



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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 Carla

Middle Name Micaela

Last Name Fuentes

Pronouns

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

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 public trust is foundational to effective government. Angelenos across the county are more likely to participate in civic life when they believe decisions are made fairly, transparently, and with accountability. The creation of LA County's inaugural Ethics Commission is a historic opportunity to strengthen that trust and help build an independent institution that can serve residents for generations to come.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission, where I participated in a historic process to examine how government structures can better serve residents, improve accountability, and strengthen public participation. I took that responsibility seriously, maintaining near-perfect attendance, preparing for meetings, and engaging with members of the public beyond scheduled Commission meetings, including at community events and through direct outreach from residents. Through that work, I also engaged with reform ideas related to transparency, commission governance, and public accountability, which deepened my appreciation for the role that clear rules and independent oversight play in building public confidence.

My professional background at LA2050/Goldhirsh Foundation has also centered on building trust through transparent and community-informed processes. In my role, I help manage grantmaking workflows, public-facing communications, outreach and engagement, stakeholder relationships, and reporting processes for a philanthropic initiative focused on the future of Los Angeles. I have helped scale outreach and engagement programs, including the LA2050 Youth Ambassador Program, and have worked with a broad coalition of nonprofit, philanthropic, civic, and community partners across the region.

I would be honored to help establish the County's first Ethics Commission with a commitment to fairness, independence, transparency, accessibility, and public accountability.

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.

I have experience in public information, public meetings, community outreach and engagement, and technology as it relates to open governments through my professional and civic work.

At LA2050/Goldhirsh Foundation, I support public-facing communications, outreach campaigns, applications processes, grantee communications, public events, and stakeholder engagement for a countywide initiative focused on shaping the future of Los Angeles. My work requires translating complex information into clear and accessible communications for nonprofit organizations, funding partners, evaluators, youth leaders, and the broader public. I have also helped scale outreach and engagement programs, including the LA2050 Youth Ambassador Program, which has engaged more than 1,100 participants across LA County in civic participation and community-informed grantmaking.

Through my service on the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission, I participated in public meetings, reviewed community input, and engaged in discussions about government structure, transparency, accountability, and civic participation. I maintained near perfect attendance and took seriously the responsibility to engage with the public outside of formal Commission meetings, including by

attending community events and making myself available to residents who reached out directly.

My neighborhood council service and work with the Congress of Neighborhoods further strengthened my experience with public meetings, outreach, and public information. As Outreach Chair for the Congress of Neighborhoods, I helped support communications and engagement for Los Angeles' largest neighborhood council convening, including efforts to expand participation and language access. As a former Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council board member and committee chair, I participated in public meetings, supported community engagement, and worked to make local government more accessible to residents.

I have also used digital tools and communications platforms, including email marketing, social media, online application systems, and virtual engagement tools, to broaden access to civic information and participation.

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.

I have experience and relevant knowledge in both public policy and public law.

I studied public policy at California State University, Northridge, where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Policy and Management. That academic foundation shaped my understanding of how laws, institutions, public agencies, and policy decisions affect communities.

My public policy and public law experience has continued through civic service, including participation in public meetings, public comment processes, commission governance, Form 700 disclosure requirements, and policy discussions related to transparency, accountability, representation, and public participation. Through my service on the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission and in neighborhood council governance, I have gained practical experience with how public rules and government structures shape public trust.

I am not an attorney, but I bring relevant education, applied public policy experience, and practical knowledge of public governance processes that would inform my service on the Ethics Commission.

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

Accounting

Auditing

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.

I have experience and relevant knowledge in campaign finance, accounting, auditing, and ethics compliance. I do not have direct experience in whistleblower protection.

My experience with campaign finance and ethics compliance comes through my service on the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission, where I engaged with reforms responding to public concerns about pay to play politics, weak ethics enforcement, conflicts of interest, lobbying, campaign money, and public disclosure. Our Commission's final report included ethics and campaign finance recommendations such as prohibiting the use of campaign funds to pay certain ethics fines, aligning civil and administrative penalties, authorizing the Ethics Commission to place certain ordinance changes before voters, strengthening the Ethics Commission's independent counsel authority, and clarifying budget support for

an Inspector General function.

Through that process, I gained practical exposure to how ethics rules, campaign finance regulations, lobbying disclosure, enforcement capacity, and independent legal counsel can strengthen public trust in government. The Commission also reviewed broader government oversight concepts, including the Controller's fraud, waste, and abuse authority and the need for stronger watchdog functions that are protected from political pressure.

My accounting and auditing experience is not as a licensed accountant or professional auditor, but through philanthropy, grantmaking, and due diligence. In my role at LA2050/Goldhirsh Foundation, I review organizational budgets, project plans, proposals, and reports to assess feasibility, financial stewardship, compliance, and organizational capacity. This work requires careful review of documentation, attention to inconsistencies, and the ability to evaluate whether organizations can responsibly manage funding.

I would bring this practical, evidence based experience to the Ethics Commission, with a commitment to fairness, independence, and consistent application of the rules.

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)

I would bring a civic leadership background rooted in the belief that the personal is political: people's trust in government is shaped by whether institutions feel fair, accessible, and accountable in their everyday lives.

Across my professional, volunteer, and board service, I have worked in spaces focused on civic engagement, voter education, public participation, philanthropy, and government reform. That experience has taught me that ethics is not only about avoiding wrongdoing; it is about creating clear rules, transparent processes, and a culture where the public can see that decisions are being made with integrity.

My service on the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission gave me direct experience engaging with issues related to ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, transparency, accountability, and government oversight. The Commission's work was shaped by public concern about corruption, conflicts of interest, and decision-making that too often happened before the public could meaningfully weigh in. Through that process, I considered reforms related to ethics enforcement, campaign finance penalties, independent oversight, commission governance, ex parte communications, public disclosure, and the structures needed to make government easier to understand and harder to abuse.

Beyond that formal commission work, I have served on nonprofit and civic boards focused on strengthening democracy and community participation, including the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, Congress of Neighborhoods, neighborhood council leadership, and other civic organizations. In these roles, I have helped breakdown complex information for the public, support outreach and engagement, strengthen participation, and build trust with neighbors and community partners.

I also bring practical analytical experience. In my professional work, I regularly review budgets, proposals, reports, and organizational information to assess capacity, alignment, compliance, and impact. That has trained me to read carefully, ask thoughtful questions, identify gaps, and make recommendations based on evidence rather than assumptions.

As a lifelong Angeleno, renter, and young Latina who has served in both neighborhood level and citywide spaces, I would bring a perspective shaped by communities that are often directly impacted by government decisions but not always given meaningful access to them. I would approach this role with independence, humility, and a commitment to making ethics oversight fair, understandable, and worthy of public confidence.

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)

I understand that an Ethics Commissioner may be asked to make decisions that carry real consequences. For that reason, I would approach evidence, violations, and potential penalties with seriousness, fairness, and respect for due process.

My professional and civic experience has trained me to separate personal views from the decision in front of me. In my work, I regularly review proposals, budgets, reports, and organizational materials where the goal is to assess the information against clear criteria. That has taught me to identify what is supported by the record, and ask follow up questions when something is unclear.

I have also had to exercise independent judgement in public service. On the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission, I listened to public testimony, reviewed policy ideas, considered competing perspectives, and participated in discussions about governance reforms that affected the structure of city government. That process required being open minded, but also grounded in the responsibility to make recommendations that served the public interest.

For me, impartiality does not mean ignoring lived experience or community context. It means applying rules consistently, being honest about conflicts, treating people with dignity, and making decisions based on evidence rather than pressure, politics, or assumptions.

If appointed, I would approach enforcement matters with humility and care. I would want anyone before the Commission, and the public watching the process, to know that decisions were made fairly, transparently, and based on the facts.

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)

My appreciation for Los Angeles's diversity comes from having lived it, worked in it, and served across it. I was born and raised in Los Angeles County, and my understanding of public service has been shaped by communities that differ by geography, language, income, age, culture, immigration history, and access to government.

One of the experiences that has most shaped this perspective is managing the LA2050 Youth Ambassador Program. Through that program, I have worked with over 1,100 young people across Los Angeles County who bring very different lived experiences, neighborhood identities, and ideas about what their communities need. Some are already deeply involved in civic life, while others are engaging with philanthropy, voting, advocacy, or local government for the first time. That work has reminded me that young people are not a box to check, they are thoughtful civic actors and leaders when institutions take them seriously and create real opportunities for participation.

My neighborhood council and Congress of Neighborhood experience has also shaped how I think about diversity. The neighborhood council system brings together people, across 99 neighborhoods, who may disagree politically, generationally, culturally, or geographically, but who are all trying to make their communities work better. Serving in those spaces taught me that public engagement has to meet people

where they are and that process matters. Who knows about a meeting, who feels comfortable speaking, what language information is available in, and whether people believe their input will matter all shape whether participation is truly accessible.

I have also valued the intergenerational relationships I have built through the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles and through mentoring young people in my community. Those experiences have shown me how much stronger civic life becomes when knowledge is shared across generations and when emerging leaders are encouraged, not dismissed.

As a Commissioner, I would bring the perspective that ethics oversight must be credible and understandable to the whole County, not only to attorneys, elected officials, lobbyists, or people who already know how the government works. Public trust is strongest when all community members can understand the rules, see that they are applied fairly, and believe that accountability belongs to everyone.

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."

Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission - Commissioner; Government Structure Committee Member

Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council - Former Board Member; Former Communications and Government Relations Committee Chair

Congress of Neighborhoods - Former Outreach Chair

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles - Board Member

LA Forward - Board Member

Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy Los Angeles - Co-Chair, Steering Committee

Los Angeles County Young Democrats - President

Latinas Lead California, Young Professionals Network - Leadership Council Vice Chair

Stonewall Young Democrats - Former VP Communications

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
LeAnn Kelch Melendez	Supervisor	Goldhirsh Foundation		
Laurice Penny Sommers	Co-President	League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles		

Name	Relationship to Applicant	Organization (if applicable)	Phone	Email
Justin Ramirez	Executive Director	LA City Charter Reform Commission		

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.

 Cover Letter & Resume_ Fuentes, Carl... .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

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 Carla Fuentes

Signature

Date Friday, July 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the inaugural Los Angeles County Ethics Commission.

Los Angeles County is a home for me. It is where I was born and raised, where my family built our lives, where I first learned that government decisions are personal, and where I have chosen to do my work in civic life. I care deeply about this County because I know how much people's daily lives are shaped by whether public institutions are honest, accessible, and worthy of their trust.

That is why this inaugural Commission feels so important. The first members will not only be helping launch a new body; they will be helping define what ethical oversight looks like in Los Angeles County. The habits this Commission forms early: how it listens, how it communicates, how it treats people who come before it, how it explains its decisions, and how it applies the rules, will become part of its legacy.

I would be honored to help build that foundation.

My interest in the role is rooted in the belief that the personal is political. People decide whether government works based on what they experience: whether they can understand a process, whether they feel heard, whether rules are applied consistently, and whether leaders are accountable when something goes wrong. Ethics is not only about what happens after a violation. It is also about creating a culture where the public can believe in the process before, during, and after difficult decisions are made.

I have tried to bring that approach to my own public service. As a member of the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission, I participated in a once in a generation process to rethink how City government can better serve residents. I took that responsibility seriously. That experience stayed with me because it showed how much people want government to work, and how willing they are to participate when they believe the process matters.

Professionally, my work on LA2050 at the Goldhirsh Foundation has given me experience managing community-informed processes, reviewing proposals and budgets, supporting public-facing communications, and working with nonprofit and civic partners across Los Angeles County. I also manage the LA2050 Youth Ambassador Program, where I work with young people from across the region who bring different neighborhood identities, lived experiences, and visions for Los Angeles. Their leadership reminds me that institutions earn trust when they make participation real, not symbolic.

My volunteer service has also shaped how I would approach this role. Through neighborhood council leadership, Congress of Neighborhoods, the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, and other civic organizations, I have worked alongside people who care enough about their communities to show up, ask questions, disagree, learn, and keep building. Those experiences have made me believe even more strongly that public institutions should be understandable to all of our community, not only people who already know how government works.

The inaugural Ethics Commission has the chance to set a powerful precedent for Los Angeles County. I would be grateful for the opportunity to help shape an institution that residents can look to with confidence, not because it is perfect from the beginning, but because it is serious, fair, transparent, and committed to earning the public's trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Carla Micaela Fuentes

CARLA MICAELA FUENTES

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Los Angeles-based philanthropy, communications, and civic engagement professional with experience leading donor and member communications, funding partner engagement, grantmaking storytelling, public-facing events, and cross-sector relationship-building. Skilled at translating mission-driven work into compelling communications, stewardship touchpoints, impact narratives, and engagement strategies that deepen trust and long-term support.

WORK EXPERIENCE

LA2050 / Goldhirsh Foundation

Remote

Social Innovation Manager

October 2021 - Current

- Manage grantmaking workflows, application review, evaluator coordination, grantee communications, and reporting processes for a philanthropic initiative focused on shaping the future of Los Angeles.
- Oversee application review and grants administration workflows for 1,100+ annual LA2050 Grants Challenge submissions, including applicant communications, internal timelines, review coordination, and follow-up.
- Manage 60+ grantee relationships across the grant lifecycle, including reporting, compliance, impact storytelling, payment-related documentation, and stakeholder support.
- Review proposals, organizational budgets, project plans, and impact reports to assess feasibility, alignment, equity, and potential community benefit.
- Maintain and analyze grantmaking data, applicant trends, and impact metrics across a 10+ year dataset to inform reporting, communications, and organizational learning.
- Manage relationships with institutional funding partners, aligning philanthropic priorities with application design, review processes, grantee recommendations, communications, and public-facing storytelling.
- Served as acting grants and programs lead during senior leadership's maternity leave, overseeing grantmaking workflows, funding partner coordination, grantee communications, and cross-functional program decisions.
- Direct the Youth Ambassador Program, scaling it from 78 to 520 youth leaders countywide over four years; designed training and outreach campaigns that engaged 17,000 voters and helped guide \$3M+ in grant funding.
- Facilitate grantee workshops, public events, and convenings, including LA Tech Week and LA2050 Grantee Showcases, with a focus on learning, relationship-building, and community leadership.

Angel City Collective

Remote

Membership Program Director

May 2025 - February 2026

- Manage donor membership engagement, communications, renewal outreach, donor tracking, and event coordination for a progressive donor network focused on Los Angeles civic and movement infrastructure.
- Lead member communications, renewal outreach, donor tracking, event planning, and relationship management to deepen donor commitment and long-term engagement.
- Draft donor-facing communications, including renewal reminders, event invitations, follow-up messages, and engagement updates.
- Support prospect research, pitch preparation, and donor cultivation efforts in partnership with ACC advisors and organizational leadership.
- Represent the organization in philanthropy, political, and community spaces to strengthen relationships with aligned funders, institutions, and movement partners.

National Hispanic Media Coalition

Remote

Policy and Media Advocacy Fellow

June - August 2021

- Conducted data analysis on Latino enrollment in the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program using U.S. Census data, with findings directly informing recommendations to Comcast and FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel to expand broadband access for low-income households across the United States.
- Drafted public comments to the California Public Utilities Commission and the Office of Management and Budget advocating for policy reforms to address hate, discrimination, and digital inequities affecting Latino communities in Los Angeles and nationwide.
- Analyzed trends from misinformation coalitions and presented findings on their impact on Latino voter behavior during California's gubernatorial recall election, with implications for media equity and civic participation in LA.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC SERVICE

Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission

Commissioner

- Appointed by the Los Angeles City Council to serve on the 2024-2026 Charter Reform Commission, tasked with reviewing and recommending updates to the Los Angeles City Charter.
- Served on the Government Structure Committee, examining the organization and authority of elected offices, boards, and commissions to strengthen transparency, accountability, and civic participation.
- Engaged with community stakeholders and neighborhood councils to ensure public input shapes proposed reforms.

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles

Board Member | Communications Committee Co-Chair | Former Civic Society Co-Chair | Former Celebrating Leadership Awards Co-Chair

- Serve on the Board of Directors for a regional civic organization focused on voter education, civic engagement, and strengthening democratic participation across Greater Los Angeles.
- Co-chaired the Civic Society, leading civic donor salons that bring together supporters, community leaders, and issue-area experts for deeper engagement in Los Angeles civic life.

CARLA MICAELA FUENTES

- Co-chaired the Celebrating Leadership Awards, the organization's annual fundraiser, supporting event strategy, honoree engagement, sponsorship outreach, donor communications, and program execution.
- Lead communications across events, fundraising, membership engagement, and public-facing civic education efforts, translating organizational priorities into accessible and compelling messaging.

Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, Los Angeles

Co-Chair, Steering Committee

- Organize civic education events and BIPOC-centered programming, and professional development opportunities for emerging leaders in philanthropy.
- Manage EPIP LA's mentorship program and communications, supporting peer learning, leadership development, and cross-sector relationship building.
- Secured a nationwide scholarship to represent the local chapter at the national EPIP Conference.

Congress of Neighborhoods

Outreach Chair

- Led communications and fundraising strategy for LA's largest neighborhood council convening, raising \$65,000+ annually to support citywide participation.
- Procured the Congress' first grant from an elected office to support translation services, expanding language access and participation for neighborhood council leaders and community stakeholders.
- Managed outreach across social and digital channels, reaching 2.4k+ stakeholders through newsletter and 1.1k+ via social media.

Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council

Former Board Member | Communication & Government Relations Committee Chair

- Represented local stakeholders and supported community engagement, public meetings, neighborhood council governance, and issue-based advocacy.
- Chaired and supported a committee focused on outreach, communications, government relations, and community participation.

Additional Board Service: LA Forward, Latinas Lead California - Young Professional Network, Los Angeles County Young Democrats, Stonewall Young Democrats (Former)

FELLOWSHIPS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- United Leaders Project, Jewish Federation of Los Angeles
- HOPE Regional Leadership Institute
- Latinas Represent Elected Academy
- Emily's List Ignite Change Fellowship

EDUCATION

California State University, Northridge

Northridge, CA

- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science: Public Policy and Management
- Minor: Gender and Women's Studies

COMPETENCIES

Donor Communications | Donor Stewardship | Fundraising Communications | Impact Storytelling | Individual Donor Engagement | Member Engagement | Donor Research | Event Communications | Cross-Function Collaboration | Funding Partner Engagement | Grantee Communications | Grantmaking Strategy | Public-Facing Communications | Data Analysis | Salesforce | Airtable | Canva | Constant Contact | Mailchimp | Google Suite | Microsoft Office | Excel