

MEASURE G · COUNTY CHARTER REFORM



Separation of Powers

*A Legal & Governance Framework for
Los Angeles County's New Charter Structure*

*Shadi Kardan, Assistant Executive Officer
Governance Reform Task Force
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Art. III-A · Art. III-B · Art. III-C

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Legislative Authority

ELECTED EXECUTIVE

Executive Authority

CHECKS & BALANCES

Mutual Accountability

What We'll Cover Today

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The reform that created this structure

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Why Measure G? The Case for Reform



For decades, L.A. County lacked a separately elected executive. Legislative and executive functions were blended under a single Board.

Measure G creates a separation of powers establishing an independently Elected Executive for the first time.

Charter-Level Change

Measure G amends the County Charter which is the foundational governing document.

Voter-Approved Reform

Passed by voters in November 2024 to restructure County government.


Two-Branch Government

Creates a legislative branch (Board) and an executive branch (Elected Executive) with distinct, defined powers.

Elected Executive Takes Office in 2028

The first independently Elected Executive takes office following the 2028 presidential election cycle.

Key County Governance Changes Under Measure G - 2028

BEFORE MEASURE G		AFTER MEASURE G
Board of Supervisors held BOTH legislative AND executive functions.		Board = Primarily Legislative, Quasi-Judicial functions; Executive = Primarily Executive and Administrative Functions.
No independently Elected Executive.		Elected Executive independently selected by voters (starting 2028).
Department Heads appointed by and answered to the Board (except elective offices).		Elected Executive appoints Department Heads (except elective offices, County Legislative Analyst, Clerk of the Board); Board confirms (§11.18).
No formal veto power over Board legislation.		Elected Executive has formal veto power; Board can override with ⅔ vote.
Budget authority was concentrated in the Board alone.		Elected Executive prepares budget; Board approves — shared authority.
No fixed executive chain of command during a crisis.		Elected Executive initiates, coordinates, and directs all emergency/disaster response; serves as designated operational area coordinator and chairs the Emergency Management Council (§11.36).
Labor negotiations conducted by Board-appointed staff.		Elected Executive is sole labor negotiator (§11.16); Board retains appropriation authority and must adopt appropriations to fund any negotiated MOU (§10.16).



Board of Supervisors

Article III-A · Legislative Authority · §§10.2 – 10.28

The County's Lawmaking Branch

Core Legislative Authority



Lawmaking Power

§10.2 - §10.4

- Legislative & quasi-judicial authority vested in Board
- Acts through Ordinances, Resolutions, or Board Orders
- Any Board member can introduce an ordinance, a resolution, or Board order (§11.50)



Power of the Purse

§10.16 - §10.18

- Shall appropriate and authorize ALL County expenditures by resolution
- Sets property tax rates and imposes fees & charges
- Tax authority is explicitly exempt from Elected Executive veto



Structural Authority

§10.14

- Create, consolidate, or separate County offices (other than those required by the constitution and law of the State), by ordinance
- Provide the functions, services, and policies to be followed by County offices, departments, and agencies, by ordinance.
- Sets compensation for ALL County officers & employees (elected and appointed officers and employees).

Organizational Authority: Shaping County Government

Section 10.14 grants the Board sweeping authority to define the structure, function, and staffing of the entire County government.

Functions, Services & Policies

§10.14(A)

The Board defines, by ordinance, what every department does, what services it provides to the public, and the policies it must follow. This is the core authority to set the mission and direction of County government.

Create New Offices

§10.14(D)

The Board may establish new County offices beyond those required by state law, allowing it to expand government functions where public need demands.

Compensation Authority

§10.14(B)

The Board sets salaries and compensation structures for all County officers and employees, unless state law provides otherwise. This gives the Board direct control over public expenditure on personnel.

Consolidation & Restructuring

§10.14(E)

The Board can merge, reorganize, or split existing departments.

Staffing Levels

§10.14(C)

The Board determines by ordinance how many deputies, assistants, and staff are authorized across all County departments giving it direct workforce sizing authority.

Bonding Requirements

§10.14(F)

The Board may require (if deemed expedient) officials or employees, before or after entering the duties of their office, to post a financial bond to ensure faithful performance of duties.

Oversight, Independence & Accountability

Oversight & Accountability Mechanisms

§10.12

Public Hearings

Board may hold public hearings on any matter within its authority.

§10.22

Oversight Reports

Board may request regular reports from the Elected Executive on operations, programs, and productivity. Executive must respond.

§10.24

Board Expenditures

Authorize and regulate expenditures from funds appropriated to the Board for its own operations – subject to audit procedures applicable to all County departments and operations.

§10.26

Clerk of the Board

Board establishes and controls the Clerk of the Board by ordinance. Not subject to Executive veto.



Board Powers Exempt from Veto

- ◆ §10.6: Charter amendments proposed to voters
- ◆ §10.18: Property tax rates & fee authority
- ◆ §10.26: Clerk of the Board establishment
- ◆ §10.28: Appointment of a County Legislative Analyst
- ◆ §11.56: Board orders unrelated to contracting authority



County Legislative Analyst (§10.10 · §10.28)

The Board shall receive nonpartisan legislative support and analysis on County policy issues through its County Legislative Analyst.

The Analyst can only be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

Special duties of the Analyst shall be prescribed by ordinance. Not subject to Executive Veto.



Elected Executive

Article III-B · Executive Authority · §§11.2 – 11.40

The County's First Independently Elected Executive

Establishing the Office: Qualifications & Structure

The Elected Executive is independently elected by voters of Los Angeles County, beginning with the 2028 election.

Election

§11.2

Independently elected by LA County voters. Four-year terms aligned with presidential election.

Residency

§11.4

Must have been an elector of the County for at least 30 days before filing nomination papers and must reside in the County throughout their incumbency.

Compensation

§11.6

Salary set by the Board but must be at least \$1.00 more than any other County elective officer. Full-time service required.

Disability

§11.32

If the Board determines by a two-thirds vote that the Executive is temporarily disabled, the Chair of the Board shall become the Acting Elected Executive.

Vacancy & Succession

§11.34

Upon death, resignation, or removal, the Board Chair serves as Acting Elected Executive. The vacancy is filled by special election (if called by the Board within 30 days) or Governor appointment (within 90 days); if neither occurs, the Board Chair becomes Elected Executive. Vacancy also means disability of 180 days or more.

Expansion

§11.40

Additional duties and powers may be prescribed to the Executive through future laws or ordinances.

Elected Executive Authority & the Director of Budget & Management

§11.8 All executive and administrative authority of the County is vested in the Elected Executive (except County Legislative Analyst & Clerk of the Board)

§11.10 Department Control

All County departments and agencies report directly to the Executive. Sole supervisory authority over county operations (except elected officials & Board-controlled entities).

§11.18 · §11.20 Appointments & Removal

Appoints department heads (Board confirmation required). May remove appointed officials at any time; Board may reinstate with 2/3 vote.

§11.16 Labor Negotiations

Sole county representative in ALL labor negotiations.

§11.12 · §11.22 Policies & Delegation

Sets administrative priorities, policies & procedures. May delegate powers to subordinates (except veto authority and appointments).

§11.36 Emergency Powers

Leads all emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. Single point of accountability during crises.

DIRECTOR OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT · § 11.26 Appointed by the Elected Executive ·

Budget Preparation

Prepares and administers the County's annual budget under the Elected Executive's direction (§11.26). Submits proposed budget within legally required timelines (§11.30).

Charter: §11.24 · §11.26 · §11.30

Fiscal Oversight

Advise and provide recommendations to the Elected Executive on the fiscal condition, financial status, and future needs of the County to prepare the County's annual budget.

Charter: §11.26

Public Transparency

Make in person reports to the Board concerning the state of the County and make recommendations for its consideration, such as measures the Elected Executive deems necessary and expedient.

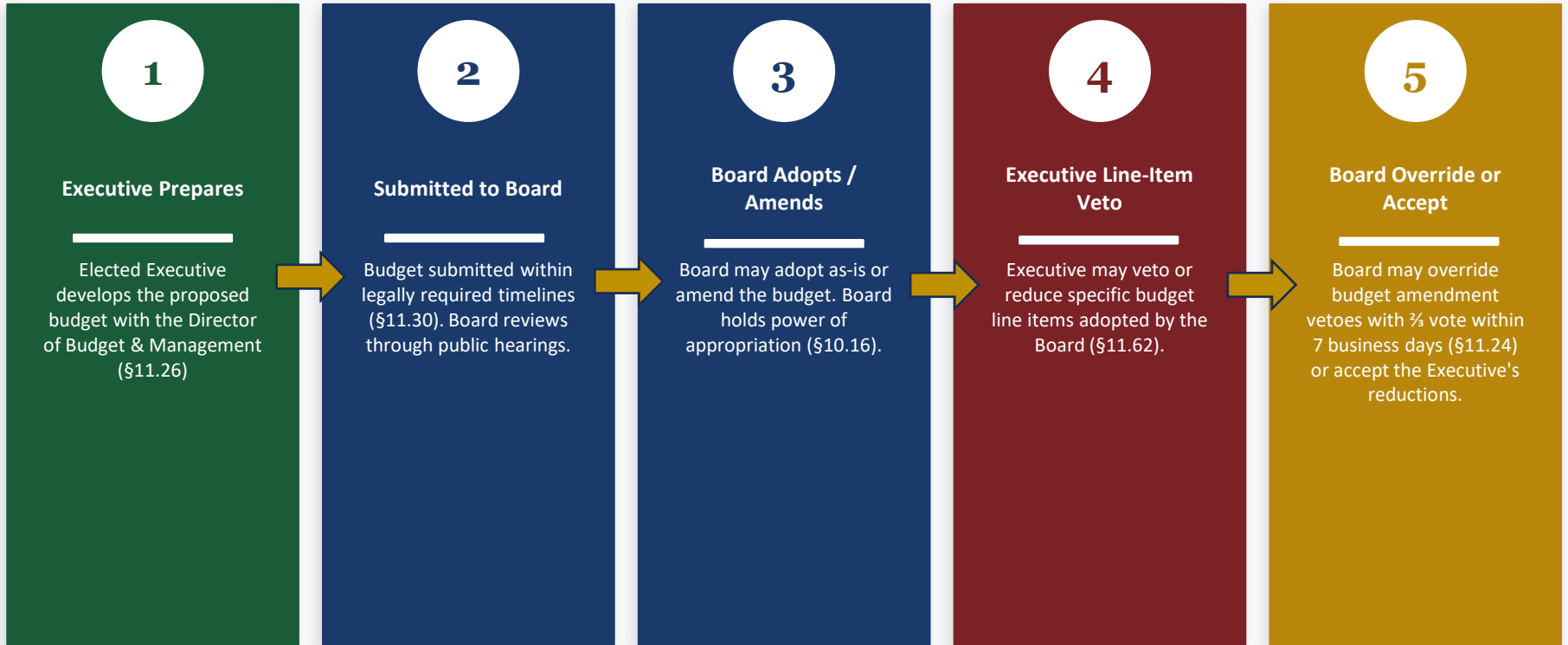
Charter: §11.28

Efficiency & Reform

Identifies operational savings to offset implementation costs. Must be cost-neutral; no new taxes or levies to fund Measure G reforms (§10.14G · §11.38).

Charter: §10.14G · §11.38

Budget Authority: How the County's Money Is Managed



Key principle: The Executive formulates; the Board appropriates. Both must agree — or use their respective override mechanisms.



Checks & Balances

Article III-C · The Veto Framework · §§11.50 – 11.66

How Each Branch Oversees the Other

How the Board Checks the Elected Executive

Veto Override

§11.64

The Board may override any Executive veto including budget reductions with a two-thirds vote. Override must occur within 30 days after the measure is returned to the Clerk of the Board. If a higher threshold is required by law, that applies instead.

Reinstatement of Officials

§11.20

If the Executive removes an appointed official, the Board may reinstate that person with a two-thirds vote. This creates a critical check on the Executive's removal power.

Demand for Reports

§10.22

The Board may require the Elected Executive to submit reports on County operations, programs, and performance at any time. The Executive is legally obligated to respond.

Confirmation Authority

§11.18

Department heads and agency leaders appointed by the Executive are subject to Board confirmation (except those within the Executive's own office).

Disability Declaration

§11.32

The Board may declare the Executive temporarily unable to serve and appoint an Acting Executive (the Board Chair).

Veto-Exempt Zones

§10.6 · §10.18

Charter amendments sent to voters, property tax rate decisions, and Board orders are outside the Executive's veto authority preserving the Board's legislative domains.

How the Executive Checks the Board

§11.14 · §11.52–54

Veto Power over Legislation

The Executive may approve or veto any ordinance or resolution adopted by the Board, unless the Charter explicitly exempts it.

§11.60

Review Timeline & Default

Executive has 5 business days (urgency) or 12 business days (non-urgency) to act on ordinances or resolutions. If no action is taken, the ordinance or resolution is automatically approved.

§11.24

Budget Veto Authority

The Executive may veto Board amendments to the Executive's proposed budget, and the Board must override within a limited timeframe or the Executive's version stands.

§11.62

Line-Item Veto

The Executive may veto or reduce specific appropriation items within a budget measure while approving the remainder allowing targeted fiscal discipline without rejecting an entire budget.

§11.56

Board Orders Exception

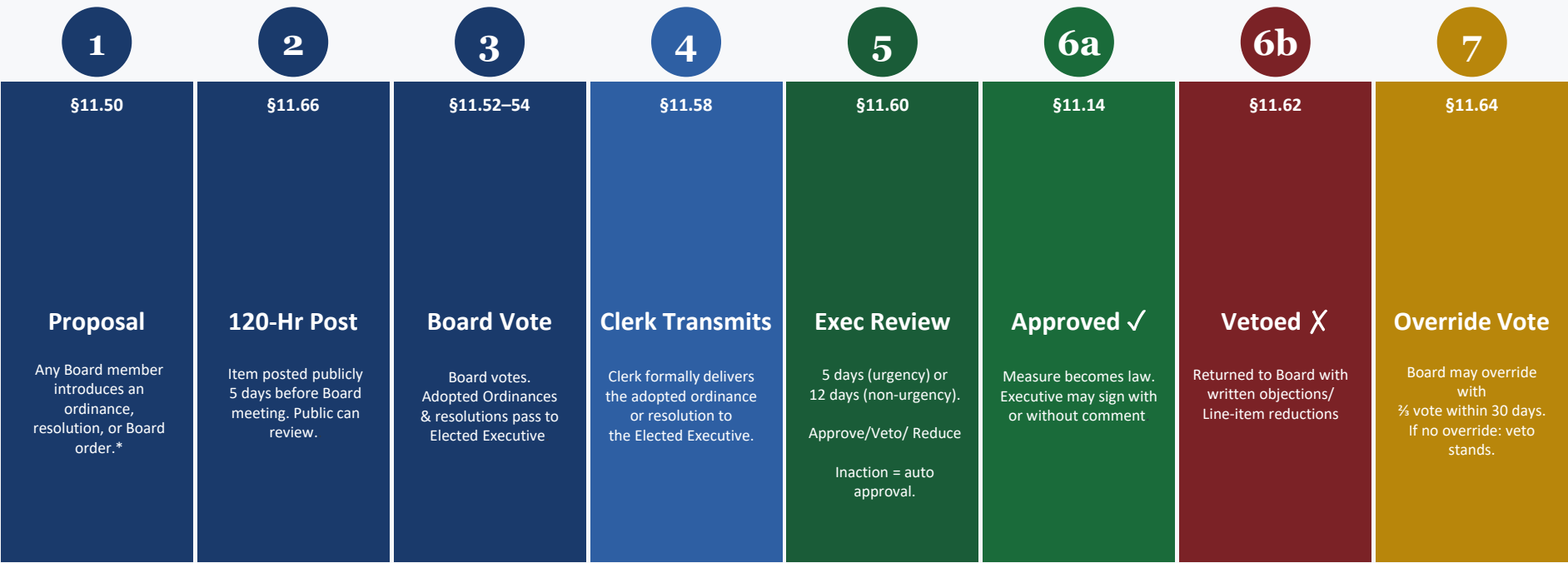
Board orders do not require Executive approval and are not subject to veto unless the Charter specifically provides otherwise.

§11.65

Shared Contracting Authority

The Board exercises contracting authority through Board orders, requiring concurrence of the County Executive.

The Complete Legislative & Veto Process



*Departments can also submit Board letters

Labor Negotiations: Who Sits Across the Table?

BEFORE MEASURE G

Labor negotiations were conducted by Board-appointed staff (CEO or designee).

Negotiating Authority · §11.16

The Elected Executive, or their designee, is the sole representative of the public employer and shall have the duty to negotiate as required by Federal or State law or County ordinance.

MOU Ratification & Appropriations · §10.16

The Board of Supervisors retains exclusive appropriation authority and must adopt appropriations to fund any economic commitments in a negotiated MOU. The Executive negotiates independently; the Board then ratifies and funds - two distinct steps.

Dispute Resolution · §11.16 + ERCOM (§5.04)

The ERCOM framework continues to govern impasse procedures, unfair practice charges, mediation, and fact-finding. Under Measure G, the Elected Executive or their designee handles County-side proceedings, replacing the former CEO-staff role, with charter-level accountability.

Emergency Management: Who Commands the Crisis?

BEFORE MEASURE G

No fixed executive chain of command during a crisis.

Emergency Authority · §11.36

Subject to State law, the Elected Executive is responsible for initiating, coordinating, and directing all County activities related to emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The Executive is designated as the operational area coordinator and Chair of the Emergency Management Council.

Operational Command · §11.8 + §11.10

All executive authority and department supervision vests in the Elected Executive. All officers, departments, and agencies report exclusively to the Executive and are bound by their directives. Note: The Sheriff draws authority from the California Constitution (Art. XI, §1), which limits the charter's ability to subordinate the Sheriff to the Elected Executive during emergencies.



MEASURE G · COUNTY CHARTER REFORM ·
SEPARATION OF POWERS

Thank You

Shadi Kardan, Assistant Executive Officer

Governance Reform Task Force · May 13, 2026

Questions & Discussion