



# PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: [pio@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:pio@bos.lacounty.gov)

Britney Hernandez, Public Information Officer  
[BHernandez@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:BHernandez@bos.lacounty.gov) or 213.359.9920

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## L.A. County Governance Reform Task Force Convenes Inaugural Meeting

***New 13-member body begins work to modernize County governance.***

**LOS ANGELES** — The Los Angeles County Governance Reform Task Force convened for its inaugural meeting today, marking a pivotal step towards modernizing the governance structure of the County.

Established to implement the voter-approved Measure G Charter amendment, the 13-member Task Force will serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors. Its responsibilities include promoting transparency, accountability, and public engagement throughout the reform process.

“The establishment of this Task Force marks a pivotal moment for our county’s future,” said Edward Yen, Executive Officer for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. “It is entrusted with guiding the voter-approved Measure G reforms, directly influencing how we enhance transparency, accountability, and ultimately, better serve our ten million residents.”

Composed of County representatives, community leaders, and local residents, the Task Force will work collaboratively to provide informed recommendations. The group’s work is scheduled to conclude no later than December 3, 2028, unless the Board of Supervisors votes to extend its term.

The Task Force members are:

- **Brian Calderón Tabatabai, First District Appointee**

Brian Calderón Tabatabai is a former Mayor for the city of West Covina, where he prioritized the needs of working families, essential workers, and historically marginalized communities. He advanced housing justice by championing interim supportive housing and pushed for union-built affordable housing for teachers, nurses, and safety personnel. Brian’s work on the Task Force centers community voices, elevates transparency, and ensures county structures reflect the diversity and dynamism of L.A. County’s 88 cities and unincorporated areas.

■ **Derek Steele, Second District Appointee**

Derek Steele is the Executive Director of the Social Justice Learning Institute, an Inglewood-based nonprofit dedicated to community well-being through education, health equity, housing justice, and policy advocacy. Bringing a systems-thinking approach informed by his electrical engineering background and social change career, Derek centers equity, lived experience, and community leadership in Social Justice Learning Institute's work across Los Angeles County. He is committed to embedding community voice, transparency, and racial equity into LA County's governance infrastructure, drawing on his experience in grassroots leadership development and high-level policy design.

■ **Sarah Sadhwani, Third District Appointee**

Sara Sadhwani is an award-winning political science professor at Pomona College and a former member of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, where she helped redraw congressional and state legislative districts in 2021 and led Voting Rights Act compliance. Her extensive research on voting behavior and elections, particularly among Asian American and Latino communities, has been featured in prominent outlets like The New York Times, Washington Post, and CNN. With a doctorate from the University of Southern California and fellowships at Stanford and Harvard, Sara has also played a key role in passing major governance reforms for Los Angeles, including Measure G.

■ **Marcel Rodarte, Fourth District Appointee**

Marcel Rodarte is the Executive Director of the California Contract Cities Association, representing 80 member cities and nearly 8 million residents across Los Angeles County. A dedicated public servant, he previously served as Mayor and City Councilmember for the City of Norwalk, focusing on community engagement, fiscal responsibility, and regional collaboration. Marcel's extensive background also includes over two decades of distinguished service in the U.S. military and various federal government roles, alongside his ongoing commitment to civic leadership on numerous Los Angeles County commissions and committees.

■ **John Fasana, Fifth District Appointee**

John Fasana served as a Duarte City Councilmember from 1987 to 2020, including five terms as mayor, where he championed community well-being through initiatives like new parks, a teen center, and a youth and family master plan. He also represented the San Gabriel Valley on the Los Angeles County Metro Board from its inception in 1993 until 2020, playing a key role in securing billions for critical transportation projects and serving as Board Chair twice. Additionally, John provided significant policy direction for regional transportation and infrastructure projects through his work with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, including the Alameda Corridor-East and the Foothill Gold Line Extension.

■ **David Green, Labor Appointee**

David Green is the President and Executive Director of SEIU 721, one of the largest and most dynamic unions in the country, where he oversees all daily operations, including a staff of more than 200 and an organizational budget of \$50 million. Through this work and his more than 20 years of service with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Families, he offers a unique

and comprehensive understanding of the challenges confronting California's working families. This perspective is shaped by his direct work with thousands of families, coupled with his advocacy at the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration, in Sacramento, and in Washington, D.C.

■ **Derek Hsieh, Labor Appointee**

Derek Hsieh is the Executive Director of the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS), representing over 8,000 sworn personnel. He serves in key labor leadership roles, including Chairperson for the Coalition of County Unions (AFL-CIO) and Executive Board Vice President of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor. Derek's leadership is informed by a two-decade career in law enforcement, service in the U.S. Army, and advanced degrees in economics, accounting, and business administration.

■ **Steve Neal, Labor Appointee**

Steve, a dedicated labor activist, pastor, and former Long Beach City Councilmember, brings extensive experience in public service, navigating complex governmental structures, and developing real solutions that reflect the needs of the greater public. With over two decades on various boards and commissions, he currently serves as Secretary of the Long Beach Harbor Commission, Director of Outreach and Civic Engagement for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and is the Senior Pastor of LIFE Gospel Ministries.

■ **Members At-Large**

- Gabriela Gironas
- Julia Mockeridge
- David Phelps
- Rosa Soto
- Nancy Yap

Under the leadership of Interim Director Shadi Kardan, the Task Force will ensure a collaborative, community-informed process. Through this effort, Los Angeles County reaffirms its commitment to inclusive governance and continuous improvement in public service.

To learn more about Measure G and to follow the work of The Governance Reform Task Force, visit [measureg.lacounty.gov](https://measureg.lacounty.gov).

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