
LA City Charter Reform Resources

Los Angeles has struggled with both a major housing crisis *and* a crisis of governance. We are not producing enough housing and the gap between how much housing we need and how much housing is being built keeps growing every year. While there are many reasons for this, LA's City Charter provides many opportunities for veto points, Councilmember interference with project approval, and a regulatory framework for housing and planning decisions that does not lead to decisions that lead to housing abundance and affordability.

With that in mind, Abundant Housing LA gave a presentation to the Charter Reform Commission with a variety of recommendations to create a Charter that will facilitate better decision making for land use and planning regulations and less politicized decisions for new housing projects. Below you will find condensed talking points to give public comment to the Charter Reform Commission.

For more information, see:

- AHLA's letter to the Commission [HERE](#)
- The full AHLA presentation to the Commission [HERE](#).

TALKING POINTS

We are in a housing crisis. The average going rent in Los Angeles now hovers at approximately \$2,100 per month, and over 58% of households are rent-burdened. Meanwhile, over 43,000 people experience homelessness on any given night, and the City needs 456,000 units of housing to keep up with demand, including 180,000 units of affordable housing.

The current Charter is an impediment. Our City's planning, land use, and housing decisionmaking are in dire need of reform if we are to be able to respond to the housing supply and homelessness crisis. The current City Charter has entrenched a political and discretionary land use system that contributes to housing scarcity, delays urgently needed projects, and misuses City resources.

We must depoliticize land use decisions. Eliminate Section 245(e), move all land use decisions and appeals to staff or the CPC, and mandate that all projects 100 units or less be ministerial

The Charter must ensure better planning outcomes. Establish a fair share or “mini-RHNA” requirement for all community plans, require that the General Plan and Zoning Code provide sufficient *base zoning* to meet housing needs, reduce number of Community Plans to 20, and require updates of the General Plan and Community Plans every 20 years.

Streamline City Resources for Housing. Require periodic assessments of all City land that could be used for housing, give LAHD the authority to identify City land that could be used for housing, and give LAHD the authority to manage development and execute all funding contracts for affordable housing.

Modernize LA City Government. Expand the size of the City Council, Rebalance power between the Mayor and Council to give the Mayor sufficient authority, Establish the City Attorney as an appointed position, Reform the City hiring process to bring critical employees on quickly, Eliminate Section 104 of the Charter limiting FAR Citywide