



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 Frank

Middle Name Vram

Last Name Zerunyan

Pronouns

Email Address

Primary Phone Number

Alternate 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?

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 trained as a lawyer. I am a professor of Governance, Policy, and Law at USC. I have been an academic for the last 16 years. Among the topics I teach, research, and write about is Public Ethics. I have served in public office for the last 27 years. I was elected to the city council of Rolling Hills Estates for the first time in 2003. After 6 election cycles, I have served as mayor for my 5th time. I was also a gubernatorial appointee confirmed by the California Senate to serve on the California Medical Board. I served on the Board for 5 years.

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 experience in practice and academia is spelled out above and can be found in the following websites.

<https://priceschool.usc.edu/faculty/directory/frank-v-zerunyan/>

<https://www.rollinghillsestates.gov/government/mayor-city-council/mayor-frank-v-zerunyan>

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 practice, research, write, and teach the topics.

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
- Protection of whistleblowers

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

I have been exposed to each topic as a mayor and council member through our budgeting process. As to ethics and compliance, I have practiced, researched, written, and taught the topics.

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 27 years of public service. I have been subject to several ethical rules under the State Bar, the Brown Act, the Bagley-Keene Act, and the FPPC.

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)

During my practice of law, I served as a judge pro tem at the request of the supervising Judge in LA County. On the Medical Board, I sat as an administrative judge in MD discipline cases, some of which involved ethical violations. At USC, I served on integrity panels.

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)

I am an American by choice. I grew up across 3 continents, each with a very different culture. I was born in Istanbul, Turkey, and raised in France at a Jesuit boarding school for middle and high school. I came to the United States for my higher education and to pursue a doctorate in 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."

City of Rolling Hills Estates, SCAG, County Sanitation District 5, South Bay, South Bay COG, California League of Cities, California Contract Cities, Daniel Freeman Hospitals Foundation, International Armenian Bar Association. Planning commission, Law enforcement committees, equestrian committees, traffic and safety committees.

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

☐

Please provide the department and approximate dates of service

Outside Counsel to the County Board of Supervisors. More than 20 years ago.

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
Janice Hahn	Long time Friend	LA County Board of Sup.		
Christopher Boone	Dean at USC	USC Price		
Kome Ajise	SCAG ED and Friend	SCAG		
Greg Grammar	City Manager Friend	City of Rolling Hills Estates		

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.

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

Frank V Zerunyan

Signature

Date

Tuesday, July 7, 2026



Frank V. Zerunyan, J.D., LL.D. (Hon.)
Professor of the Practice of Governance
USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Southern California (USC), Sol Price School of Public Policy
Professor of the Practice of Governance (2011–Present)

USC Price Center on National Defense and Public Safety
Founding Director (2025–Present)

USC Price Bedrosian Center for Governance
Director of Executive Education Forum (2011–2025)

USC School of Policy, Planning and Development
Adjunct Associate Professor and Senior Fellow (2008–2011)

Western State University College of Law
Guest Lecturer, Administrative Law (2007–2011)

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

- Founding Director, USC Price Center on National Defense and Public Safety
 - Director of Executive Education, USC Price
 - University Liaison to USC ROTC and Nautical Science Programs
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GLOBAL ACADEMIC SERVICE & APPOINTMENTS

- President, Association of Navy ROTC Colleges and Universities (2024–Present)
 - Visiting Professor, Rennes School of Business (France) (2019–Present)
 - Visiting Professor, American University of Armenia (2015–Present)
 - Visiting Professor, Yerevan State University (2017–Present)
 - Editorial Council Member, Public Administration Scientific Journal (Armenia)
 - Board of Councilors, Law School, Universidad Anahuac Veracruz/Xalapa (Mexico)
 - Academic Advisor & Lecturer, Ministry of Defense Military University, Armenia
 - Visiting Professor, Fundação Getulio Vargas (Brazil) (2011–2015)
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TEACHING

Graduate Courses

- Collaborative Governance (PPD 672)
 - Public Policy and Law (PPD 314)
 - Intersectoral Leadership (PPD 500)
 - Business and Public Policy (PPD 688)
 - International Laboratory (PPD 613 / PPD 599)
 - International Issues in Public Policy (PPD 572)
 - Applied International Policy Analysis (PPD 569)
 - Place, Institutions, and Governance (PLUS 652)
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PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Advancing and Negotiating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Practical Toolkit* (Routledge, 2024)
 - *Newgotiation for Public Administration Professionals* (Vandeplas Publishing)
 - International editions: Portuguese, French, Indonesian, and sector-specific adaptations
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Book Chapters (Selected)

- Zerunyan, F. (2019). Techno Innovations and Ethical Governance. *Cambridge University Press*
 - Zerunyan, F. (2019). Public-Private Partnerships Design. *Springer*
 - Zerunyan, F. (2022). State PPP Laws. *Springer Handbook*
 - Zerunyan, F. (2023). Public-Private Security Partnerships. *Springer*
-

Articles & Policy Publications (Selected Recent)

- “The concern over enforcing the Federal Clery Act...” *Government Executive* (2025)
 - “DOGE’s attempt to be a force for reform...” *Government Executive* (2025)
 - “Balancing military power in the Caucasus...” *Apolitical* (2024)
 - “SDGs are in danger of failing worldwide,” *Apolitical* (2023)
 - Numerous op-eds and policy analyses in *The Conversation*, *Daily Journal*, and USC Price Blog
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INVITED LECTURES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

International (Selected)

- United Nations DESA – Governance & Resilience Programs (multiple years)
 - Rennes School of Business (France) – Collaborative Governance
 - Yerevan State University & Armenian Public Administration Academy
 - Republic of Armenia Ministry of Defense
 - Bocconi University (Italy) – Olympic Policy Lab
 - Fundação Getulio Vargas (Brazil)
 - UN Public Service Forum (Korea), UN Workshops (Ethiopia, Bahrain, Georgia)
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United States (Selected)

- United Nations (Los Angeles, SDG initiatives, 2025)
- RAND Corporation Speaker Series
- USC Annenberg Public Diplomacy Conference
- California League of Cities
- National League of Cities University
- Los Angeles Police Academy
- Southern California Association of Governments

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

- Collaborative Governance
- Public-Private Partnerships (P3)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Public Sector Ethics and Leadership
- International Public Policy and Institutional Design

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE

- Mayor (5 terms), City of Rolling Hills Estates
- Council Member (2003–Present)
- Vice President & Board Member, California Medical Board (Gubernatorial Appointee)
- Board Member, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
- President (Former), California Contract Cities Association
- Board Member, South Bay Council of Governments

Additional leadership roles across regional governance, law enforcement advisory, and infrastructure policy bodies.

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- Principal, Public-Private Community Development LLC (2006-Present)
- Principal, P3 Solutions Group (2005-2006)
- Shareholder/Principal, Sulmeyer Kupetz (1995–2005)
- Partner, Yacoubian & Zerunyan (1989-1995)
- SVP Law & Finance, International Marketing Alliance (1982-1988)

Advised municipalities, counties, and institutions on infrastructure, corporate insolvency, and governance strategy.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of the United States
 - State of California
 - U.S. Federal District Courts (CA)
 - U.S. Court of International Trade
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HONORS & AWARDS

- LL.D. (Honoris Causa), Republic of Armenia
 - Martindale-Hubbell Distinguished Rating
 - Southern California Super Lawyers
 - U.S. Congress and the State of California Recognitions for Public Service
 - Multiple civic and academic honors
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LANGUAGES

English | French | Armenian | Turkish
