers and local jurisdictions in evaluating and implementing ethics and transparency reforms.

This work requires understanding not only what the law provides, but how legal and institutional frameworks function in practice. I regularly compare laws across jurisdictions, identify effective governance models, evaluate implementation challenges, and recommend improvements that are legally sound, practical, and administratively workable.

I have also authored original research on campaign finance, ethics commissions, transparency, and public participation, including the California Municipal Campaign Finance Index, a statewide report on remote public participation practices, and a comprehensive guide on ethics commission best practices. These projects required extensive statutory research, comparative legal analysis, and the ability to communicate complex legal issues clearly to policymakers, public officials, journalists, and members of the public.

If appointed, I would apply these analytical skills to help ensure that the Commission administers and enforces the County's ethics laws fairly, consistently, and in accordance with both the law and the Commission's responsibility to maintain public confidence.

**Campaign Finance, Accounting, Auditing, Ethics Compliance, and Whistleblower Protection. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.**

Campaign finance

Ethics compliance in the public or private sector

**Please briefly describe the background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge for each area selected above.**

Campaign finance and governmental ethics have been the primary focus of my professional work.

As Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager for California Common Cause, I conduct comparative legal and policy analyses of campaign finance, governmental ethics, lobbying, conflicts of interest, transparency, and accountability laws at both the state and local levels. My work includes evaluating existing legal frameworks, analyzing proposed legislation, advising policymakers and local jurisdictions, and identifying practical approaches that strengthen ethics and accountability systems.

One of my principal areas of expertise is campaign finance law. I authored the California Municipal Campaign Finance Index, one of the most comprehensive comparative analyses of municipal campaign finance laws in California. The project involved reviewing campaign finance ordinances throughout the state and evaluating contribution limits, disclosure requirements, enforcement authorities, independent expenditure regulations, and other key provisions to identify similarities, differences, and effective approaches.

My ethics compliance experience includes extensive research into ethics commission structures, disclosure requirements, lobbying regulations, conflicts of interest, enforcement authorities, and ethics administration. I have researched ethics commission models throughout California, proposed model Charter and ordinance language, authored a comprehensive guide on ethics commission best practices, and assisted jurisdictions in evaluating and strengthening ethics programs.

Although my professional experience has focused primarily on researching, evaluating, and improving ethics systems rather than administering them directly, it has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the legal, structural, and operational considerations that support effective ethics oversight. If appointed, I would apply that knowledge thoughtfully, independently, and impartially in carrying out the Commission's responsibilities.

**What expertise, analytical skills, community leadership or involvement, lived experiences, traditional or non-traditional expertise, or other perspectives would you bring to the Ethics Commission? In your response, please discuss any experience you have with ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, transparency, accountability, or government oversight laws, as well as how your professional, volunteer, educational, community, or life experiences would help you effectively serve as a Commissioner. (Desirable qualifications)**

My professional and public service experiences have prepared me to contribute both technical expertise and practical judgment to the Commission's work.

My professional work focuses on conducting comparative legal and policy analyses of state and local laws governing governmental ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest, transparency, public meetings, elections, and accountability. This work requires evaluating statutes, ordinances, regulations, and proposed legislation; identifying effective governance models; anticipating implementation challenges; and developing practical recommendations that are legally sound, administratively workable, and responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

One of my principal areas of expertise is evaluating ethics and accountability systems across California. I have researched ethics commission structures, campaign finance programs, lobbying regulations, transparency laws, and conflict-of-interest frameworks to better understand not only how they differ, but what institutional safeguards contribute to effective, independent oversight. I authored the California Municipal Campaign Finance Index, a statewide comparative analysis of municipal campaign finance laws; a report examining remote public participation practices in 119 California cities; and a comprehensive guide on ethics commission best practices. I have also proposed model Charter and ordinance language and am currently developing an interactive ethics commission best practices website and ordinance generator to help jurisdictions strengthen their ethics programs.

My public service has complemented that work. As a member of the San Gabriel Planning Commission, I regularly review administrative records, evaluate evidence, conduct public hearings, apply adopted laws and policies, deliberate with fellow commissioners, and make decisions in a public setting. That experience has reinforced the importance of careful preparation, respectful deliberation, due process, and maintaining public confidence through fair and impartial decision-making.

Throughout my career, I have worked collaboratively with elected officials, government staff, nonprofit organizations, community groups, journalists, and residents representing diverse perspectives throughout Los Angeles County and California. My educational background, including degrees in political science and international affairs, together with my experiences living in Vietnam and South Korea, has further strengthened my ability to analyze complex public policy issues while appreciating different perspectives and approaches to governance.

If appointed, I would strive to help the Commission establish a reputation for independence, fairness, thoughtful decision-making, and professional administration from its very beginning. I would bring the perspective of someone who has spent years studying how independent oversight institutions earn public trust and how thoughtful, fair, and consistent administration helps sustain that trust over time.

**As a Commissioner, you may be required to evaluate evidence, determine whether a person violated an ethics or campaign finance law, and, if so, decide whether a monetary penalty should be imposed. Please describe your ability to exercise independent judgment and act impartially and fairly when evaluating information and making decisions. If applicable, provide examples from your professional, volunteer, community, or personal experiences. (Desirable qualifications)**

The ability to exercise independent judgment and make fair, impartial decisions is fundamental to effective public service. Whether conducting legal and policy analysis or serving on the San Gabriel Planning Commission, I have learned that sound decisions require careful preparation, objective evaluation of the facts, thoughtful consideration of differing viewpoints, and faithful application of the governing law.

As Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager for California Common Cause, I conduct comparative legal and policy analyses of state and local ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, transparency, and accountability laws. This work requires separating objective legal analysis from policy preferences, evaluating evidence and competing arguments, anticipating legal and practical consequences, and developing recommendations that are accurate, well-supported, and intellectually honest. My responsibility is to ensure that my research and analysis are balanced, factually accurate, and grounded in the law.

My service on the San Gabriel Planning Commission has provided direct experience exercising independent judgment in a quasi-judicial setting. I review staff reports and evidence contained in the administrative record, listen carefully to testimony from applicants, members of the public, and City staff, deliberate with fellow commissioners, and apply adopted laws and policies to the facts before the Commission. Every matter must be evaluated on its own merits. That experience has reinforced the importance of maintaining an open mind, respecting due process, and ensuring that every individual receives a fair opportunity to be heard.

I recognize that decisions of the Ethics Commission may have significant legal, financial, professional, and reputational consequences. Determining whether a violation has occurred—or whether a monetary penalty is warranted—requires careful evaluation of the evidence, objective application of the law, consistency in decision-making, and respect for due process. Because these decisions can significantly affect both the public interest and the individuals involved, they require careful evaluation of the evidence, objective application of the law, consistency, and respect for due process.

If appointed, I would approach every matter with independence, integrity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to fairness. I would evaluate the evidence objectively, apply the County's ethics laws as written, deliberate thoughtfully with my fellow Commissioners, and make decisions based solely on the facts, the law, and the Commission's responsibility to serve the public interest.

**Los Angeles County is one of the most diverse counties in the nation. Please describe your**

**appreciation for the County’s diverse demographics and how that appreciation would inform your service as a Commissioner. You may include examples from your professional, volunteer, educational, community, or life experiences, including any experience serving, engaging with, or working alongside diverse communities in Los Angeles County. (Desirable qualifications)**

Los Angeles County's diversity is one of its defining strengths. Its residents represent an extraordinary range of cultures, languages, backgrounds, experiences, professions, and perspectives. An effective Ethics Commission must earn and maintain the confidence of all of those communities by administering the law fairly, treating every person with dignity and respect, and ensuring that ethics laws are applied consistently regardless of an individual's background, political affiliation, position, or influence.

My professional experience has given me the opportunity to work with elected officials, public employees, community organizations, journalists, advocates, and residents representing diverse communities throughout Los Angeles County and California. Working with jurisdictions and community organizations throughout California has reinforced that effective public institutions must be responsive to communities with different histories, resources, cultures, and perspectives. Those experiences have reinforced the importance of listening carefully, engaging respectfully, and approaching every issue with an open mind.

As a member of the San Gabriel Planning Commission, I have the privilege of serving a community with significant cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity. Public hearings frequently bring together residents, business owners, applicants, neighborhood organizations, and City staff with differing viewpoints and priorities. That experience has strengthened my appreciation for respectful public engagement, thoughtful deliberation, and ensuring that every person appearing before the Commission has an opportunity to be heard.

My educational and international experiences have also broadened my perspective. Earning degrees in political science and international affairs encouraged me to study governance from comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives. Living in Vietnam for two years while studying Vietnamese and in South Korea for one year while teaching English strengthened my appreciation for different cultures, broadened my understanding of how public institutions shape people's daily lives, and reinforced the importance of listening, adaptability, and mutual respect.

If appointed, I would strive to ensure that every individual appearing before the Ethics Commission is treated with fairness, professionalism, and respect. I believe the Commission best serves the public when it applies the law consistently, remains accessible and transparent, and demonstrates through its actions that every person receives equal treatment under the law.

**List any County, city, state, nonprofit, community, civic, advisory, professional, or other boards, commissions, committees, or organizations on which you currently serve or previously served. Include offices held, if any. If none, write "N/A."**

San Gabriel Planning Commission - Commissioner

Grassroots Alhambra 501(c)(3) - Board Member

**Have you ever been employed by the County of Los Angeles?** ☐

Please provide up to three professional, civic, community, or personal references who can speak to your experience, qualifications, community leadership, judgment, impartiality, or other background relevant to service on the Ethics Commission.

| Name                 | Relationship to Applicant                                 | Organization (if applicable) | Phone | Email |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Darius Kemp          | Boss                                                      | California Common Cause      |       |       |
| Jonathan Mehta Stein | Former Boss                                               | Tech Equity                  |       |       |
| Ron Sahu             | Fellow 501(c)(3) Board Member and community work together | Grassroots Alhambra          |       |       |

You may upload a resume, cover letter, or personal statement using the upload button below. Uploading a document is optional and is not required for your application to be considered. Uploaded documents will be considered part of your application materials and may be subject to the public records and public process disclosures described in this application.

 Sean\_McMorris Cover\_Letter LA Coun... .pdf

# Section 5 - Optional Voluntary Information

The County of Los Angeles seeks broad, inclusive, and diverse participation on its commissions and public bodies. The following information is voluntary. It will be used only to help understand the overall diversity and representativeness of the applicant pool and Commission composition, consistent with applicable law. You may select "Prefer not to say" for any question.

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Race / Ethnicity

Gender Identity

Disability Status

Languages - Please list any languages, other than English, in which you are proficient. You may include speaking, reading, and/or writing ability.

# Section 6 - Certification and Signature

## Certification

By signing below, I certify and acknowledge that:

- I have read and understand the application instructions.
- I certify that the information I provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that incomplete applications may not be considered.
- I understand that submission of an application does not guarantee nomination or appointment.
- I understand that the County may verify the information I provided and may contact other entities or persons to confirm information relevant to my application.
- I understand that my application, reference information, uploaded documents, interview materials, and related materials may be public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act, except as otherwise protected by law. I also understand that, if I am selected as a finalist, my name, application materials, responses, qualifications, interview, and related information may be released publicly, posted with meeting materials, discussed at a public meeting, considered during public comment, livestreamed, recorded, or otherwise made available as part of a screening, interview, deliberation, nomination, or appointment process.
- I understand that, if nominated or appointed, I may be required to complete additional forms, disclosures, ethics training, onboarding requirements, or conflict-of-interest review.
- I understand that, if appointed, I must comply with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances, and service restrictions governing Ethics Commissioners.

Printed Name Sean McMorris

Signature

Date Sunday, July 26, 2026

**Sean McMorris**

July 19, 2026

**Los Angeles County Executive Office**

Attention: Ethics Commission Selection Committee

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am pleased to submit my application for appointment to the inaugural Los Angeles County Ethics Commission. I have devoted my professional career to researching, analyzing, and strengthening governmental ethics, campaign finance, transparency, lobbying, conflicts of interest, and accountability laws, and I would be honored to help establish an independent institution that promotes integrity and public confidence in Los Angeles County government. Because this Commission is being established for the first time, I am particularly motivated by the opportunity to help build an institution that reflects the highest standards of independence, fairness, professionalism, and public accountability from the outset.

As Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager for California Common Cause, I conduct legal and policy analyses of state and local ethics and campaign finance laws, evaluate governance frameworks, develop policy recommendations, and assist policymakers and local jurisdictions in implementing ethics and transparency reforms. My work has included extensive research on ethics commission structures throughout California, campaign finance regulation, lobbying laws, conflict-of-interest standards, public meetings, and government transparency. I have also authored statewide research on municipal campaign finance laws, remote public participation, and ethics commission governance.

I have had the privilege of participating in Los Angeles County's public process to establish this Ethics Commission by researching ethics commission models, preparing written public comments, proposing model Charter and ordinance language, and providing oral testimony before the Governance Reform Task Force and the Board of Supervisors. Those experiences have deepened my appreciation for the importance of building an institution that is independent, transparent, and trusted by the public from its inception.

In addition to my professional experience, I currently serve on the San Gabriel Planning Commission, where I regularly review evidence, conduct public hearings, deliberate with fellow commissioners, and apply adopted laws and policies in a quasi-judicial setting. That experience has reinforced the importance of impartiality, due process, careful

deliberation, and consistent decision-making—qualities that are fundamental to the work of an Ethics Commissioner.

If appointed, I would approach the position with independence, integrity, humility, and respect for the public trust. I recognize that the Commission's early decisions will establish important precedents, shape its institutional culture, and influence public confidence for years to come. I would be committed to administering the County's ethics laws fairly, consistently, and without regard to politics or personal interests, while helping establish an institution that earns the confidence of both public officials and the residents it serves.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for appointment to the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission and would welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Respectfully,

**Sean McMorris**