



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE REFORM TASK FORCE
EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON RECREATION AREA
905 E. EL SEGUNDO BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90059



*Teleconference Location:
Hotel Lombardy
Room 206
2019 Pennsylvania Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20006

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025, 5:00 P.M.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Land Acknowledgment.

Chair Marcel Rodarte called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm. Daniel Rojas, administrative staff, conducted roll.

A quorum was initially established with 10 members present of 13 seats. Member Sadhwani and Member Hsieh participated remotely in compliance with Government Code Section 54953(b). Member Phelps subsequently arrived at 5:46pm during agenda item 3, with 11 members present of 13 seats.

Present: Nancy Yap, Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Rosa Soto, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, David Phelps, Steve Neal, Julia Mockeridge, Derek Hsieh, David Green, John Fasana, and Interim Director Shadi Kardan.

Absent: Derek Steele and Gabriela Gironas.

Present: Norayr Zurabyan, Assistant County Counsel; Eva Chu, Senior Deputy County Counsel; Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsel; and Zuleyda Santana, Deputy Executive Officer.

The Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement was played.

2. Approval of Minutes
- Action Item: Approval of the August 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chair Pro Tem Yap motioned to apply several corrections to the August 13, 2025, meeting minutes, and adopt as amended.

No members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

On motion of Chair Pro Tem Yap, seconded by Member Green, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 – Nancy Yap, Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Rosa Soto, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, Steve Neal, Julia Mockeridge, Derek Hsieh, David Green, John Fasana.

Absent: 3 – Derek Steele, David Phelps, and Gabriela Gironas.

Attachments: [August 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes](#)

[August 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes \(Revised\)](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Review Measure G Long-Term Goals

Discussion and Potential Action: Review Long-Term Goals of Measure G and consider developing a work plan for key milestones, including:

- Elected County Executive (2028)
- Position of Director of Budget and Management (2028)
- Position of County Legislative Analyst (2028)
- Expansion of the Board of Supervisors from 5 to 9 Members (2032)

Chair Rodarte emphasized the need to first review the Measure G ordinance to understand the County's current structure, the County's future structure, and the GRTF's role. He clarified that the elected County Executive is not a replacement for Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, but rather a split of the CEO's budget and legislative duties. He requested a report from County Counsel to clarify the current status and effective dates of the ordinance. This report should provide a better understanding of the new governance structure—including impact on the three elected positions of the Assessor, District Attorney, and Sheriff—and the new budgeting roles after Measure G is fully implemented. He also suggested charts detailing the County's budget and spending, including restricted funds and net county cost. Chair Rodarte also mentioned the idea he had in collaboration with Chair Pro Tem Yap of creating standalone videos from this presentation to share with the public on the Measure G website. Member Neal suggested that there should be a limited meeting agenda when presenting this report, a suggestion with which Chair Rodarte agreed.

Chair Rodarte directed County Counsel to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the next GRTF meeting. The presentation will provide an overview of the Measure G ordinance and compare the current County governance structure with the structure that will be in place after Measure G is fully implemented. Member Sadhwani requested that County Counsel also assess where legislative analyst-type roles currently exist in the County, such as in departments that perform policy analysis. She also suggested the GRTF research governance systems in other counties outside of Los Angeles County that have an elected executive.

Member Mockeridge pointed out that some elements of the report back may need input from other County departments, not just County Counsel. In response, Chair Rodarte clarified to County Counsel that if parts of the presentation do not involve them, other relevant County departments should be asked to attend and present. Additionally, Member Fasana asked for a better understanding of the tools available to the GRTF, such as ordinances and orders, that can be used to shape the structural decisions the Task Force needs to make.

Chair Rodarte requested that County Counsel present on the information about Measure J and Measure G that will be shared with the Board of Supervisors, to

facilitate further discussion by the GRTF.

Chair Pro Tem Yap suggested scheduling speakers for future GRTF meetings.

Member Sadhwani recommended that the GRTF take time to develop a work plan for the next several months, incorporating the thoughts of others and the information from County Counsel's presentation.

Chair Rodarte expressed his interest in establishing a subcommittee to invite speakers on the various long-term goals. Member Tabatabai agreed, noting that the subcommittee could help create a plan, establish a timeline, and identify potential speakers. Member Mockeridge clarified that the subcommittee would focus on logistics for the long-term topics and drafting a work plan. Member Mockeridge also reminded the Task Force that there was significant interest in volunteering for an ad-hoc committee on the long-term goals.

Member Fasana mentioned that the expansion of the Board seemed to be a separate discussion from the three other long-term goals.

Member Sadhwani agreed that expansion of the Board could be a separate subcommittee. She also suggested that a separate subcommittee focused on planning the creation of the budget and management role. She noted that a colleague, Tim Krebs, published a report on large U.S. counties with an elected County Executive, citing examples such as Illinois County, Miami-Dade County, King County, Wayne County, Philadelphia County, and Erie County.

Member Phelps expressed his interest in establishing a separate subcommittee for the expansion of the Board. Member Tabatabai added that the potential subcommittee could be defined to focus on specific aspects of that expansion.

Chair Rodarte motioned to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to identify potential speakers and experts for the items listed under long-term goals.

Member Phelps motioned to establish an ad hoc subcommittee on the expansion of the Board of Supervisors.

4 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

On motion of Chair Rodarte, seconded by Member Fasana, to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to identify potential speakers and experts for long-term goals.

The following members volunteered to be part of the ad hoc subcommittee: Member Fasana, Member Tabatabai, Member Phelps, Member Yap, Member Sadhwani, and Chair Rodarte. The motion duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 11 – Nancy Yap, Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Rosa Soto, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, David Phelps, Steve Neal, Julia Mockeridge, Derek Hsieh, David Green, and John Fasana.

Absent: 2 – Derek Steele and Gabriela Gironas.

On motion of Member Phelps, seconded by Member Fasana, to establish an ad hoc subcommittee on the expansion of the Board of Supervisors from 5 to 9 Members.

The following members volunteered to be part of the ad hoc subcommittee: Member Tabatabai, Member Soto, Member Phelps, Member Mockeridge, Member Green, and Chair Pro Tem Yap. The motion duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 11 – Nancy Yap, Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Rosa Soto, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, David Phelps, Steve Neal, Julia Mockeridge, Derek Hsieh, David Green, and John Fasana.

Absent: 2 – Derek Steele and Gabriela Gironas.

Attachments: [Ordinance](#)

[Staff Report](#)

4. Review of Letters to the Board of Supervisors by the GRTF as requested on August 13, 2025

Discussion and Potential Action: Review proposed draft letters to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to address the following concerns and ask for guidance on the following issues:

- GRTF recommendation to the Board to preserve all elements of Measure G and J
- GRTF budget and staffing concerns
- GRTF member replacement processes

Chair Rodarte began by introducing the letter of recommendation regarding the preservation of Measures G and J. He noted that Parliamentarian Zurabyan had clarified that a super majority from the GRTF would be required for the letter to pass. Member Mockeridge sought to confirm that super majority would mean 9 of 13 members, which was correct.

Member Hsieh supports the draft letters to preserve Measure G and Measure J, and the voters' intentions through administrative action.

Member Fasana referenced a motion by Supervisor Horvath and Supervisor Hahn, which proposed looking into declaratory relief or legislation. He expressed his hope that a method to preserve the two Measures on the Charter would be presented. He believes the Board's current approach is the only way to keep the two Measures going, but it does not preserve Measure J in the Charter. Despite not seeing a way to fix the situation, he believes the letter is very important and supports it.

Next, Chair Marcel introduced the letter inquiring about the GRTF's budget and staffing concerns. Interim Director Kardan announced that a supplemental budget of \$2.3 million was approved, which will allow for additional administrative support, bringing the total to three. While the entire support of the Executive Office is behind the GRTF, the \$2.3 million is a preliminary budget that may be adjusted. She noted that as the

Task Force engages with stakeholders, consults experts, and reassesses its approach, it may need to request more funds during the mid-year adjustment process. A key challenge, she added, is that the budget is not ongoing and must be requested annually, which creates uncertainty.

Member Soto stressed the importance of budget transparency and requested more clarification. She also wanted to push for what is needed to ensure the Task Force can effectively perform its work.

Chair Marcel recommended that the letter be redrafted to encourage ongoing funding, which would provide more assurance when hiring for positions to support the GRTF. Chair Pro Tem Yap agreed that the letter should be redrafted for greater specificity, highlighting the importance of public engagement. However, she expressed concern about the feasibility of redrafting the letter before the next meeting while also ensuring greater specificity and including all necessary details.

Interim Director Kardan clarified that a large portion of the supplemental budget is allocated for public engagement.

Chair Marcel agreed with Chair Pro Tem Yap's concerns and suggested tabling the letter until the GRTF has a clearer idea of the budget it needs.

Member Sadhwani expressed her frustration with the lack of transparency in the County's budget operations and requested a breakdown of the budget allocation, including Member stipends.

Deputy Executive Officer Santana provided a breakdown of the budget, stating that \$1.1 million is for administrative staff salaries and benefits, and member stipends. Approximately \$600,000 is for consulting and legal advocacy, over \$400,000 is for public engagement, and \$144,000 is for office supplies. Following inquiries from Member Hsieh and Member Sadhwani, she clarified that County Counsel bills the Executive Office for advisory services provided to the GRTF. Interim Director Kardan added that only a small portion of the consulting and legal advocacy costs go to County Counsel, with the rest allocated for consultants and experts both inside and outside the County.

Member Fasana requested periodic reports—either monthly or every couple of months—on the charges. Interim Director Kardan stated she will be tracking the budget, and Deputy Executive Officer Santana added that she will provide her with expenditure reports.

Chair Marcel requested a report detailing the budget's line items, their available uses, and their percentage of the total budget. Member Sadhwani asked what the proportion of the \$600,000 goes to County Counsel. Member Green also requested that a budget report be presented at every meeting so the public could weigh in on it.

Deputy Executive Officer Santana explained that providing an accurate budget report could be difficult because expenses may not be recorded until the following month, meaning she could only provide estimates. Chair Rodarte requested that she mention at each meeting whether there is a budget update or simply indicate that there is none.

Member Fasana suggested that a monthly report sent via email would be an appropriate frequency, a suggestion to which there were no objections.

Lastly, Chair Rodarte introduced a letter concerning the GRTF member replacement process. Member Mockeridge recommended adding language to the letter that would ask the Board to introduce a motion to adopt a clear and consistent process for replacing GRTF members, a recommendation to which there were no objections.

Member Fasana brought the discussion back to the letter on the preservation of Measure G and Measure J, suggesting additional language that would allow the GRTF to continue its work even if Measure G were to be invalidated. Member Tabatabai opposed this addition, believing it was unnecessary.

Member Fasana motioned to send first letter with noted amendments, second will be tabled, third letter will be sent as amended. Seconded by Member Tabatabai (or Fasana)

3 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

On motion of Member Fasana, seconded by Member Tabatabai, to send to the Board of Supervisors the letter on the preservation of Measure G and Measure J as amended and letter on GRTF member replacement process as amended, and to table the letter on GRTF budget and staffing needs. The motion duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 11 – Nancy Yap, Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Rosa Soto, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, David Phelps, Steve Neal, Julia Mockeridge, Derek Hsieh, David Green, and John Fasana.

Absent: 2 – Derek Steele and Gabriela Gironas.

Attachments: [Draft Letters](#)

[Draft Letter – Measure J Impacts](#)

[Staff Report](#)

5. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Active GRTF Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Discussion and Potential Action: Report by the following GRTF Ad Hoc Subcommittees on their progress and work plans:

- GRTF Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Budget Hearings and Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgent Legislation
- GRTF Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Establishment of an Independent Ethics Commission on their progress and workplan
- GRTF Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Engagement Strategy

Chair Rodarte opened the floor for updates on the ad hoc subcommittee on Public

Budget Hearings and five-day posting requirement for non-urgent legislation, but there were none.

Next, Chair Rodarte opened the floor for updates on the ad hoc subcommittee on the establishment of an independent ethics commission. Member Sadhwani stated that the Subcommittee had met with County Counsel for a review on their ethics reform report and discussed bringing in experts. She proposed designating the September 24th GRTF meeting as "Ethics Day," with County Counsel and ethics experts in attendance. This proposal was emphasized by Member Fasana and supported by Member Green, who noted it would create a forum for the public to provide input and learn about the Subcommittee's work.

Chair Rodarte recommended that the subcommittee provide a list of speakers to see if they are available to address the GRTF. He confirmed that ethics would be the primary discussion on September 24th.

Member Sadhwani mentioned several experts they considered inviting, including Bob Stern, an author of the Fair Political Practices Act; Kathay Feng, the former head of Common Cause California; the Executive Director of the Fair Political Practices Commission in Sacramento; and David Tristan, the Executive Director of the LA City Ethics Commission.

Lastly, Chair Rodarte opened the floor for updates from the ad hoc subcommittee on public engagement strategy. Chair Pro Tem Yap mentioned that a report template had been created to be tested at the next subcommittee meeting. She also brought up the idea of exploring approaches to promote the upcoming "Ethics Day."

Chair Rodarte mentioned that he and Member Phelps met with California State University Northridge and were waiting to hear back on the logistics and permits for a potential meeting space. He noted the space looks accommodating and believes it would be beneficial to hold a meeting in the Valley.

1 member of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

[Attachments:](#) **[Staff Report](#)**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

6. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Governance Reform Task Force, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Governance Reform Task Force subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Governance Reform Task Force on items

of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governance Reform Task Force.

5 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Written Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

8. Adjournment of the August 27, 2025, Governance Reform Task Force meeting.

Chair Rodarte adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.