

LA County Governance Reform Task Force Selects Michael K. Woo as Ethics Commission Nominee

The Los Angeles County Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) has selected Michael K. Woo as its nominee to the County's inaugural independent Ethics Commission, after public interviews with six finalists and six hours of deliberation at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on September, 16, 2026. The nomination now goes to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

The seven-member Commission will oversee and enforce County laws governing campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest and governmental ethics. It will adopt rules and penalty guidelines, issue formal opinions and decide enforcement cases, including whether a violation occurred and what penalty applies. The Office of Ethics Compliance will carry out the day-to-day work of the Commission, including education and training, advice, disclosure administration, investigations, audits and public reporting.

Woo, dean emeritus of Cal Poly Pomona's College of Environmental Design, served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1985 to 1993, representing the 13th District, including Hollywood, Silver Lake and Los Feliz. As chair of the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Governmental Ethics, he steered the 1990 ethics reform ordinance that city voters approved, which established the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, limited campaign spending, created limited public financing of campaigns and closed conflict-of-interest loopholes for city officials and employees. Woo holds a master's degree in city planning from UC Berkeley and a bachelor's degree from UC Santa Cruz.

If approved by the Board, Woo will join Wilma A. Franco, Ed.D., and Amanda Susskind as the Commission's first three members. The Board appointed Franco, nominated by Board Chair Hilda L. Solis, and Susskind, nominated by Assessor Jeffrey Prang, on September 15. Those three commissioners will then nominate the remaining four members, subject to Board approval. The four must be broadly representative of the public, and at least one must live in an unincorporated area of the County.

The selection concludes a public recruitment that opened July 6 and drew more than 370 eligible applicants from across the County. The Task Force's Ethics Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewed the applications and interviewed approximately 20 semifinalists before advancing six finalists to public interviews. Each finalist answered the same four introductory questions and then took questions from Task Force members.

The Task Force's seat on the Commission is reserved for a member with a background in public information and public meetings, community outreach and engagement, or technology related to open government. The initial term runs through June 30, 2029. Beginning in 2029, nomination authority for the seat will transfer to the County's elected County Executive.

County voters approved Measure G in November 2024, requiring an independent Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance, creating a new elected County Executive position in 2028 and expanding the Board of Supervisors from five to nine members beginning in 2032.

The Task Force's Ethics Ad Hoc Subcommittee spent more than a year developing the Commission's framework, consulting ethics experts, benchmarking commissions in other communities, and refining recommendations through public meetings and a community forum. The Task Force approved its final recommendations on March 25, 2026, and the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 19 to establish the Commission and the Office of Ethics Compliance.

###