EXECUTIVE OFFICE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Friday, July 17, 2026

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 Jennifer

Last Name Farrell

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? Yes

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.

Yes

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? Yes

When are you generally available for Commission meetings? Either

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

2

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?

Not sure

Please explain

I currently serve as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC), a nonpartisan nonprofit organization. LWVC currently serves as a co-chair organization on two statewide ballot initiative campaigns regarding statewide propositions that will appear on the November 2026 ballot. The first is the campaign for Prop 4, which would remove the ban on public financing. The second is the campaign against Prop 39, which would add new voter ID requirements to California elections. Neither I as an individual nor LWVC as an organization is being paid to participate in either of these campaigns. I personally have spent a minimal amount of time on these initiatives (average of five hours/month). Any time spent on these initiatives is recorded and reported to the FPPC as required.

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.

4

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?

As a fourth-generation Angeleno, I care deeply about Los Angeles County and have long been drawn to public service as a way to help strengthen the community that has given so much to my family. Throughout my career as a public interest attorney and nonprofit leader, I have worked to ensure that government and public institutions serve people fairly, transparently, and with integrity. Today, as Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I lead a nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting good governance, protecting voting rights, and strengthening public confidence in our democratic institutions. I believe the new Los Angeles County Ethics Commission represents an extraordinary opportunity to help build a culture of accountability, transparency, and ethical leadership from the ground up. I would be honored to contribute my legal training, analytical skills, collaborative approach, and longstanding commitment to public service to help ensure that County government earns and maintains the trust of the communities it serves.

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
- Technology as it relates to open government

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

Public information: Throughout my career, I have been responsible for ensuring that members of the public receive accurate, accessible, and timely information about important public issues. As Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I serve as the chief spokesperson for a statewide nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting democracy and promoting informed civic participation. In that role, I regularly communicate complex legal and policy issues to the public through interviews with national, state, and local media, public presentations, written communications, social media, and educational materials. I have also overseen the development of voter education resources, public awareness campaigns, and organizational communications designed to help Californians better understand their government and participate meaningfully in our democracy. These resources, including the Easy Voter Guide and the Vote 411 website, go through a robust community review process to ensure that the language is clear, accurate, and accessible.

Public meetings: I have extensive experience participating in and leading public meetings involving government officials, nonprofit boards, community organizations, and members of the public. In my current role, I regularly provide testimony before legislative bodies and governmental entities on issues involving voting rights, election administration, and good governance, and I frequently present to community organizations, civic groups, and professional associations throughout California. I also work closely with the League's statewide Board of Directors, facilitate board and committee meetings, and regularly collaborate with elected officials, county election administrators, advocacy organizations, and coalition partners to advance policy solutions.

Community Outreach and Engagement: Community engagement has been a defining feature of my career. I have spent more than twenty years building partnerships among nonprofit organizations, government agencies, community leaders, philanthropic organizations, volunteers, and residents to advance the public good. As Executive Director of both the League of Women Voters of California and, previously, Mental Health Advocacy Services, I have worked extensively with diverse communities throughout Los Angeles County and across California to identify community needs, develop collaborative solutions, and build trust across differing perspectives. My work has included recruiting and developing diverse boards and

volunteers, organizing educational events, conducting public outreach campaigns, cultivating partnerships with community-based organizations, and ensuring that historically underrepresented voices are included in civic decision-making. I believe meaningful community engagement requires listening as much as speaking, and I have sought throughout my career to bring people together around shared values of fairness, accountability, and public service.

Technology as it relates to open government: Throughout my career, I have leveraged technology to increase transparency, improve public access to information, and strengthen organizational accountability. As Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I oversee digital communications, online voter education resources, virtual trainings, social media outreach, and technology platforms that help Californians access accurate election information and engage in civic life. I have also overseen organizational systems designed to improve transparency, financial oversight, and operational accountability. During my tenure at Mental Health Advocacy Services, I led a comprehensive modernization of the organization's technology infrastructure, including implementation of a cloud-based case management system and other operational technologies that improved efficiency, recordkeeping, collaboration, and accountability. I appreciate the important role technology plays in promoting open government by making information more accessible, increasing transparency, improving public participation, and fostering public trust, while also recognizing the importance of protecting privacy, data security, and the integrity of public records.

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

Public law

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

Public policy: Throughout my career, I have worked at the intersection of public policy, law, and public service. As Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I oversee the organization's statewide public policy and advocacy efforts on issues relating to voting rights, election administration, campaign finance, government transparency, and democratic governance. I regularly analyze proposed legislation, ballot measures, regulations, and court decisions; work collaboratively with legislators, government officials, coalition partners, and community organizations; and help develop policy positions grounded in research, legal analysis, and the League's longstanding nonpartisan principles. I also provide testimony before legislative bodies and other governmental entities and frequently educate the public about complex policy issues affecting Californians. Earlier in my career, I similarly worked to advance public policy on issues including access to justice, mental health, domestic violence, environmental protection, and consumer rights. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the importance of thoughtful policymaking, evidence-based decision-making, and public accountability.

Public Law: I have devoted my legal career to public interest law and public service. I earned my Juris Doctor from the USC Gould School of Law, where I was recognized as Public Interest Student of the Year and received the Mason C. Brown Award for my commitment to public service. During law school, I externed with the Environmental Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office, clerked in the Major Crimes Unit of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and represented incarcerated individuals through the USC Post-Conviction Justice Project. Since becoming a member of the State Bar of California, I have practiced law in both private and nonprofit settings, representing clients in complex civil litigation before transitioning into leadership roles focused on advancing access to justice, protecting voting rights, and strengthening democratic institutions. My work requires me to regularly analyze constitutional, statutory, regulatory, and administrative legal issues, while balancing legal requirements with sound public policy and ethical governance.

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

Accounting

Auditing

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.

Campaign Finance: As Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I have developed substantial knowledge of campaign finance laws and regulations through my oversight of the organization's advocacy and ballot measure activities. I currently co-chair statewide ballot measure campaigns and regularly analyze campaign finance disclosure requirements, contribution rules, reporting obligations, and the role campaign finance laws play in promoting transparency and public confidence in government. Although the League is a nonpartisan organization and does not endorse candidates or political parties, we actively engage in ballot measure advocacy and must maintain rigorous compliance with applicable campaign finance laws and reporting requirements.

Accounting: While I am not a professional accountant, I have extensive executive-level experience overseeing nonprofit finances and ensuring sound fiscal stewardship. As Executive Director of both the League of Women Voters of California and Mental Health Advocacy Services, I have been responsible for organizational budgeting, financial planning, financial reporting, internal controls, grant compliance, and transparent fiscal oversight. I work closely with finance staff, outside accountants, auditors, finance committees, and boards of directors to review financial statements, monitor organizational performance, ensure compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, and safeguard organizational assets. My role requires careful review and interpretation of financial information to support informed governance and responsible decision-making.

Auditing: Throughout my nonprofit leadership career, I have worked closely with independent auditors and board audit and finance committees to ensure organizational accountability, compliance, and sound governance. My responsibilities have included overseeing annual financial audits, reviewing audited financial statements and management letters, monitoring implementation of auditor recommendations, maintaining strong internal controls, and ensuring compliance with grant requirements and nonprofit regulatory obligations.

Ethics Compliance in the Public or Private Sector: Ethics, integrity, and public accountability have been central themes throughout my professional career. As a licensed California attorney and Executive Director of multiple nonprofit organizations, I have been responsible for fostering ethical organizational cultures, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, managing conflicts of interest, and promoting transparency and accountability in governance and decision-making. My current role leading the League of Women Voters of California has deepened my understanding of governmental ethics, campaign finance, conflicts of interest, and good governance through our work on election administration, government reform, and public accountability. I have also advised boards of directors on governance issues, developed organizational policies, and worked to ensure that decisions are made fairly, transparently, and in the best interests of the public and the organizations I serve.

Protection of Whistleblowers: Throughout my legal and nonprofit leadership career, I have worked to create environments where individuals can safely raise concerns and where organizations respond appropriately, fairly, and in accordance with the law. As Executive Director, I have overseen human resources functions, organizational policies, and governance practices designed to promote accountability, protect confidentiality where appropriate, and ensure that concerns regarding misconduct or legal compliance are taken seriously. At both Mental Health Advocacy Services and the League of Women Voters of California, I drafted and implemented comprehensive whistleblower policies that establish clear procedures for reporting suspected misconduct and protect individuals who report concerns in good faith from retaliation. Under both policies, I serve as the designated individual to whom employees, board members, and others may report concerns regarding suspected misconduct by staff or Board members. (The policies further provide that any concerns involving my own conduct should be reported directly to the President of the Board of Directors.)

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)

I would bring to the Ethics Commission a unique combination of legal training, executive leadership, governance expertise, and a lifelong commitment to public service. As both a community leader and a parent raising the fifth generation of my family in Los Angeles County, I am personally invested in helping ensure that our public institutions remain worthy of the public's trust for generations to come. Throughout my career, I have worked to strengthen public institutions by promoting transparency, accountability, fairness, and public trust. As Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California, I lead one of the state's oldest and most respected nonpartisan good-government organizations, where I regularly engage with issues involving election administration, campaign finance, lobbying, government transparency, ethics, and democratic governance. I work collaboratively with elected officials, government agencies, coalition partners, and community organizations to develop thoughtful, evidence-based solutions that strengthen our democratic institutions while maintaining the League's longstanding commitment to impartiality and nonpartisanship.

Throughout my career, I have also sought to serve as a community leader dedicated to expanding access to justice and improving the lives of some of our most vulnerable neighbors. At the Survivor Justice Center (formerly the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice), I helped lead an organization providing free legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, working closely with community organizations, law enforcement, the courts, and pro bono attorneys to help survivors rebuild their lives. Later, as Executive Director of Mental Health Advocacy Services, I had the privilege of leading a legal aid organization operating at the intersection of mental health and the law, protecting the rights of low-income children and adults living with mental health disabilities. That work reinforced for me the importance of ensuring that public systems operate with fairness, compassion, and accountability, particularly for individuals whose voices are too often overlooked. Throughout these roles, I have worked collaboratively with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, community-based organizations, philanthropic partners, and volunteers to solve complex problems that no single institution can address alone.

My background as both a public interest attorney and nonprofit executive has also given me extensive experience overseeing organizational governance, developing ethics and whistleblower policies, managing conflicts of interest, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and working closely with boards of directors to promote sound governance and accountability. I have overseen complex budgets, independent audits, financial reporting, and internal controls, while also serving as the chief public spokesperson for organizations whose credibility depends upon the public's trust. These experiences have reinforced my belief that ethical leadership is built not only on enforcing rules when misconduct occurs, but also on fostering a culture of integrity, transparency, education, and accountability that helps prevent problems before they arise.

My commitment to public service is also deeply personal. My years leading Mental Health Advocacy Services were especially meaningful because my own family has been profoundly affected by mental illness. Having lost a family member to suicide and having walked alongside other family members and close friends living with serious mental illness, I understand firsthand both the challenges people face in navigating public systems and the extraordinary difference that compassionate, ethical, and accountable institutions can make in people's lives. Those experiences have strengthened my empathy, resilience, and commitment to ensuring that public institutions treat every person with dignity, fairness, and respect.

Outside of my professional work, I have long believed that leadership begins with serving one's own community. I have served as both an Elder and a Deacon in my church, have been actively involved in my kids' public elementary school through service on the School Site Council, and have always sought opportunities to contribute to the communities where I live. I also bring the perspective of a working mother raising two young sons. Like many parents across Los Angeles County, my days often begin with packing school lunches before heading to work and my weekends are spent cheering from the sidelines of youth soccer games and making sure the team has enough snacks and water. Balancing a demanding professional career with the everyday responsibilities of raising a family has given me a practical understanding of the challenges facing working families throughout our County and has reinforced the importance of public institutions that operate efficiently, ethically, and with an appreciation for the realities of people's daily lives.

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)

Throughout my career as both an attorney and nonprofit executive, I have been called upon to make difficult decisions that require careful analysis, sound judgment, and a commitment to fairness. My legal training taught me to evaluate evidence objectively, consider competing arguments, identify weaknesses in my own assumptions, and apply governing rules to the facts rather than allowing personal preferences or outside pressures to dictate an outcome. Whether overseeing litigation, organizational governance, personnel matters, or public policy decisions, I have consistently sought to approach each issue with an open mind, a careful review of the evidence, and a willingness to change my views if the facts warrant it.

One of the qualities that colleagues most frequently tell me they value is my willingness to ask difficult questions and challenge assumptions, even when doing so is uncomfortable. In the many coalitions, boards, and leadership groups in which I participate, I often play the role of devil's advocate - not because I enjoy disagreeing, but because I believe better decisions are made when ideas are thoroughly tested from every angle. I have frequently been the person willing to voice the concern or alternative perspective that others are thinking but are hesitant to raise. Rather than viewing this as disruptive, colleagues have often told me they appreciate having someone who is willing to ask the hard questions, identify potential unintended consequences, and ensure that decisions are fully considered before moving forward. I have learned that true independence does not mean being contrarian for its own sake - it means being willing to reach the conclusion that the evidence supports, even when that conclusion is unpopular or contrary to the prevailing view. I believe this willingness to thoughtfully challenge consensus, while remaining respectful and collaborative, is essential to independent decision-making.

My career has also required me to evaluate situations involving ethical obligations, conflicts of interest, organizational compliance, and allegations of misconduct. As Executive Director, I have developed and implemented ethics and whistleblower policies, overseen investigations into workplace concerns, advised boards of directors on governance matters, and been responsible for ensuring that decisions are made fairly, consistently, and in accordance with organizational policies and applicable law. I have also had the difficult responsibility of making employment decisions, including terminating employees when warranted. While many of those decisions involved performance issues, I have also had to terminate employment when employees violated organizational policies, including instances involving dishonesty and falsification of time records. Those experiences reinforced for me that accountability requires consistency. Rules must be applied fairly regardless of how difficult the decision may be or how much one likes or respects the individual involved. Similarly, on one occasion a research paper evaluating a program in which my organization participated reached conclusions that were generally favorable to the program, but I believed the narrative overstated what the underlying data actually demonstrated. Although allowing the paper to stand would have reflected more positively on the program, I insisted that it be revised to accurately reflect the evidence, even if doing so resulted in a less favorable assessment. For me, credibility depends upon intellectual honesty. These experiences have reinforced my commitment to protecting due process, carefully evaluating all available information, and ensuring that every individual is treated fairly, regardless of the outcome.

I also recognize that impartiality requires more than simply avoiding bias - it requires the discipline to acknowledge one's own assumptions and remain open to being persuaded by evidence. Throughout my career, I have worked with people across the political spectrum and from many different backgrounds while leading organizations that depend upon public trust and nonpartisanship. I have learned that credibility is earned by applying the same standards to everyone, listening carefully before reaching conclusions, explaining decisions transparently, and being willing to make difficult or unpopular decisions when the facts and the law require it.

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)

Los Angeles County's diversity is one of its greatest strengths. Our County is home to people from every corner of the world, representing countless cultures, languages, faith traditions, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, and life experiences. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working alongside many of these communities, and those experiences have profoundly shaped both my leadership and my understanding of what it means for government to serve the public fairly. I have learned that while people may come from very different backgrounds, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and equal consideration under the law.

Much of my professional life has been dedicated to serving communities that have historically faced barriers to accessing justice and government institutions. At the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (now the Survivor Justice Center), I worked for many years in East Los Angeles, partnering with a predominantly immigrant, Spanish-speaking community to provide free legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. That experience taught me the importance of meeting people where they are, listening carefully to their experiences, and recognizing how language, culture, economic circumstances, and past interactions with government can shape the way individuals engage with public institutions. It also reinforced that building trust requires consistency, respect, and a willingness to listen before acting.

Later, as Executive Director of Mental Health Advocacy Services, I had the privilege of leading a legal aid organization dedicated to protecting the rights of low-income adults and children living with mental health and other disabilities. Working alongside individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, and community organizations deepened my appreciation for the many ways that government systems can either remove barriers or unintentionally create them. It also reinforced the importance of ensuring that public institutions are accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of all residents, including those whose voices are too often overlooked. Finally, throughout my career as a legal aid attorney and nonprofit leader, I have worked extensively with low-income communities across Los Angeles County and have seen firsthand how ethical, accountable government can have a meaningful impact on people's daily lives.

If appointed to the Ethics Commission, I would not approach diversity as a box to check, but as an essential component of good governance. Public trust depends on every resident believing that they will be treated fairly, that the same ethical standards apply equally to everyone, and that decisions are made based on the facts and the law - not on status, wealth, political influence, or personal background. My commitment would be to ensure that every person appearing before the Commission is treated with fairness, dignity, impartiality, and respect, while remaining mindful of the rich diversity of experiences that make Los Angeles County such a remarkable place to call home.

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."

Executive Director, League of Women Voters of California (2025-Present)

Executive Director, Mental Health Advocacy Services (2019-2025)

Director of External Relations, Survivor Justice Center (2014-2018)

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
Carmen McDonald	Colleague	Survivor Justice Center		
Darius Kemp	Coalition Partner	California Common Cause		
Lauren Cruz	Board Member	Mental Health Advocacy Services		

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.

5

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 Jennifer Farrell

Signature

Date Friday, July 17, 2026

JENNY FARRELL, ESQ.

EXPERIENCE

2025 - Present

Executive Director | League of Women Voters of California | Statewide

- Head of nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights, build grassroots power in our communities, and ensure that everyone is represented in our democracy.
- Work collaboratively with the Board of Directors to enhance the current vision and policies of the League.
- Serve as chief public spokesperson for a statewide democracy advocacy organization, regularly securing and responding to media coverage across national, state, and local print and digital outlets on voting rights and threats to democratic institutions.
- Provide expert testimony before Congress and other governmental bodies on voting rights, election policy, and barriers to participation, elevating the organization's profile as a trusted national voice on democracy issues.
- Lead direct advocacy efforts with elected officials and policymakers at the state and federal levels to advance legislation and policy reforms that expand voter access.
- Co-chair statewide ballot initiative campaigns, including efforts to defeat restrictive voter ID measures and advance public financing of elections, coordinating strategy across coalition partners, communications, and grassroots mobilization.
- Manage all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the League including staff management, internal and external communications, finance, and administration.
- Manage systems, policies, and procedures that ensure cost-effective management, accurate budgeting, and transparent fiscal oversight.
- Maintain financial controls and work with the Board of Directors and financial officers to ensure best accounting practices are followed.
- Function as organization's Development Director, driving and implementing a full range of fundraising initiatives that ensure diverse sources of contributed income.
- Actively identify, cultivate, solicit, and steward major gifts from individuals, foundation grantors, corporate grantors, and family foundations and personally maintain a portfolio of these prospects and donors.
- Manage grants administration.

2019 - 2025

Executive Director | Mental Health Advocacy Services | Los Angeles, CA

- Head of legal aid organization whose mission is to protect and advance the legal rights of low-income adults and children with mental health disabilities and empower them to assert those rights to maximize their autonomy, achieve equity, and secure the resources they need to thrive.

- Lead all development, fundraising, and marketing initiatives for organization and executed a series of year-round strategies to help the organization identify, evaluate, cultivate, solicit, and steward increased philanthropic revenues from private fundraising sources. Established and maintained strong personal relationships with key donors, including several foundations, corporations, law firms, and individual donors.
- Oversaw and improved organizational operations and infrastructure, leading efforts to refine internal systems—including finance, HR, and administrative workflows—to support a high-impact, high-functioning nonprofit with a focus on efficiency, accountability, and mission alignment.
- Served as chief spokesperson for the organization with media, community partners, elected officials, and other external stakeholders and oversaw all policy work and impact litigation that the organization participates in to promote greater access to justice for individuals with disabilities.
- Oversaw the strategic plan of the organization. Developed new mission, vision, and core values statement as part of current strategic plan. Tripled the organization's budget and staff size during tenure.
- Directly supervised Director of Administration & Finance, Director of Legal Services, and Development & IT Manager. Strong developer of team, strong recruiter, and champion for the professional development of others.
- Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee made up of Board and Staff members that met monthly to pursue a series of strategies aimed at embedding diversity, equity and inclusion values and practices in all aspects of the organization including board membership, programs and services, policies, employment, and fundraising.
- In partnership with the Director of Finance and the Board of Directors, responsible for planning and operating the annual budget and work plan, ensuring program work was performed properly and in compliance with funder requirements.
- Oversaw all HR functions at a high level and personally oversaw any HR issues. Developed new team leadership and management structure at the organization and recruited new, diverse leaders into management roles.
- Developed and maintained strategic partnerships with key stakeholders including philanthropic organizations, government entities, and community groups. In partnership with NLS-LA, launched new behavioral health-legal and other partnerships with multiple mental health centers and other community-based organizations throughout Los Angeles County.
- Worked closely and in partnership with the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Grew the Board of Directors from 10 to 24 engaged and diverse members committed to the organization's mission, vision, and long-term success.
- Oversaw complete overhaul of organization's IT infrastructure including implementation of new, cloud-based case management system and other organization software.

2014 - 2018

Director of External Relations | Survivor Justice Center | Los Angeles, CA

- Served in hybrid role as Development Director, Communications Director, and Pro Bono and Volunteer Director (including law students) for a legal aid organization serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

- Oversaw all private fundraising with a particular focus on individual donors, major donors, peer-to-peer fundraising, corporate outreach, and law firm sponsorships.
- Developed, planned, and executed all organization special events including luncheons, trainings, education events, social events, and the Annual Awards Gala.
- Recruited, trained, and mentored both law and social work student volunteers in public interest law with a focus on immigration, family law, and community care advocacy.
- Worked closely with the Board of Directors to recruit new members and to increase fundraising capacity and overall engagement with organization.
- Created and lead a new Leadership Council to increase financial and volunteer resources for organization's core services and to raise awareness of organization among leaders in the legal, businesses, and philanthropic communities.
- Developed and maintained relationships with external partners including law firms, law schools, business, government officials, and other social service and legal service agencies.
- Supervised and managed all development personnel including Development & Communications Associate and Grant Writer.
- Oversaw all organizational communications including website, quarterly e-newsletter, direct mail appeals, and social media posts.
- Recruited, trained, and mentored *pro bono* attorneys and supervised the screening and placement of family law and immigration cases with these attorneys.

2011 - 2014

Attorney | Panish Shea & Boyle LLP | Los Angeles, CA

- Litigated complex personal injury, wrongful death, product defect, and police brutality cases on behalf of individuals and consumers.
- Obtained favorable results through trial and settlement, successfully recovering millions of dollars for clients in lawsuits against negligent individuals, public entitles, and corporations.
- Represented the family of a world-famous celebrity alongside a team of attorneys from three firms in his family's wrongful death lawsuit against his concert promoter.

2006 - 2008

International Recruiter | International Medical Corps | Los Angeles, CA

- Attracted, sourced, and identified candidates for employment with international humanitarian NGO that focuses on relieving the suffering of those impacted by war, natural disaster, and disease by delivering vital health care services.
- Staffed all programs in the Middle East and all mental health programs servicing refugee populations in areas of conflict and extreme poverty.
- Managed recruitment and deployment of all Emergency Response Volunteers in the US.

2003 - 2006

Citizen Outreach Director | Environment California | Los Angeles, CA

- Directed telephone fundraising office that raised $3.5 million in three years.
- Recruited, trained, and managed a staff of over forty callers and three assistant directors.
- Organized and held press conferences on solar power, ocean conservation, and pesticides.
- Lobbied elected officials in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C.

EDUCATION

May 2011

J.D. | USC Gould School of Law | Los Angeles, CA

- Externed in Environmental Crimes Unit, US Attorney's office. Assisted Assistant US Attorneys in prosecution of environmental felony crimes.
- Clerked in Major Crimes Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Assisted Deputy District Attorney in prosecution of cold case homicides.
- Student in USC Post-Conviction Justice Project. Successfully represented two women serving life sentences at California Institution for Women at their parole hearings and in other post-conviction appeals.
- Recognized as Public Interest Student of the Year, 2010 – 2011.
- Awarded the 2011 Mason C. Brown Award in recognition of demonstrated commitment to public service endeavors and a special aptitude for trial work.
- Hale Moot Court Honors Program Co-Champion, 2010.
- Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition, Winner of Best Brief Award, 2010.

May 2003

B.A. | Smith College | Northampton, MA

- Graduated *Cum Laude* with a major in Government/Political Science.
- Dean's List, 1999-2003
- Sole recipient of Award for Outstanding Contribution to the College Community, 2003.
- Spent junior year as student of Université de Genève in Geneva, Switzerland

BAR ADMISSION

State Bar of California, 2011 (No. 280142, active)