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Jason Moss  
Gay Q. Yuen, Ph.D.

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**Assistant Executive Director**

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Yvette Baharyans  
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**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

*"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"*

December 31, 2024

**MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS**

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting- Monday, January 6, 2025

Our Commission will meet on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.,  
at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, TK05, Los Angeles, California.

You may also join meeting **Via Teams Calendar Invitation** [Click here to join the meeting](#). If you are unable to do so, you may Dial: [+1 213-204-2512,,980587174#](tel:+12132042512980587174)  
Please Post Agenda in your location.

**Parking is located at 523 Shatto Place.** Please pull a ticket when entering the parking structure. Please take the elevator to the 9<sup>th</sup> floor and walk through the bridge, which is located towards the northwest corner of the parking structure, to reach Terrace (T) Level of the designated candidate waiting area. Prior to leaving the facility, please take your ticket to either security desk (Ground Level or Terrace Level) for validation. **Do not park at the 510 South Vermont Avenue structure. Violators may be towed at vehicle owner's expense.**

Please review, and let me know if you have any questions.

If you are unable to join the meeting, please call me at (213) 639-6089 no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, January 6th.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Policing will meet from 10:45-12:15pm, in person or [Via Microsoft Teams](#)

*Grace Löwenberg  
L.A. County Commission on Human Relations  
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors  
510 S. Vermont Ave., 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
(213) 705-6304*



Los Angeles County Commission on  
Human Relations - 510 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 738-2788

## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Monday, January 6, 2025 – 12:30-2:00 pm

LA County Vermont Corridor Bldg. - 510 S. Vermont Ave.- LA, CA 90020

Conference Room on the Terrace Level, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing [213-204 2512,,980587174#](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/213-204-2512-980587174) [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Our mission: to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment** (12:30)
2. **Review & Approval of December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes\***
3. **President's Report** (12:33)
  - 3.1. Spotlight on a Partner
  - 3.2. LACCHR Annual Hate Crime Report Press Conference - Dec. 11, 2024\*
  - 3.3. New Year's message
4. **Executive Director's Report** (12:45)
  - 4.1. Hate Crime Report Press Conference, December 11, 2024
  - 4.2. Invitation to JFEDLA Celebration on December 16, 2024
  - 4.3. Communications Update – Robert Sowell
  - 4.4. Other Program and Administrative (Budget) Updates
5. **Committee Reports** (12:55)
  - 5.1. Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning)
  - 5.2. Human Rights Committee (Yuen)
  - 5.3. John Anson Ford Human Relations (JAF) Awards Committee (Davidson)
6. **Public Comment** (3 minutes per person) (1:05)
7. **Action/Discussion Items** (1:10)
  - 7.1. JAF Awards Event decisions
  - 7.2. Update on human rights recognition for LA County
  - 7.3. Follow up on annual hate crimes report for LA County
  - 7.4. Collaboration with County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI)
8. **Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner)** (1:55)
9. **Adjournment:** In memory of former President Jimmy Carter, Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights champion; world-renowned African American poet and activist Nikki Giovanni; Alicia Gaudet and Betty Jackson former Commission staff members.

\* Denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at (213) 738-7288 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by teleconference communication from the following corresponding locations: Dandy De Paula, 21815 Pioneer Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716; Azusena Favela, 700 S. Flower Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012; Jason Moss, 114A West Lime Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

When prompted by staff, members of the public sector may request to provide public comment after each item:

- If joining in person, staff will call upon individuals who signed up to speak on an item.
- If joining remotely via Teams, please use the “raise your hand” feature then unmute microphone once enabled.
- Callers by phone, dial \*5 to raise hand, once called upon dial \*6 to unmute.



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
Los Angeles, California, 90020  
www.lahumanrelations.org  
(213) 738-2788

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[PROPOSED] MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Meeting of December 2, 2024

PRESENT: Helen L. Chin  
Ilan Davidson  
Jeanette EllisRoyston  
Azusena Favela\*  
Isabelle Gunning  
Derric J. Johnson

Kevork Keushkerian\*  
Preeti Kulkarni\*  
Guadalupe Montaña  
Jason Moss  
Fredrick Sykes  
Gay Yuen

ABSENT: Michael Cheung  
Dandy De Paula  
Lisa Dabbs

STAFF: Antonio Cowser  
Grace Lowenberg  
Jenita Raksanoh

Robert Sowell  
Robin Toma

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. with a quorum in attendance. President Chin began by reading the L.A. County Land Acknowledgment – which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/land-acknowledgment) - and recognized the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples as original inhabitants of these lands, honoring and paying respect to their elders and descendants; acknowledged that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multi-generational trauma; reminded us of our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County.
- 2. Review & Approval of November 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes:** The motion to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of November 4, 2024 was presented by President Helen Chin. Commissioner Davidson seconded it, offering the friendly amendment (which was accepted) that Commissioner Johnson’s name needs to be added on both the attendance list and the letterhead. The motion to approve the minutes with the addition of Commissioner Johnson being added in attendance and on the letterhead, was passed unanimously.

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\* This commissioner, and others marked by an asterisk, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), providing their location address for inclusion on the posted agenda, in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies.

### **3. President's Report**

- 3.1 Spotlight on a Partner:** President Chin shared that there was no spotlighted partner today but will have one for the next meeting.
- 3.2 LA County Community Policing Conference of Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>:** President Chin briefly shared she had the privilege of attending this Community Policing conference with her fellow commissioners. Overall, the conference showed President Chin what working as a community looked like regarding policing. Commissioner EllisRoyston echoed she had positive interactions with everyone at the conference which was a highlight.
- 3.3 Report on Culver City Mayor State of the City Address and LA vs Hate on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>:** President Chin shared that she attended the event in which Culver City was able to deepen their relationship with the commission. She noted that the organization 'Right to Be' was brought on to carry out the bystander training for the community, and it was an opportunity for engagement with the LA vs Hate program.

### **4. Executive Director's Report**

- 4.1 LA vs Hate/LA Metro Churches Press Conference of Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> in Response to Recent Anti-Black Hate Crime:** Executive Director (ED) Robin Toma shared that after the election, there was an anti-Black hate crime next to Crenshaw High School. He shared his experience meeting with the victim whose family's home and cars were tagged with anti-Black epithets. They worked with LA vs Hate partner Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches to show community support for the family. ED Toma expressed his hopes to see more partner organizations and neighbors show support in response to such hate crimes, referencing the commission meeting packet.
- 4.2 Applying Lessons Learned from Past Efforts Against Anti-LGBT Inclusive Curriculum in Schools in LA County – November 21<sup>st</sup> Event at Glendale Community College:** ED Toma shared information regarding an event at the Glendale Community College on November 21<sup>st</sup> being led by The Truth and Accountability League. He stated that the forum was an effort to bring together the Armenian and LGBTQ communities through LA vs Hate to prevent the hate and community conflict from recurring in the Glendale school district.
- 4.3 Communications Update – PIO Tony Cowser:** The Commission's Public Information Officer Tony Cowser announced that there would be a press conference on the release of the Commission's annual hate crime report taking place on December 11<sup>th</sup>. He informed the commissioners about the media outreach strategy for the press conference.] and explained that there would be special media packets and that he was working with County Communications to maximize search engine optimization on google. Commissioner Yuen raised a concern that anti-Asian hate is still happening and would like to see more representation among speakers. ED Toma noted that given the rise in hate crimes occurred against many groups, representatives of all of our partner community organizations – Black, Latino, LGBT, Jewish, Asian, Muslim, etc., and they would be recognized as LA vs Hate partners and be invited to respond to questions from the media at the press conference.
- 4.4 Other Program and Administrative Updates:** ED Toma stated there will be discussion about what the Commission staff is doing in light of the elections; and reported that we are already in the budgeting process and we have submitted our needs for the coming fiscal year.

### **5. Committee Reports**

**5.1 Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning):** Commissioner Gunning shared that the committee is making their way through the reports on the jail visits and will have something to present by the beginning of the new year. She reassured everyone that the process looks good so far and is excited for what's to come.

**5.2 LA vs Hate Committee (Montaño):** Commissioner Montaño, Chair, stated there was no report at this time.

**5.3 Human Rights Committee (Yuen):** Commissioner Yuen announced that they launched their first meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> in which all the committee members attended. She turned it over to ED Toma, who explained the work to elevate our work in its relation to human rights. He continued explaining that the plan is to show how much of the work of our county government is in support of international human rights treaties and principles and will be preparing to present an award for outstanding human rights work. ED Toma mentioned the project to build a human rights culture that was begun with the United Nations (UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and The Carter Center.

**5.4 John Anson Ford Human Relations (JAF) Awards Committee (Davidson):** Commissioner Davidson shared how they had great meetings and will be looking forward to presenting the nominees for the awards. He reminded everyone that today is the last day to submit nominations, and urged everyone to nominate any program they think would best fit before the deadline.

**5.5 Ad Hoc Committee for Five-Year Strategic Plan (Kulkarni):** Commissioner Kulkarni, Chair, reminded everyone that the committee voted for a five-year strategic plan, and that the staff teams are drafting strategic priority goals that are due to Robert at the end of January. She shared the committee's discussion of the environmental scan and most importantly, the anticipated increase in hate crime. Commissioner Kulkarni expressed the need to protect those who are victims and how to help the community to feel comfortable reporting hate crimes. She said the committee is planning to have a retreat for all commissioners in late March or early April with staff. Lastly, the committee plans to engage with stakeholders to further our mission and to get resources for our commission.

**6. Public Comment: (3 minutes per person):** None was offered.

**7. Action/Discussion Items:**

**7.1 Addressing Impact of Elections on Human Rights and Relations in Our County:** ED Toma spoke of the impacts of the election outcomes, such as the mass deportation of immigrants, which will essentially increase hate crimes. As a commission, anti-hate work has grown; LA vs Hate has over 50 community-based organizations as partners through our networks. He noted that we have extended the partnership with TaskForce for an additional year. One of the things we will be asking the Board is to have all county departments/staff trained on the basics of anti-hate bystander prevention/intervention.

**7.2 Recognizing Excellent Work Applying Human Rights to LA County:** ED Toma asked the Commissioners to review and approve this action item. He explained the award name and its purpose, which is to provide public recognition of outstanding achievements by LA County government in fulfilling international human rights in their work. Commissioner Yuen made the motion (as set forth in the agenda packet); it was seconded by Commissioner Davidson; and it was approved unanimously.

**7.3 Update on Report on Hate Crimes in LA County:** Commission staff manager Dr. Monica Lomeli, who heads the Hate Documentation and Data Analytics team, shared an update on the hate crimes in LA County to be released in the hate crime report of 2023. She noted the unprecedented number of reports and went over many of the numbers and percentages.

**7.4 Collaboration with County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI):** Tabled 7.4 without objection due to lack of time.

**8. Commissioner Announcements:** No announcements were made.

**9. Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Davidson. The motion passed unanimously. President Chin adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson  
Commission Vice President-Secretary

### 3.2 [LACCHR Annual Hate Crime Report Press Conference](#) - Dec. 11, 2024

#### **LA County Releases Annual Report on Hate Crimes: Highest Total of Hate Crimes Ever Reported**

*Key findings show a sharp increase in victimization across multiple groups, with record levels of hate crimes targeting African Americans, Asians, Jewish people, Latino/as, LGBT\* individuals, and transgender people.*

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – Today, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) released its annual analysis of hate crimes reported throughout Los Angeles County in 2023. Since 1980, LACCHR has compiled, analyzed, and produced this annual report of hate crime data submitted by over 100 law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. **Following three years of double-digit increases, reported hate crimes in Los Angeles County drastically increased 45% from 930 to 1,350, the largest number in the history of this report.**

Key findings in the report include data highlighting the disproportionate victimization of African Americans, high rates of violence against transgender individuals and Latino/as, the largest number of hate crimes targeting Asians, Jewish people, Latino/as, LGBT\* individuals, and transgender people. Additionally, the report notes an increase in the use of anti-immigrant slurs, a surge in hate crimes related to Middle Eastern conflicts, and the highest number of hate crimes linked to White supremacist ideology.

Another important finding is that part of the growth in reported hate crimes is due to the increased use by hate crime victims of the reporting mechanism of [LA vs Hate.org](#) and 211, which added over 50 reported hate crimes to the total. It was the third largest source of hate crime reports in 2023, exceeded only by the LAPD and the LA Sheriff's Department.

“Although the numbers reported today are unprecedented for multiple communities throughout LA County, they signal that more people are coming forward to report hate crimes and are refusing to accept the normalization of hate,” said **Helen Chin, President of the LA County Commission on Human Relations**. “The anti-hate programs led by our commission provide LA County residents with a system where people can report hate and receive help. By standing together, we can extinguish hate and discrimination in every community and reinforce that hate and discrimination have no place here.”

“Our county is facing what the rest of the nation is experiencing, the continuing increase in hate crimes, and we are ramping up our programs to meet the challenge,” said **Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations**. “However, it's critical to recognize that the growth in reported hate crimes is partly due to the success of our LA vs Hate system, which urges every victim of hate crime to report to us and gain free services and support. Connecting with more people and their communities



who refuse to remain silent by reporting hate, and building intergroup solidarity, is an essential part of our strategy for ending hate.”

“Hate crimes don’t just target individuals—they harm entire communities,” said **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger**. “They are an attack on the very fabric of who we are, and the shared values that unite us. That’s why this report is so important—it’s more than just data. It serves as a mirror, reflecting the challenges we face and the work we must do to create a County where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued. By analyzing the patterns and trends in hate crimes, we can better understand where our efforts need to be focused and how we can prevent such acts in the future.”

*“Unfortunately, we are seeing a rise in incidents of hate across the County, which is very troubling,” said **Chair Pro Tem Hilda Solis, Supervisor for the First District**. “Hate has no place in our society, and today, we have an opportunity to combat hate and prejudice. I have long led efforts to address incidents of hate Countywide, including initiating the launch of the LA vs Hate campaign and securing its funding back in 2018. Every resident in Los Angeles County deserves to feel safe and secure year-round. Together, we must stand in solidarity to continue protecting and supporting our diverse communities.”*

To view the complete report, including hate crime maps, graphs, and tables, please visit [hrc.lacounty.gov](https://hrc.lacounty.gov). For specific race/ethnicity data and examples, please [click here for anti-African American hate crimes](#), [click here for anti-Latino/A hate crimes](#), and [click here for anti-Asian hate crimes](#).

The report’s significant findings also include the following:

- Reported hate crimes dramatically increased 45% from 930 in 2022 to 1,350 in 2023, the largest number in the history of this report and surpassing the 1,031 hate crimes from 2001 when the September 11th attacks occurred.
- There were 99 anti-transgender crimes, representing a 125% increase. This is the largest number ever documented. A staggering 97% of these crimes were violent.
- Religious crimes spiked 90% and were the second largest motivation. Anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 91% from 127 to 242. This is the largest number of anti-Jewish crimes ever recorded.
- African Americans were again grossly over-represented in reported racial hate crimes, constituting 49% of racial hate crime victims. The 320 anti-Black crimes were the highest number ever recorded.
- Anti-LGBT\* crimes rose 48% from 173 to 256. This was the largest number ever documented. 73% of these crimes targeted gay men.

- Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 19% from 121 to 144. This is the highest number ever recorded. Racial crimes targeting Latino/as were the most violent (87%) of all racial and ethnic groups.
- Anti-Asian crimes, after dipping the year prior, increased 31%. The 80 victims were the second highest number ever recorded.
- In 2023, there were 209 crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology, and this was the highest number ever recorded in this report. They comprised 15% of all reported hate crimes.
- Hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used climbed 31%. The 123 crimes recorded in 2023 comprised the largest number ever recorded. Suspects used anti-immigrant language in 71% of anti-Latino/a crimes and in 18% of anti-Asian offenses.
- Crimes in which there was specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East sharply increased from 2 to 64 in 2023 and accounted for 5% of all hate crimes. This is the largest number ever recorded since we began tracking this phenomenon in 2007.
- Hate crimes taking place at schools grew 46% from 93 to 136 and accounted for 10% of all hate crimes. Over half (57%) of hate crimes that occurred in schools were motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin.
- There were sharp increases in hate crimes based on gender (142% increase), religious (90%), and sexual orientation (48% increase) hate crimes. Race, ethnicity, and national origin was by far the most common motivation, constituting 45% of all hate crimes. These crimes jumped 18%, from 547 to 646.
- 65% of reported hate crimes were of a violent nature compared to 72% the year prior. Vandalisms surpassed violent simple assaults, creating a drop in the percentage of violent crimes.
- The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Region which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights followed by the San Fernando Valley.

**The LA vs Hate initiative is the product of** the Board of Supervisors unanimously passing a motion empowering the County’s Human Relations Commission to build a multi-year campaign to prevent and respond to acts of hate in the County. The goal of the LA vs Hate system is to end the normalization of hate; inspire and train people to stand up to hate; provide easy ways to get free support by reporting it; and support individuals and communities as they heal from the trauma of hate. By reporting hate online at [LAvsHate.org](https://LAvsHate.org) or dialing 211, victims can get an array of free and confidential services and counseling. This year, the Commission’s LA vs Hate initiative officially launched the [Combating Anti-Blackness Training Series](#), designed by South Central Los

Angeles leaders to help build capacity to address institutional racism and empower communities to stand against hate.

Since September 2019, when LA vs Hate/211 began accepting calls and reports via the website, LA vs Hate has received more than 3600 reports of hate, including over 700 during the last year alone. Approximately 85% of those callers have requested personal assistance through case management, demonstrating the critical need for hate victim support.

LA County has been committed to combatting hate in communities throughout Los Angeles year-round. Some months ago, the Board of Supervisors approved the Combating Identity-Based Hate [motion](#) initiated by Supervisor Mitchell, Second District, and Supervisor Horvath, Third District, calling for an equitable, strategic approach to addressing the rise in identity-based hate.

“Each number captured in the County’s Report on Hate Crimes represents a fellow resident who has the right to live, love, worship, and be their authentic self without experiencing rhetoric and violence that disregards their humanity,” said **Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District**. “We know that there are still far too many incidents that go unreported, which is why the data from this annual report is critical for improving our strategies and shared responsibility to respond to and help prevent all forms of hate.”

“Hate has no place in Los Angeles County. The significant rise in hate crimes over the past year is deeply alarming, and we must stand united to protect and uplift our diverse communities,” said **Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Third District**. “With a new federal administration on the horizon, this work is more important than ever. LA County will remain true to our values of inclusivity, building bridges, and ensuring that every Angeleno can live safely and free from hate.”

The County has also launched a new resource page with Anti-Racism Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI). This page offers residents, students, and organizations strategies to help end hate and support survivors. It also includes a helpful [Community Safety Resource Guide](#). The County is committed to standing up to racism, xenophobia, anti-Blackness, anti-Latino hate, antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ, anti-trans hate, and all forms of prejudice and discrimination. Supervisor Hahn acknowledged the growing violence of hate crimes in LA County and the need to stand against it.

“This report is grim. The hate crimes detailed in it are serious. Many of them are violent. They leave victims across the county permanently, even if not visibly, scarred. They shatter the sense of safety these individuals had and, in many cases, destroy it for their families and communities as well,” said **Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District**. “My message to every victim is that no matter what a hateful person said or did, you belong here in LA County. Whether you are Black, Asian, Latino, gay, trans, Jewish, or Muslim—you are welcome here in LA County, and the leaders of your government stand with you and stand against hate.”

“Hate crimes are a top priority for me and the Sheriff’s Department,” **Sheriff Robert Luna said**. “Our dedicated hate crime coordinators have been working closely with the Commission to address these crimes. Together, we’ve developed a training video for law enforcement agencies to guide them in referring victims of hate—whether a crime or an incident—to LA vs Hate. This program offers free services to help victims heal and protect their rights, whether through counseling, assistance with discrimination cases, or enforcement of civil protections. Hate Crimes have no place in Los Angeles County. We stand united in protecting a person’s right to feel safe, respected, and valued in our communities.” Los Angeles County D.A. Nathan Hochman shared a similar sentiment.

“The rise in hate crime in Los Angeles County is deeply troubling. We must come together to protect and support our diverse communities,” **Hochman said**. “Today, we have an opportunity to combat hate and prejudice so that every resident in LA County can feel safe in their homes, their places of worship, and their neighborhoods. Hate has no place in our society, and those who engage in hate crimes should know that they will be held fully accountable for their actions.”

For complete information about the 2023 Hate Crime Report, click [here](#).

For more information on the LA vs Hate initiative, including shareable graphics ready-made for social media, please click [here](#).

*\*LGBT includes lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and LGBT (non-specified) cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).*

4.1 [Hate Crime Report](#) Press Conference, December 11, 2024

## Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (Commission) has produced an annual hate crime report since 1980, one of the longest standing efforts of its kind in the nation. Hate crimes are serious violations of state, federal, and international law as well as flagrant violations of internationally recognized human rights. The Commission collects reports from every law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, as well as from some colleges, school districts, and community-based organizations.

Hate crimes documented in the year 2023 grew to a peak and set multiple records for highest counts of certain targeted groups—African Americans, Asians, Jewish people, Latino/as, LGBT\* individuals, and transgender people—and included highest counts for anti-immigrant slurs, Middle East conflict related crimes, and crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology. These numbers are unprecedented but also a testament to the work of our Commission in responding to and addressing hate. For example, our LA vs Hate system provides safe ways for people to report hate and has substantially increased awareness of the importance of reporting. We also received substantially more reports for 2023 from well-established sources such as community-based organizations, schools, and law enforcement jurisdictions. As a result, this report demonstrates that more and more victims of hate in LA County are no longer remaining silent.

Documented hate crimes represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in any year. The U.S. Justice Department has reported that more than half of all hate crimes are not reported to law enforcement. We can expect that an even greater portion of non-criminal hate acts are not reported.

### Significant findings of this report include:

- Reported hate crimes dramatically increased 45% from 930 in 2022 to 1,350 in 2023, the largest number in the history of this report and surpassing the 1,031 hate crimes from 2001 when the September 11th attacks occurred.
- There were 99 anti-transgender crimes, representing a 125% increase. This is the largest number ever documented. A staggering 97% of these crimes were violent.
- Religious crimes spiked 90% and were the second largest motivation. Anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 91% from 127 to 242. This is the largest number of anti-Jewish crimes ever recorded.
- African Americans were again grossly over-represented in reported racial hate crimes, constituting 49% of racial hate crime victims. The 320 anti-Black crimes were the highest number ever recorded.
- Anti-LGBT\* crimes rose 48% from 173 to 256. This was the largest number ever documented. 73% of these crimes targeted gay men.
- Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 19% from 121 to 144. This is the highest number ever recorded. Racial crimes targeting Latino/as were the most violent (87%) of all racial and ethnic groups.

- Anti-Asian crimes, after dipping the year prior, increased 31%. The 80 victims were the second highest number ever recorded.
- In 2023, there were 209 crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology, and this was the highest number ever recorded in this report. They comprised 15% of all reported hate crimes.
- Hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used climbed 31%. The 123 crimes recorded in 2023 comprised the largest number ever recorded. Suspects used anti-immigrant language in 71% of anti-Latino/a crimes and in 18% of anti-Asian offenses.
- Crimes in which there was specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East sharply increased from 2 to 64 in 2023 and accounted for 5% of all hate crimes. This is the largest number ever recorded since we began tracking this phenomenon in 2007.
- Hate crimes taking place at schools grew 46% from 93 to 136 and accounted for 10% of all hate crimes. Over half (57%) of hate crimes that occurred in schools were motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin.
- There were sharp increases in hate crimes based on gender (142% increase), religion (90%), and sexual orientation (48% increase). Race, ethnicity, and national origin was by far the most common motivation, constituting 45% of all hate crimes. These crimes jumped 18%, from 547 to 646.
- 65% of reported hate crimes were of a violent nature compared to 72% the year prior. Vandalisms surpassed violent simple assaults, creating a drop in the percentage of violent crimes.
- The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Region which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights, followed by the San Fernando Valley.

By providing the extensive information contained in this report on hate crimes in Los Angeles County, the Commission helps law enforcement as well as educational, community, governmental, and faith-based agencies to more effectively prevent and respond to these serious human rights violations.



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations  
510 S. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
(213) 738-2788

**5.1 AGENDA FOR MEETING OF THE  
TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

**Monday, January 6, 2025 | 10:45AM – 12:15PM**

510 S. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Press Room

[Via Microsoft Teams](#)  
Or Call In at +1 (213) 204-2512  
Phone Conference ID: 333 921 796#

**Chair:** Commissioner Isabelle Gunning | **Secretary:** Commissioner Azusena Favela

**Members:** Commissioners Preeti Kulkarni, Fredrick Sykes, Derric Johnson,  
Jeanette Ellis-Royston

**Staff:** Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Pierre Arreola, Joshua Parr, Paul Smith

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples (10:45)**
- 2. Review & Approval of December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes (10:47)**
- 3. Discussion: Sheriff Accountability (10:50)**
  - 3.1. LA County Custody Facilities Visits**
  - 3.2. Civilian Oversight Commission Partnership**
- 4. Discussion: Staff & County Updates (11:40)**
  - 4.1. Regional Projects**
- 5. Public Comment (3 Minutes Per Person) (12:00)**
- 6. Action Items (12:05)**
  - 6.1. LA County Custody Facilities Visits**
  - 6.2. Civilian Oversight Commission Partnership**
- 7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements (12:10)**
- 8. Adjournment (12:15)**

*Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by conference telephone communication from the following locations: Preeti Kulkarni, 3419 Federal Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066; Azusena Favela, 700 S. Flower Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.*

*For translation to other languages o para más información en Español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us at [PArreola@hrc.lacounty.gov](mailto:PArreola@hrc.lacounty.gov). An asterisk (\*) denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.*

*Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Human Relations Commission at (213) 738-7288 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.*



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90020  
www.lahumanrelations.org  
(213) 738-2788

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## 5.1 Transformative Justice Committee Minutes

### PROPOSED MINUTES TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*Meeting of December 2, 2024  
In Person and via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing  
510 South Vermont Avenue, 9th Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90020*

PRESENT:	Chair Isabelle Gunning	Derric Johnson
	Secretary Azusena Favela	Preeti Kulkarni
	Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Fredrick Sykes
STAFF:	Pierre Arreola	Robert Sowell
	Paul Smith	
	Josh Parr	

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples:** Chair Isabelle Gunning called the meeting to order at 10:58 AM with a quorum in attendance. Secretary Azusena Favela and Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni joined the meeting virtually in a previously disclosed publicly accessible location per Brown Act requirements. Chair Isabelle Gunning then acknowledged that settler colonization has caused inter-generational trauma and the loss of lands and lives to the native cultures who lived here prior to the later waves of migrants who came to what is now called Los Angeles County.
- 2. Review & Approval of November 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes:** At 11:00 AM, Secretary Azusena Favela invited a motion to approve the minutes of the Transformative Justice Committee meeting on November 4, 2024, as presented by staff. Commissioner Derric Johnson requested that the Committee's discussion on the Inmate Welfare Fund be reflected in Item 3.1 – LA County Custody Facilities Visit. Commissioner Ellis-Royston moved to approve the minutes with the aforementioned revision, and Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Discussion: Sheriff Accountability:**
  - 3.1. LA County Custody Facilities Visit:** Staff Pierre Arreola presented the second draft of the custody visits report. The report, now ten pages long, includes changes such as the use of "findings and observations" instead of "insights" to maintain objectivity, a restructuring of the report's focal areas, the addition of an executive summary, and a conclusion with questions for future consideration.

The Committee worked to streamline the language used in the report, particularly around the topic of mental health care services. The Committee differentiated between general mental health care



and specialized mental health care, with Commissioner Kulkarni's suggestion that the FIP Step Down program be highlighted as a beneficial but under-resourced model. Furthermore, the Committee discussed the adequacy of medical health care services and personnel in custody facilities.

Staffing and overtime issues were also discussed, including questions about eliminating double or triple shifts and introducing psychological support systems for custody staff. The Committee debated whether to focus on reducing or eliminating mandatory overtime and the importance of addressing its negative effects on staff well-being. The Committee also discussed the Inmate Welfare Fund, asking questions about the transparency of its revenues and expenditures.

The following changes were agreed upon:

- Edit the paragraph on wages for medical staff to reflect that working conditions and lower wages lead to an insufficient number of qualified medical staff. Mention that medical staff has communicated this. Oftentimes, medical staff are underqualified – at times having been reprimanded elsewhere in community care facilities and finding opportunities in carceral settings. Also, add language elevating the points that there are issues with quality of care due to challenges with medical staff and that there seems to be a lack of continuity of care due to a high turnover rate.
- In the observational piece, include that at the Inmate Reception Center there was no hand-off of medical records and health information to inmates upon release, listing diagnoses and/or treatment received while incarcerated to continue care in the community upon release.
- Inquire about continuity of care because there seems to be a lack of coordination due to the high turnover rate of medical personnel.
- Address more intentionally that it was not apparent during custody visits that some custody staff were actively working yet Committee members consistently heard from custody staff that there was insufficient staffing.
- Separate the questions regarding reducing reliance on overtime and addressing the effects of challenging working conditions for custody staff.
- Request more detail about the management of the Inmate Welfare Fund and specific uses of the money.

Staff will incorporate the requested revisions and circulate a revised draft to be discussed at the January Committee meeting.

**3.2. Civilian Oversight Commission Partnership:** Staff Pierre Arreola shared an update on the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Policing Conference, held on Friday, November 8, 2024, at the Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area Conference Room. Assistant Director Robert Sowell served as the moderator of a panel discussion featuring community voices advocating for civilian oversight, which was followed by a roundtable discussion session developed by the Transformative Justice Team, meant to serve as a dialogue on key takeaways and next steps. Staff Paul Smith is currently working on a report on the roundtable discussions using notes from each table for the LASD Civilian Oversight Commission.

#### **4. Discussion: Staff & County Updates**

**4.1. Regional Projects:** Staff Pierre Arreola reported that Staff Joshua Parr is researching the public dissemination mechanisms of the Racial Identity Profiling Act and producing a fact sheet to support the Transformative Justice Team in strategizing advocacy efforts. The team is interested in advocating

for standardized access to data at the state-level and developing best practices for local dissemination of RIPA data from law enforcement agencies.

Staff Pierre Arreola reported that Staff Paul Smith has previewed a version of a documentary-style vignette animation that is currently being produced by a contractor as part of the narrative collection work being implemented in the Antelope Valley. The short film will be released by the first quarter of 2025.

Staff Pierre Arreola also advised that the Transformative Justice Team and Human Rights Team have crafted a joint proposal to uplift community voices through a concerted narrative collection initiative in response to the recent Board of Supervisors motion on equity challenges in the Antelope Valley. The goal is to elevate the lived experiences of residents of the Antelope Valley to inform the report back on equity gaps and challenges to the Board of Supervisors which will lead to intentional equity investments in the region.

5. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this meeting.
6. **Action Items**
  - 6.1. **LA County Custody Facilities Visits:** No action item. Previously discussed in Item 4.1.
  - 6.2. **Civilian Oversight Commission Partnership:** No action item. Previously discussed in Item 4.3.
7. **Commissioner & Staff Announcements:** There were no announcements at the meeting.
8. **Adjournment:** Chair Isabelle Gunning invited a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Derric Johnson motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Commission Ellis-Royston. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Azusena Favela**

*Transformative Justice Committee Secretary*

9. Adjournment: In memory of former [President Jimmy Carter, Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights champion](#); world-renowned African American poet and activist [Nikki Giovanni](#); Alicia Gaudet and Betty Jackson former Commission staff members.

**Jimmy Carter, nation's 39th president who became influential human rights advocate, dies.**



Jimmy Carter, shown during his winning presidential campaign in October 1976, dedicated his time after leaving office to charity work and advancing human rights.

(Boris Yaro / Los Angeles Times)

**By Scott Kraft**

Dec. 29, 2024 1:22 PM PT

Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer and little-known Georgia governor who became the 39th president of the United States, promising “honest and decent” government to Watergate-weary Americans, and later returned to the world stage as an influential human rights advocate and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has died.

He was 100.

When his turbulent presidency ended after a stinging reelection loss in 1980, Carter retreated to Plains, his political career over. Over the four decades that followed,

though, he forged a legacy of public service, building homes for the needy, monitoring elections around the globe and emerging as a fearless and sometimes controversial critic of governments that mistreated their citizens.

He lived longer than any U.S. president in history and was still regularly teaching Bible classes at his hometown Maranatha Baptist Church well into his 90s. During his post-presidency, he also wrote more than 30 books, including fiction, poetry, deeply personal reflections on his faith, and commentaries on Middle East strife.

Though slowed by battles with melanoma that spread to his brain and liver, and a series of falls and hip replacement in recent years, he returned again and again to his [charity work](#) and continued to offer occasional political commentary, including in support of mail-in voting ahead of the 2020 presidential election.



Former President Carter, in 2015 at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Ga., embraced the label of born-again Christian.

(David Goldman / Associated Press)

Carter was in his first term as Georgia governor when he launched his campaign to unseat [President Ford](#) in the 1976 election. At the time, the nation was still shaken by President Nixon's resignation in the Watergate scandal and by the messy end of the

Vietnam War. As a moderate Southern Democrat, a standard-bearer of what was then regarded as a more racially tolerant “new South,” Carter promised a government “as good and honest and decent and competent and compassionate and as filled with love as are the American people.”

But some of the traits that had helped get Carter elected — his willingness to take on the Washington establishment and his preference for practicality over ideology — didn’t serve him as well in the White House. He showed a deep understanding of policy, and a refreshing modesty and disregard for the ceremonial trappings of the office, but he was unable to make the legislative deals expected of a president.

Even though his Democratic Party had a majority in Congress throughout his presidency, he was impatient with the legislative give-and-take and struggled to mobilize party leaders behind his policy initiatives. His presidency also was buffeted by domestic crises — rampant inflation and high unemployment, as well as interminable lines at gas stations triggered by a decline in the global oil supply exacerbated by Iran’s Islamic Revolution.



Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale campaign in Ohio on Nov. 3, 1980.

(Jim Wells / Associated Press)

“Looking back, I am struck by how many unpopular objectives we pursued,” Carter acknowledged in his 2010 book, “White House Diary.”

“I was sometimes accused of ‘micromanaging’ the affairs of government and being excessively autocratic,” he continued, “and I must admit that my critics probably had a valid point.”

Carter’s signature achievements as president were primarily on the international front, and included personally brokering the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel, which have endured for more than 40 years.

But it was another international crisis — the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Iranian revolutionaries and the government’s inability to win the release of 52 Americans taken hostage — that would cast a long shadow on his presidency and his bid for reelection.

Carter authorized a [secret military mission](#) to rescue the hostages in April 1980, but it was aborted at the desert staging area; during the withdrawal, eight servicemen were killed when a helicopter crashed into a transport aircraft. The hostages were held for 444 days, a period that spanned Carter’s final 15 months in the White House. They were finally freed the day his successor, [Ronald Reagan](#), took the oath of office.



Carter onstage with Willie Nelson.

(Carter Presidential Library)

Near the end of Carter's presidency, one poll put his job approval rating at 21% — lower than Nixon's [when he resigned in disgrace](#) and among the lowest of any White House occupant since World War II.

In a rarity for an incumbent president, Carter faced a formidable primary challenge in 1980 from [Sen. Edward M. Kennedy](#), a favorite of the Democratic Party's liberal wing. Although Carter prevailed, his nomination was in doubt until the party's August convention.

The enmity between Carter and Kennedy, two of the most important Democratic political figures of their generation, continued throughout their lives. In Kennedy's memoir, published shortly after his death in 2009, he called Carter petty and guilty of "a failure to listen." While promoting the publication of "White House Diary," Carter said Kennedy had "deliberately" blocked Carter's comprehensive healthcare proposals in the late 1970s in hopes of defeating the president in the primary.

In the 1980 general election, Carter faced Reagan, then 69, who campaigned on a promise to increase military spending and rescue the economy by cutting taxes and decreasing regulation. Carter lost in a 51% to 41% thumping — he won just six states and the District of Columbia — that devastated the man known for his toothy smile and sent him back to his hometown, an ex-president at 56.



## Opinion

### Commentary: The paradox of Jimmy Carter

June 22, 2021

A year later, he and his wife Rosalynn founded the Carter Center, which pressed for peaceful solutions to world conflicts, promoted human rights and worked to eradicate disease in the poorest nations. The center, based in Atlanta, launched a new phase of Carter's public life, one that would move the same historians who called Carter a weak president to label him one of America's greatest former leaders.

His post-presidential years were both "historic and polarizing," as Princeton University historian Julian E. Zelizer put it in a 2010 biography of Carter. Zelizer said Carter "refused to be constrained politically when pursuing his international agenda" as an ex-president, and became "an enormously powerful figure on the international stage."

When Carter appeared on "The Colbert Report" in 2014, host Stephen Colbert asked him, "You invented the idea of the post-presidency. What inspired you to do that?"

"I didn't have anything else to do," Carter replied.





Carter working at a Habitat for Humanity building site in Memphis, Tenn., in 2015.

(Mark Humphrey / Associated Press)

He traveled widely to mediate conflicts and monitor elections around the world, joined Habitat for Humanity to promote “sweat equity” for low-income homeownership, and became a blunt critic of human rights abuses. He angered conservatives and some liberals by advocating negotiations with autocrats — and his criticism of Israeli leaders and support for Palestinian self-determination angered many Jews.

A prolific author, Carter covered a range of topics, including the Middle East crisis and the virtues of aging and religion. He penned a memoir on growing up in the rural South as well as a book of poems, and he was the first president to write a novel — “The Hornet’s Nest,” about the South during the Revolutionary War. He won three Grammy Awards as well for best spoken-word album, most recently in 2019 for “Faith: A Journey For All.”

As with many former presidents, Carter’s popularity rose in the years after he left office. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for “decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts” and to advance democracy and human rights. By then, two-thirds of Americans said they approved of his presidency.

“Jimmy Carter may never be rated a great president,” wrote Charles O. Jones, a University of Wisconsin political scientist, in his chronicle of the Carter presidency. “Yet it will be difficult in the long run to sustain censure of a president motivated to do what is right.”

The journey for James Earl Carter Jr. began on Oct. 1, 1924, in the tiny Sumter County, Ga., town of Plains, home to fewer than 600 people in 2020. He was the first president born in a hospital, but he lived in a house without electricity or indoor plumbing until he was a teenager. His ancestors had been in Georgia for more than two centuries, and he was the fifth generation to own and farm the same land.

His father, James Earl Carter Sr., known as Mr. Earl, was a strict disciplinarian and a conservative businessman of some means. His mother, known as Miss Lillian, had more liberal views — she was known for her charity work and for taking in transients and treating Black residents with kindness. (At the age of 70, she joined the Peace Corps, working in India.)

Inspired by an uncle who was in the Navy, Carter decided as a first-grader that he wanted to go to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He became the first member of his family to finish high school, then attended Georgia Tech before heading for the academy, where he studied engineering and graduated in 1946, 59th in a class of 820.

Before his last year in Annapolis, while home for the summer, he met Eleanor Rosalynn Smith, a friend of his sister Ruth's. He and a friend invited the two young women to the movies, and when he returned home that night, he told his mother he had met “the girl I want to marry.” He proposed that Christmas, but Rosalynn declined because she felt she was too young (she was 18 and a sophomore in college). Several weeks later, while she was visiting Carter at the academy, he asked again. This time she said yes.



Carter works at a Habitat for Humanity site in Mishawaka, Ind., at age 93.

(Robert Franklin / South Bend (Ind.) Tribune)

Carter applied to America's new nuclear-powered submarine program under the command of the icy and demanding Capt. (later Adm.) Hyman Rickover. During Carter's interview, Rickover asked whether he had done his best at Annapolis.

"I started to say, 'Yes, sir,' but ... I recalled several of the many times at the Academy when I could have learned more about our allies, our enemies, weapons, strategy and so forth," Carter wrote in his autobiography. "... I finally gulped and said, 'No, sir, I didn't always do my best.'" To which Rickover replied: "Why not?"

Carter got the job, and would later make "Why not the best?" his campaign slogan.

The Carters had three sons, who all go by nicknames — John William, "Jack"; James Earl, "Chip"; and Donnel Jeffrey, "Jeff." Carter and Rosalynn had wanted to have more children, but an obstetrician said that surgery Rosalynn had to remove a tumor on her uterus would make that impossible. Fifteen years after Jeffrey was born, the Carters had a daughter, Amy, who "made us young again," Carter would later write.

While in the Navy, Carter took graduate courses in nuclear physics and served as a submariner on the USS Pomfret. But his military career was cut short when his father

died, and he moved back to Georgia in 1953 to help run the family business, which was in disarray.



President Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter in a peanut field at their Webster County, Ga., farm in 1978.

(Jim Wells / Associated Press)

In his first year back on the farm, Carter turned a profit of less than \$200, the equivalent of about \$2,200 today. But with Rosalynn's help, he expanded the business. In addition to farming 3,100 acres, the family soon operated a seed and fertilizer business, warehouses, a peanut-shelling plant and a cotton gin. By the time he began his campaign for the White House 20 years later, Carter had a net worth of about \$800,000, and the revenue from his enterprises was more than \$2 million a year.

Carter entered electoral politics in 1962, and asked voters to call him "Jimmy." He ran for a seat in the Georgia Senate against an incumbent backed by a local political boss who stuffed the ballot box. Trailing by 139 votes after the primary, Carter waged a furious legal battle, which he described years later in his book "Turning Point." Carter got a recount, the primary result was reversed, and he went on to win the general election.

The victory was a defining moment for Carter, the outsider committed to fairness and honesty who had successfully battled establishment politicians corrupted by their ties to special interests.



## [Opinion](#)

### [Nicholas Goldberg: He's in hospice care now. But Jimmy Carter is still changing the world](#)

Feb. 22, 2023

In two terms in the Georgia Senate, Carter established a legislative record that was socially progressive and fiscally conservative. He first ran for governor in 1966, but finished third in the primary. Over the next four years, he made 1,800 speeches and shook hands with an estimated 600,000 people — a style of campaigning that paid off in the 1970 gubernatorial election and later in his bid for the White House.

In his inaugural address as governor in 1971, Carter made national news by declaring that “the time for racial discrimination is over.” He had a portrait of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. hung in a hall at the Capitol in Atlanta.



Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, celebrate his gubernatorial election win in Atlanta in 1970.

(Billy Downs / Associated Press)

But when Carter launched his official campaign for the White House in December 1974, he was still so little-known outside Georgia that a celebrity panel on the TV show “What’s My Line?” couldn’t identify him.

In the beginning, many scoffed at the temerity of a peanut farmer and one-term governor running for the highest office in the land. After Carter met with House Speaker [Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill Jr.](#), the speaker was asked whom he had been talking to. “Some fellow named Jimmy Carter from Georgia. Says he’s running for president,” O’Neill replied.

In a meeting with editors of the Los Angeles Times in 1975, Carter said he planned to gain the presidency by building a network of supporters and by giving his candidacy an early boost by winning the Iowa caucuses. Until then, Iowa had been a bit player in the nominating process, mostly ignored by strategists. But Carter’s victory there vaulted him to front-runner status — and Iowa into a major role in presidential nominations.



## [World & Nation](#)

### [In his final days, Jimmy Carter on cusp of a humanitarian goal: Eradicating a parasitic worm](#)

Feb. 27, 2023

His emergence from the pack of Democratic hopefuls was helped by the release of his well-reviewed autobiography “Why Not the Best?” in which he described his upbringing on the farm and his traditional moral values.

On the campaign trail, Carter came across as refreshingly candid and even innocent — an antidote to the atmosphere of scandal that had eroded confidence in public officials since the events leading to [Nixon’s resignation](#) on Aug. 9, 1974.

A Baptist Sunday school teacher, Carter was among the first presidential candidates to embrace the label of born-again Christian. That was underscored when, in an interview with Playboy magazine, he made headlines by admitting, “I’ve looked on many women with lust. I’ve committed adultery in my heart many times. God knows I will do this and forgives me.”

Carter had emerged from the Democratic National Convention in July with a wide lead over Ford, Nixon’s vice president and successor, but by the time of the Playboy interview in September, his numbers were tumbling. By election day, the contest was a

dead heat. Carter, running on a ticket with [Walter F. Mondale](#) for his vice president, eked out a victory with one of the narrower margins in U.S. presidential history, winning 50.1% to 48% of the popular vote and 297 electoral votes, 27 more than needed.

## Music

### When Jimmy Carter's White House was a tour stop for long-haired, 'torpedo'-smoking rock outlaws

Sept. 9, 2020

Many of Carter's supporters hoped he would usher in a new era of liberal policies. But he saw his role as more of a problem-solver than a politician, and as an outsider who promised to shake things up in Washington, he often acted unilaterally.

A few weeks into his term, Carter announced that he was cutting off federal funding to 18 water projects around the country to save money and protect the environment. Lawmakers, surprised by the assault on their pet projects, were livid.

He ultimately backed down on some of the cuts. But his relationship with Congress never fully healed. Members often complained that they couldn't get in to see him, and that when they did he was in a rush to show them the door. His relationship with the media, as he acknowledged later in life, was similarly fraught.

Carter's image as a reformer also took a hit early in his presidency after he appointed Bert Lance, a longtime confidant, to head the Office of Management and Budget. Within months of the appointment, questions were raised about Lance's personal financial affairs as a Georgia banker.

Adamant that Lance had done nothing wrong, Carter dug in his heels and publicly told his friend, "Bert, I'm proud of you." Still, Lance resigned under pressure, and although he was later acquitted of criminal charges, the damage to Carter had been done. As Mondale later put it: "It made people realize that we were no different than anybody else."

When Carter did score legislative victories, the cost was high. In 1978, he pushed the Senate to ratify the Panama Canal treaties to eventually hand control of the canal over to Panama. But conservatives criticized the move as a diminution of U.S. strength, and even the Democratic National Committee declined to endorse it.

Carter's most significant foreign policy accomplishment was the 1978 Camp David agreement, a peace pact between Israel and Egypt. But he followed that with several unpopular moves, including his decree that the United States would not participate in the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, as a protest against the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. It was the only time in Olympic history that the United States had boycotted an Olympics; the Soviets responded by boycotting the [1984 Summer Games](#) in Los Angeles.





Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, left, President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin clasp hands at the White House as they complete signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in 1979.

(Bob Daugherty / Associated Press)

Carter had taken a series of largely symbolic steps to dispel the imperial image of the presidency. After he took the oath of office on a wintry day, he and the new first lady emerged from their motorcade and walked part of the way from the Capitol to the White House.

He ended chauffeur-driven cars for top staff members, sold the presidential yacht, went to the White House mess hall for lunch with the staff and conducted town meetings around the country. He suspended the playing of "Hail to the Chief" whenever he arrived at an event, though he later allowed the practice to resume.

On the domestic front, he was saddled with a country in crisis. Inflation galloped at rates up to 14%, and global gasoline shortages closed service stations and created high prices and long lines. Interest rates for home mortgages soared above 14%.

In his first televised fireside chat, he wore a cardigan sweater and encouraged Americans to conserve energy during the winter by keeping their thermostats at 65

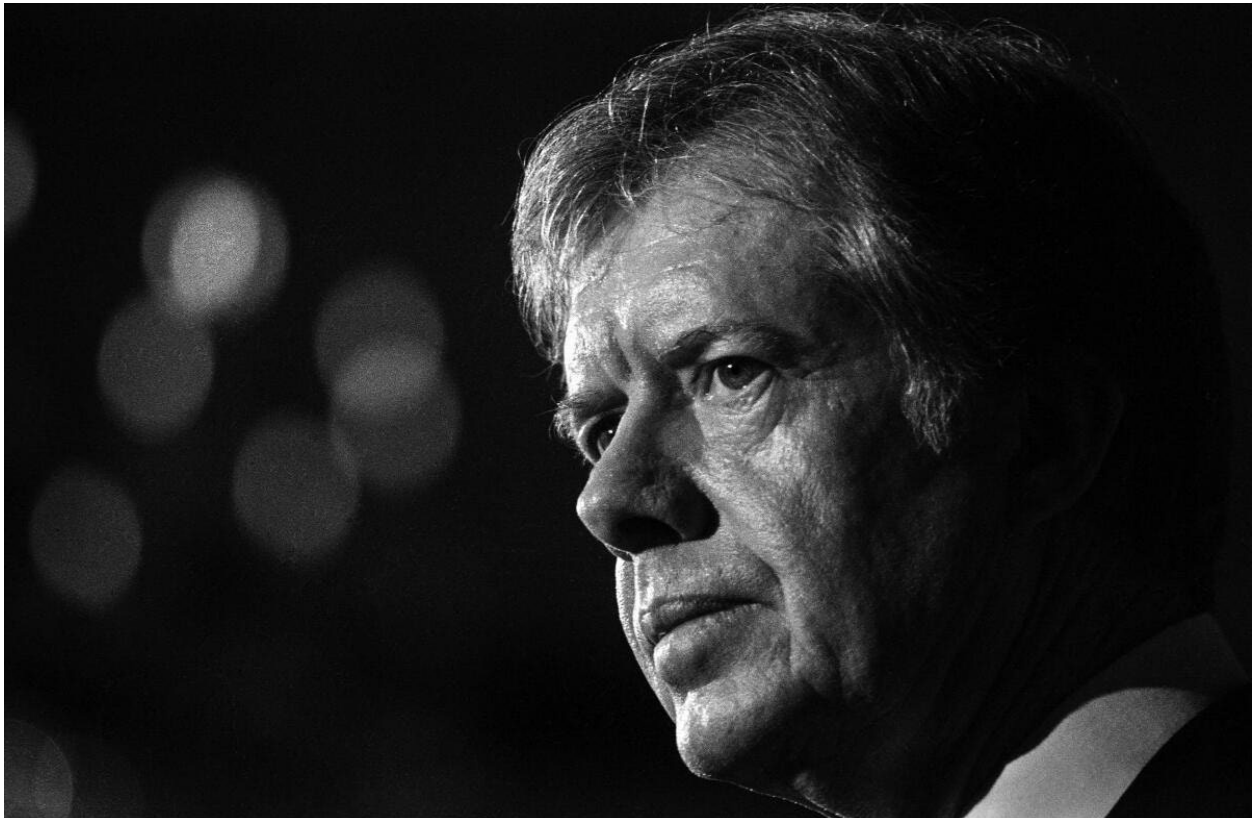
degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night. He also proposed a string of legislative initiatives to deal with the crisis, but many were blocked by Congress.

Dec. 17, 1996

In what would become a seminal moment in his presidency, Carter addressed the nation — and a television audience of more than 60 million — on a Sunday evening in 1979, saying the country had been seized by a “crisis of confidence ... that strikes at the very heart and soul and spirit of our national will.” He outlined a series of proposals to develop new sources of energy.

The address, widely known as the “malaise speech” even though Carter never used that word, was generally well-received at the time, though some bristled at the implication that Americans were to blame for the country’s problems. Any positive glow disappeared two days later, when Carter fired five of his top officials, including the Energy, Treasury and Transportation secretaries and his attorney general. The value of the dollar sank and the stock market tumbled.

Sensing that Carter was politically vulnerable, Kennedy moved to present himself as an alternative for the 1980 Democratic nomination, publicly criticizing the president’s agenda. But Kennedy damaged his own candidacy in a prime-time interview with CBS’ Roger Mudd: Asked why he was running for president, Kennedy fumbled his answer, and critics cited it as evidence that the senator didn’t want the job so much as he felt obligated to seek it.



Then-President Carter speaks in Washington in 1980.

A few months after the malaise speech, in late 1979, revolutionaries loyal to Iran's spiritual leader, the [Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini](#), seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking 52 Americans hostage. Weeks stretched into months, with Iran refusing all efforts to negotiate a hostage release.

In April 1980, Carter approved Operation Eagle Claw, a secret Delta Force rescue mission. But it ended in disaster — mechanical trouble sidelined three helicopters and, after the mission was aborted, one of the remaining helicopters collided with a transport plane on the ground, killing eight soldiers. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance resigned before the mission, believing the plan too risky.

Negotiations to free the hostages resumed, and Carter desperately tried to win their release before the November election. But the Iranians prolonged the talks and the hostages weren't released until Jan. 20, 1981, moments after Carter watched Reagan being sworn in.

The journey home for Carter was painful. Of those who voted for Reagan in 1980, nearly 1 in 4 said they were primarily motivated by their dissatisfaction with Carter.

Carter faced “an altogether new, unwanted and potentially empty life,” as he later put it. He sold the family farm-supply business, which had been placed in a blind trust during his presidency and was by then deeply in debt.

Then, as Rosalynn later recalled, Carter awoke one night with an idea to build not just a presidential library but a place to resolve global conflicts. Together, they founded the nonprofit, nonpartisan Carter Center.

His skill as a mediator made Carter a ready choice for future presidents seeking envoys to navigate crises. Republican President George H.W. Bush sent him on peace missions to Ethiopia and Sudan, and President Clinton, a fellow Democrat, dispatched him to North Korea, Haiti and what then was Yugoslavia.



## [World & Nation](#)

### [In his final days, Jimmy Carter on cusp of a humanitarian goal: Eradicating a parasitic worm](#)

Feb. 27, 2023

Carter described his relationship with President Obama as chilly, however, in part because he had openly criticized the administration's policies toward Israel. He felt Obama did not strongly enough support a separate Palestinian state. "Every president has been a very powerful factor here in advocating this two-state solution," Carter told the New York Times in 2012. "That is now not apparent."

As an election observer, he called them as he saw them. After monitoring presidential voting in Panama in 1989, he declared that Manuel Noriega had rigged the election. He also began building houses worldwide for Habitat for Humanity, and he wrote prodigiously.

The Nobel committee awarded Carter the Peace Prize in 2002, more than two decades after he left the White House, praising him for standing by "the principles that conflicts must as far as possible be resolved through mediation and international cooperation."

During his 70s, 80s and even into his 90s, the former president showed an energy that never failed to impress those around him. In his 1998 book "The Virtues of Aging," he

urged retirees to remain active and engaged, and he followed his own advice, continuing to jog, play tennis and go fly-fishing well into his 80s. When his “White House Diary” was published in 2010, he embarked on a nationwide book tour at 85, as he did in 2015 with the publication of “A Full Life: Reflections at 90.”



Former President Carter interviewed for “The Presidents’ Gatekeepers” project at the Carter Center in Atlanta in 2011.

(Associated Press)

When he told America he had cancer that had spread to his liver and brain, it was vintage Carter. Wearing a coat and tie and a pair of blue jeans, he stared into the television cameras and was unflinchingly blunt about his prognosis.

“Hope for the best; accept what comes,” he said. “I think I have been as blessed as any human being in the world.”

*Former Times staff writers Jack Nelson, Robert Shogan and Johanna Neuman contributed to this report.*