



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles County Ethics Commission

Background

In 2024, Los Angeles County voters passed Measure G, which requires the creation of an independent Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance to promote ethical, transparent, and accountable County government.

The Los Angeles County Ethics Commission is expected to serve as an independent ethics oversight body for the County. The Commission's role includes overseeing and enforcing laws related to campaign financing, lobbying, conflicts of interest, governmental ethics, and related matters; providing strategic oversight of the Office of Ethics Compliance; adopting rules, regulations, policies, complaint procedures, and penalty guidelines; issuing formal opinions; and adjudicating enforcement matters, including making final decisions following administrative hearings and imposing penalties where authorized.

The Office of Ethics Compliance will carry out the Commission's day-to-day work, which includes education and training, advice and guidance, public transparency and disclosure administration, investigations, audits, referrals to other enforcement agencies, and public reporting.

Ethics Commissioners may be asked to review sensitive or complex matters and must exercise independent judgment, fairness, impartiality, and discretion. Commissioners shall not act as representatives of any nominating authority, elected official, organization, or interest group.

The Commission will meet at least six times per calendar year, and meetings will be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Commissioners will need to prepare for meetings, review materials, participate in hearings or other Commission activities, complete required trainings or disclosures, and comply with applicable ethics and service restrictions.

The time commitment is subject to change and may vary based on the Commission's meeting schedule, agenda items, enforcement matters, hearings, subcommittee meetings, preparation time, and other Commission business. Commissioners should expect to spend approximately 5 to 20 hours per month on Commission-related work. During start-up, the time required initially may be greater. Commissioners are expected to receive \$250 per meeting and reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, in accordance with applicable County Code and policies.

Structure of the Ethics Commission

The Los Angeles County Ethics Commission will have seven members. Applications submitted through this process may be reviewed for consideration by the applicable nominating authority and/or the initial Ethics Commission, subject to the final ordinance and formal appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

The appointment structure includes the following nominating authorities:

- **Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) initial nomination / County Executive seat beginning in 2029-** One member will initially be nominated through the GRTF process following a public recruitment and application process. Beginning January 1, 2029, this member will instead be nominated by the elected County Executive. This nominee must have a background in public information and public meetings, community outreach and engagement, or using technology as it relates to open government. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2029.
- **Chair of the Board of Supervisors nomination-** One member will be nominated by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. This nominee must have a background in public policy or public law. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2030.
- **Assessor nomination-** One member will be nominated by the Assessor. This nominee must have a background in campaign finance, accounting, auditing, and compliance with ethics laws in the public or private sector, or protection of whistleblowers. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2027.
- **Commission-nominated public applicant pool-** Once the first three nominees are appointed, the Commission will nominate the remaining four members at a public meeting following a public recruitment and application process, which should include outreach to communities that are underrepresented in the County's political process. These nominees should be broadly representative of the general public, and at least one Commission-nominated member must reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The initial terms for two Commission-nominated seats will expire on June 30, 2028, and the initial terms for the remaining two Commission-nominated seats will expire on June 30, 2031.

After the initial staggered terms, Commissioners will serve five-year terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30. A member who has served a complete five-year term is not eligible for reappointment. If a replacement has not been appointed by the end of a member's term, the member may continue serving in a holdover capacity until a new member is appointed, for a period not to exceed one year.

Nominating authorities shall value lived experience, community leadership, traditional and non-traditional expertise, and working-class accessibility. Nominating authorities and the Board shall consider relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for the County's diverse demographics, to the extent feasible and permissible by law.

Commissioners may also be subject to attendance requirements, including possible vacancy provisions for missed meetings, ceasing to be a county resident, removal, or other circumstances specified by ordinance.

Application Overview

The County of Los Angeles is accepting applications for individuals interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission.

The application period will be open from July 6, 2026, through July 26, 2026.

The information submitted in this application will be used to determine eligibility, qualifications, and suitability for consideration for the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission and for review, nomination, and appointment purposes.

Applications and related materials may be public records subject to disclosure under the California Public

Records Act, except as otherwise protected by law. Application materials may also be reviewed, discussed, displayed, posted, recorded, or otherwise made available as part of a public screening, interview, nomination, or appointment process, including at a public meeting or in materials provided to the GRTF, the Ethics Commission, the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors, or other applicable nominating or appointing authority. Interviews may be recorded for review by applicable nominating or appointing authority.

The review and selection process may include initial screening or narrowing by an ad hoc committee, subcommittee, staff, or other reviewing body. The process may also include use of publicly discussed or approved screening criteria, a rubric, or a narrowing process. Not all applicants will be interviewed or selected as finalists.

Applicants selected as finalists may have their names, application materials, responses, qualifications, and related information released publicly, posted with meeting materials, discussed at a public meeting, and considered during public comment, public interviews, deliberations, nomination, and appointment proceedings.

Finalists may be asked to participate in a public interview before the GRTF or another nominating or appointing authority. Public interviews may be livestreamed, recorded, posted, or otherwise made available to the public. Deliberations regarding applicants, finalists, nominees, rankings, alternates, or recommendations may occur in closed session to the extent permitted by law, and any final recommendation, nomination, or appointment action may be reported or acted upon publicly.

Do not submit Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, financial account numbers, or other personal identifying information that is not requested in this application.

Submitting an application does not guarantee nomination or appointment. Information provided in the application may be used to determine which nominating authority or background requirement may be applicable.

Section 1 - Minimum Requirements

Fields marked with a red asterisk must be completed.

First Name Michael

Middle Name K.

Last Name Woo

Pronouns

Email Address

Primary Phone Number

Home Address

Is your mailing address different from your home address? ☐

Are you currently a resident of Los Angeles County?

In which Supervisorial District do you reside? If you are not sure, please click [here](#) to help determine your supervisorial district in Los Angeles County.

Note: Staff may verify district information as part of the application review process.

Do you reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County? If you are not sure, please click [here](#) to help determine whether your home address is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

Note: At least one Commission-nominated member of the Ethics Commission must reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Staff may verify this information as part of the application review process.

If appointed, are you willing and able to attend Commission meetings, required trainings/orientations, hearings, and related activities, including matters involving ethics, transparency, accountability, compliance, and enforcement?

When are you generally available for Commission meetings?

Do you need accommodation or assistance to participate in the application, interview, orientation, or appointment process?

Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests: Ethics Commissioners will be required to file a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, disclosing financial interests as required by law.

Are you willing to complete and file a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests?

Yes

Section 2 - Disqualifying Interests

Appointment to the Ethics Commission is subject to eligibility requirements and restrictions involving current, planned, or prior activities, roles, or relationships. The following questions are used to help confirm eligibility and identify any issues that may require additional review. A “Yes” or “Not sure” response does not automatically disqualify you, but additional information may be requested.

Are you currently running, or planning to run, for elected office in Los Angeles County or for any other elected office in a jurisdiction that intersects/overlaps with Los Angeles County?

No

In the last two years, have you served as a County elected official?

No

In the last two years, have you been a candidate for County elected office?

No

In the last two years, have you been an immediate family member of a County elected official?

No

Note: For this application, immediate family means spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, or child of a County elected official.

In the last two years, have you served as an employee or paid consultant to a County elected official?

No

In the last two years, have you served as an employee or paid consultant to a candidate for County elected office, or to a campaign committee controlled by a County elected official?

No

In the last two years, have you served as an officer or paid employee of a political party?

No

In the last two years, have you been registered as a County lobbyist?

No

In the last two years, have you qualified as a [“major donor”](#) under the Political Reform Act, generally meaning that you made contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year?

No

In the last two years, have you contributed more than \$1,000 total to one or more candidates for Los Angeles County elected office?

No

Are there any other facts or circumstances that may raise a question about your eligibility or ability to be impartial on the Ethics Commission?

No

Section 3: Required Acknowledgements

If appointed, Ethics Commissioners may be subject to restrictions during service and, in some cases, for one or two years after your service ends, unless preempted or prohibited by law. Please carefully review each statement below and indicate your acknowledgment at the end of this section.

- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from seeking County elected office during my service and for two years after my service ends, and from seeking other elected office in a jurisdiction that overlaps with Los Angeles County during my service, subject to the final ordinance and applicable law.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from serving as an officer or employee of a political party during my service.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from employing, or being employed as, a person required to register as a county lobbyist during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from employment, contractual relationships, gifts, or compensation from County elected officials during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that, if appointed, Ethics Commissioners may be restricted during their service from endorsing, supporting, opposing, contributing to, volunteering for, or working on behalf of any candidate or ballot measure in a County election, or any County elected official running for any elected office, subject to the final ordinance and applicable law.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from receiving a no-bid County contract during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that Ethics Commissioners must exercise independent judgment and not serve as representatives of the person or entity involved in their nomination or appointment.
- I understand that, in connection with Commission-nominated seats, Commission members may be subject to a no-contact rule prohibiting communications with County elected officials or their agents about whom the Commission should nominate, except through public comment at a Commission meeting.

Acknowledgement

Yes, I acknowledge all of the statements above.

Section 4 - Background and Experience

Please keep responses brief and focused. The questions below are intended to help identify whether applicants have background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge in areas identified for the Ethics Commission’s appointment structure. Applicants are not required to select a nominating authority or appointment category.

Why are you interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission?

Public confidence in institutions is on the decline at all levels. The perception of pervasive unethical conduct is one of the main reasons why public confidence in institutions is low. I am uniquely qualified for the County Ethics Commission because I led the L.A. City Council's response to allegations of governmental corruption and played a leadership role building public support for Proposition H enacting the City's state-of-the-art ethics ordinance and establishing the City's Ethics Commission.

Open Government, Public Information, and Public Engagement. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.

- Public information
- Public meetings
- Community outreach and engagement

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

I served eight years as a Member of the Los Angeles City Council, chairing the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Governmental Ethics that produced a sweeping ethics ordinance ultimately approved by City voters in 1990. In that role, I worked closely with a blue-ribbon commission of community leaders and reform advocates and steered the ordinance through a politically fraught process in the City Council. I was a Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner for six years. I have extensive experience as a board member of many nonprofit and community organizations, including chairing the boards of Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA), and Smart Growth America.

Public Policy and Public Law. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.

- Public policy

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

As a Member of the Los Angeles City Council, I was engaged in the whole range of municipal topics including land use, transportation, infrastructure, finance, law enforcement, public safety, and services. I have been a candidate for public office which has given me an acute awareness of the pressures and temptations that can lead to ethical dilemmas. I have taught college-level courses that introduced ethical issues to students.

Campaign Finance, Accounting, Auditing, Ethics Compliance, and Whistleblower Protection. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.

- Campaign finance
- Ethics compliance in the public or private sector
- Protection of whistleblowers

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

My experience in campaign finance relates directly to my experience as a candidate for public office at both the municipal and state levels, directly involved in fund solicitation and working with fundraising consultants. As chair of the L.A. City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Governmental Ethics in 1990, I worked closely with some of the top legal experts and leading ethics reform advocates of the day and was directly involved in negotiating provisions of the City's ethics ordinance with Councilmembers who had concerns about compliance procedures and public financing of campaigns.

What expertise, analytical skills, community leadership or involvement, lived experiences, traditional or non-traditional expertise, or other perspectives would you bring to the Ethics Commission? In your response, please discuss any experience you have with ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, transparency, accountability, or government oversight laws, as well as how your professional, volunteer, educational, community, or life experiences would help you effectively serve as a Commissioner. (Desirable qualifications)

My integral role in the development of the City of L.A. ethics ordinance would enable me to bring a unique combination of attributes to the County Ethics Commission. I was directly involved in negotiating the structure of the City's Ethics Commission and the ordinance's restrictions on elected officials and city employees. My eight years as a Councilman gave me direct experience "in the arena" of public life, including fundraising, interaction with lobbyists and civil servants, and scrutiny from media.

As a Commissioner, you may be required to evaluate evidence, determine whether a person violated an ethics or campaign finance law, and, if so, decide whether a monetary penalty should be imposed. Please describe your ability to exercise independent judgment and act impartially and fairly when evaluating information and making decisions. If applicable, provide examples from your professional, volunteer, community, or personal experiences. (Desirable qualifications)

As a Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner for six years, I served in a quasi-judicial role making decisions in land use cases that required independent judgment and objective evaluation. While most City Planning Commission cases were non-controversial, there were some instances when I was the sole Commissioner voting "no" or consciously chose to cast a vote that disagreed with the position of the authority who appointed me to the Commission.

Los Angeles County is one of the most diverse counties in the nation. Please describe your appreciation for the County's diverse demographics and how that appreciation would inform your service as a Commissioner. You may include examples from your professional, volunteer, educational, community, or life experiences, including any experience serving, engaging with, or working alongside diverse communities in Los Angeles County. (Desirable qualifications)

The most relevant example of my appreciation for diversity is my track record as the Councilmember representing the City of L.A.'s 13th Council District (Hollywood and surrounding neighborhoods). Reflecting the district's diversity, over 40 separate languages and dialects were spoken in the high schools in the district. Although my election marked the first time an Asian American was elected to the City's governing body, Asian Americans comprised only a small fraction of the constituency I was seeking to represent. It was clear to me that I could succeed only if I could put together a diverse coalition of support. For example, I spoke Armenian (not my native language) in a cable TV ad. I worked with leaders of the gay and lesbian community at a time when City services were not adapted to residents who did not fit a conventional heterosexual lifestyle. I helped the LAPD adapt its recruitment programs to hire more women and minorities. Perhaps most notably, on two of the most contentious issues facing Los Angeles, my leadership broke through conventional stereotypes when I (1) proposed a resolution proclaiming Los Angeles to be a "sanctuary city" for political refugees and (2) became the first City elected official to call for the resignation of LAPD Chief Daryl Gates after the Rodney King beating. I learned how to transcend my personal background by reaching out to my diverse constituents and becoming an effective advocate for their concerns.

List any County, city, state, nonprofit, community, civic, advisory, professional, or other boards, commissions, committees, or organizations on which you currently serve or previously served. Include offices held, if any. If none, write "N/A."

Los Angeles City Council (1985-1993)
Los Angeles City Planning Commission
Smart Growth America (Board Chair)
Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (Board Chair)
Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center (Governing Board Chair)
The 1871 Memorial Project (President and Project Director -- CURRENT)
Save the Redwoods League (Board)
The Nature Conservancy, California Chapter (Board)
Parks California (Board Vice Chair-Elect -- CURRENT)
Lingnan Foundation (Board)
Zócalo Public Square (Advisory Board Chair -- CURRENT)
KCRW Foundation (Board)
TreePeople (Board)
California Coalition for Public Higher Education (Board)
Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE) (Board)
Los Angeles Conservancy (Board)

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

Please provide up to three professional, civic, community, or personal references who can speak to your experience, qualifications, community leadership, judgment, impartiality, or other background relevant to service on the Ethics Commission.

Name	Relationship to Applicant	Organization (if applicable)	Phone	Email
Geoffrey Cowan	Ethics code advisor	Chair, Commission to Draft an Ethics Code for Los Angeles City Government		
William Deverell	Advisor on Los Angeles history	Director, Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West		

Name	Relationship to Applicant	Organization (if applicable)	Phone	Email
Prof. Fernando Guerra	Advisor on community issues	Director, Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University		

You may upload a resume, cover letter, or personal statement using the upload button below. Uploading a document is optional and is not required for your application to be considered. Uploaded documents will be considered part of your application materials and may be subject to the public records and public process disclosures described in this application.

 Woo.Resume at a Glance.2026.docx

Section 5 - Optional Voluntary Information

The County of Los Angeles seeks broad, inclusive, and diverse participation on its commissions and public bodies. The following information is voluntary. It will be used only to help understand the overall diversity and representativeness of the applicant pool and Commission composition, consistent with applicable law. You may select "Prefer not to say" for any question.

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Race / Ethnicity

Gender Identity

Disability Status

Section 6 - Certification and Signature

Certification

By signing below, I certify and acknowledge that:

- I have read and understand the application instructions.
- I certify that the information I provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that incomplete applications may not be considered.
- I understand that submission of an application does not guarantee nomination or appointment.
- I understand that the County may verify the information I provided and may contact other entities or persons to confirm information relevant to my application.
- I understand that my application, reference information, uploaded documents, interview materials, and related materials may be public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act, except as otherwise protected by law. I also understand that, if I am selected as a finalist, my name, application materials, responses, qualifications, interview, and related information may be released publicly, posted with meeting materials, discussed at a public meeting, considered during public comment, livestreamed, recorded, or otherwise made available as part of a screening, interview, deliberation, nomination, or appointment process.
- I understand that, if nominated or appointed, I may be required to complete additional forms, disclosures, ethics training, onboarding requirements, or conflict-of-interest review.
- I understand that, if appointed, I must comply with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances, and service restrictions governing Ethics Commissioners.

Printed Name Michael K. Woo

Signature

Date Friday, July 24, 2026

Michael Woo Glance

Résumé at a

Successful leadership roles in complex institutional settings

Dean Emeritus, College of Environmental Design, California State Polytechnic University, 2009 – 2019. Became the longest-serving college dean at Cal Poly Pomona and the first urban planner to be Dean of the College of Environmental Design, responsible for overseeing undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture, art history, interior architecture, landscape architecture, regenerative studies, urban and regional planning, and visual communication design. Restored stability after several volatile years in the college following the economic downturn of 2008 – 2009. Raised the largest single cash gift in the history of the college (\$2.5 million) and worked with faculty to spend \$1.9 million for upgrading architecture model shop technology and instituting new lecture series and visiting fellowship programs. Elevated public profile of college by initiating overhaul of website and launching a new college magazine. Led and completed new college strategic planning process. Initiated and supervised preparation of new report on the future of jobs and careers in the environmental design disciplines. Facilitated authorization and hiring of two new transportation faculty positions in Department of Urban and Regional Planning in 2019.

Member, Los Angeles City Council, 13th Council District (Hollywood, Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Studio City, Sherman Oaks), 1985 – 1993. First trained urban planner and first Asian American elected to the city's governing body. Initiated the Hollywood Redevelopment Plan that laid the policy, financial, and legal framework for Hollywood's current revitalization. Authored the ethics reform law that limited campaign spending, established a system of limited public financing of campaigns, and closed conflict of interest loopholes for officials and employees. Played a key role choosing the routes and station locations for the Metro Red Line subway. Represented City of Los Angeles on the L.A. County Transportation Commission (transportation planning agency that preceded creation of L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority). Chaired Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee and served as vice chair of the City Council Transportation and Traffic Committee.

Nonprofit and community leadership roles

President and Project Director, The 1871 Memorial Project, 2023 - ____. Volunteer executive of nonprofit entity created to raise funds and build community support for the proposed memorial to the massacre of 18 Chinese men at the hands of an angry mob in Los Angeles in 1871 (the largest massacre of Chinese in California history and the largest mass killing of any kind in Los Angeles history).

Chair, Board of Directors, Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA), 1995 – 2015. Helped to build the Hollywood Farmers Market into the city's largest certified farmers market and oversaw the leadership transition from the organization's founder to a successor executive director.

Member, Parks Forward Commission, 2013 – 2016. Blue-ribbon commission funded by major California foundations to plan for the future of the California State Parks system, including diversifying the population of state parks users. Oversaw project to involve Cal Poly Pomona students in creating innovative designs for cabins to attract millennials and urban residents to camp in state parks.

Chair, Board of Directors, Smart Growth America, 2006 – 2013. Led the organization's process for recruiting a new executive director to succeed the founding executive director.

Member, Los Angeles City Planning Commission, 2005 – 2012. Drew commission's attention to health threats of residents breathing polluted freeway air and proposed new emphasis on transit-oriented development, new approaches to off-street parking requirements, and alternatives to reliance on automobile use.

Chair, Governing Board, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, 1998 – 2010. Advised hospital administration during a crisis involving leadership of the hospital's medical staff.

Participation in numerous nonprofit organization boards, including California Food Policy Advocates, California Coalition for Public Higher Education, Save the Redwoods League, The Nature Conservancy (California Chapter), Water Solutions Network (Advisory Board), TreePeople, KCRW Foundation, the Llnghan Foundation, and the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE).

Education and honors

Planning Pioneer Award from American Planning Association, California and Los Angeles Chapters, 2020. (Disposition of national Planning Pioneer award pending.)

Fellow, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Fall 1993.

Master of City Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 1975. **B.A., Politics and Urban Studies** (independent major), Cowell College, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1973.

References, writing samples, and a more comprehensive Curriculum Vitae available upon request.