



# Chief Executive Office.

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1101 ceo.lacounty.gov

### ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Joseph M. Nicchitta

October 14, 2025

To: Governance Reform Task Force

From: Joseph M. Nicchitta   
Joseph M. Nicchitta (Oct 13, 2025 12:21:37 PDT)  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

### **FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 RECOMMENDED BUDGET PRODUCTION SCHEDULE AND ETHICS OVERSIGHT BODIES COORDINATION – COORDINATION OF EFFORT NEEDED BETWEEN THE GOVERNANCE REFORM TASK FORCE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Thank you for your continued efforts and thoughtful work in advancing the County's governance reform initiatives. We appreciate the time and consideration the Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) is dedicating to these important matters. This memorandum provides an overview of the Chief Executive Office's (CEO) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Recommended Budget production schedule and outlines timelines for crucial next steps related to the GRTF's work on the public departmental budget presentations and the proposed independent County Ethics Commission, Office of Ethics Compliance, and Ethics Compliance Officer.

My office reviewed the *Implementing Measure G: Proposed Scope of Work with Timelines* document presented at the September 24, 2025, regular meeting of the GRTF, [Item #3](#). The timelines therein for providing recommendations to the Board largely align with the County's budget process. However, there are some deadlines, noted below, that the GRTF should incorporate into its scope of work to ensure that my office can account for any recommendations during the County's annual budget process. Missing these deadlines will mean that recommendations may not be implemented during the required budget phase.

Attached is an infographic you may find helpful as you consider how the GRTF's recommendations will fit into the County's budget production calendar.



## **Budget Production Schedule**

The County's annual budget process begins in mid-October, following the Board of Supervisor's (Board) adoption of the Supplemental Budget, and must adhere to a strict timeline. From October through November, the CEO budget team meets with departmental staff to discuss any budget-related challenges, policy changes and program needs, as budget requests are accepted only from departments. In November, the CEO releases budget instructions to departments outlining the requirements needed for completing their budget requests and establishing staggered deadlines throughout January to ensure timely submission of the departmental budget requests. During February and March, the CEO team reviews and analyzes all departmental budget requests, being mindful of available resources. By mid-April, the CEO finalizes and submits budget recommendations to the Board for consideration.

Our ability to meet the timelines to present budget recommendations to the Board depends on meeting timelines for each step of the process outlined above. My office has assumed several workload intensive processes in recent years without additional budget staff, including Board Policy No. 4.031 (CFCI Budget Policy), the Fiscal Resilience Protocol, and the Departmental Public Budget Presentations. We lack capacity to make unscheduled changes. As such, it is imperative that our teams collaborate to ensure that we are able to prepare for and timely implement any GRTF recommendations.

As you are aware, Measure G, along with the subsequent Board [motion](#) adopted on November 26, 2024, requires that Public Departmental Budget Presentations be incorporated into the budget process beginning with the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget. These presentations, which were tasked to the CEO as an interim step until the GRTF could recommend a process for FY 2026-27 and beyond, were held over several Board meetings in February and March 2025.

I am aware that the GRFT is actively working on recommended updates to the process and has recently met with my budget team to discuss last year's process and the challenges ahead for 2026. Because the budget production schedule is tightly compressed, I am requesting that any recommendations regarding Public Departmental Budget Presentations that could impact the County's budget production calendar be shared with the CEO by November 7, 2025. This will ensure sufficient time to review, analyze, and, if appropriate, integrate these recommendations into the overall budget production process and calendar.

### **Ethics Oversight Bodies Coordination**

I also am aware that the GRTF is actively developing recommendations for the establishment of an Ethics Commission, an Office of Ethics Compliance, and the role of Ethics Compliance Officer (Ethics Oversight Bodies), all of which the Measure G Charter Amendment requires to be in place by 2026. To meet this mandate, I request that the GRTF provide my office with a copy of its finalized recommendations to the Board, which must ultimately be cost-neutral per the charter amendment, by December 15, 2025. This timeline will allow the CEO to ensure that the proposed funding plan aligns with the intent of the Measure G Charter amendment and can be implemented within "existing County funding resources and result in no additional costs to, or taxes imposed on taxpayers, with any implementation costs to be offset by cost savings, as determined through the annual County budgeting process."

The GRTF's recommendations are the first step in establishing the Ethics Oversight Bodies. Additional implementation actions will include a Board motion directing the execution of a specific plan and the formal submission of a budget request. As noted above, only departments can submit budget requests. The GRTF should work with the Executive Office of the Board (EO) to submit an Ethics Oversight Bodies budget request with the EO's FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget request, due to my office on January 7, 2026. Timely submission of the GRTF's recommendations will help ensure a smooth and coordinated transition from planning to implementation of the Ethics Oversight Bodies by 2026.

### **Conclusion**

My office stands ready to provide feedback and support the GRTF's efforts throughout this process. We value your thoughtful contributions and remain committed to advancing your work to strengthen County governance. Timely submission of the GRTF's recommendations for public departmental budget presentations; the establishment of the Ethics Oversight Bodies; and an official Ethics Oversight Bodies budget request will allow my office to thoughtfully incorporate them into the FY 2026-27 budget process and ensure the cost-neutral implementation of the County's new ethics governance structure by 2026.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration. My team is available to meet with the GRTF or a designated Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review implementation strategies and address any questions regarding the cost-neutrality requirements.

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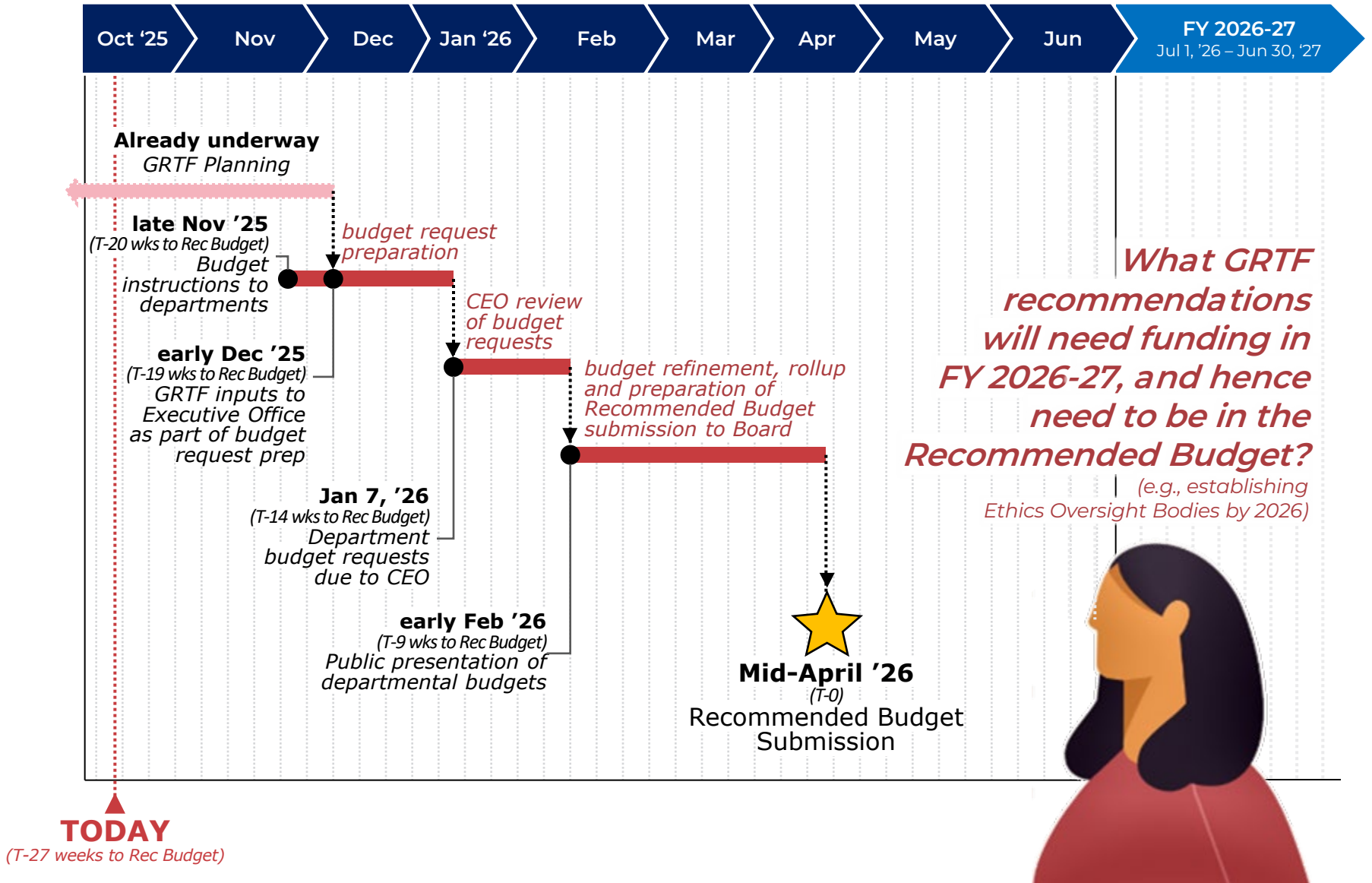
Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mason Matthews at (213) 974-2395 or [mmatthews@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:mmatthews@ceo.lacounty.gov).

FAD:JMN:MM  
RP:AB:MN:kn

#### Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel

**Figure 1: Budget Production Timeline for FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget Requests**



**Figure 2: Incorporating GRTF Guidelines Into Feb '26 Departmental Public Budget Presentations**

