



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
EMPOWER LATM
Department of
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT



Empower Yourself

Empower Your Community

EmpowerLA



WHY

Neighborhood Councils?

Los Angeles is a BIG City



About 4 Million People



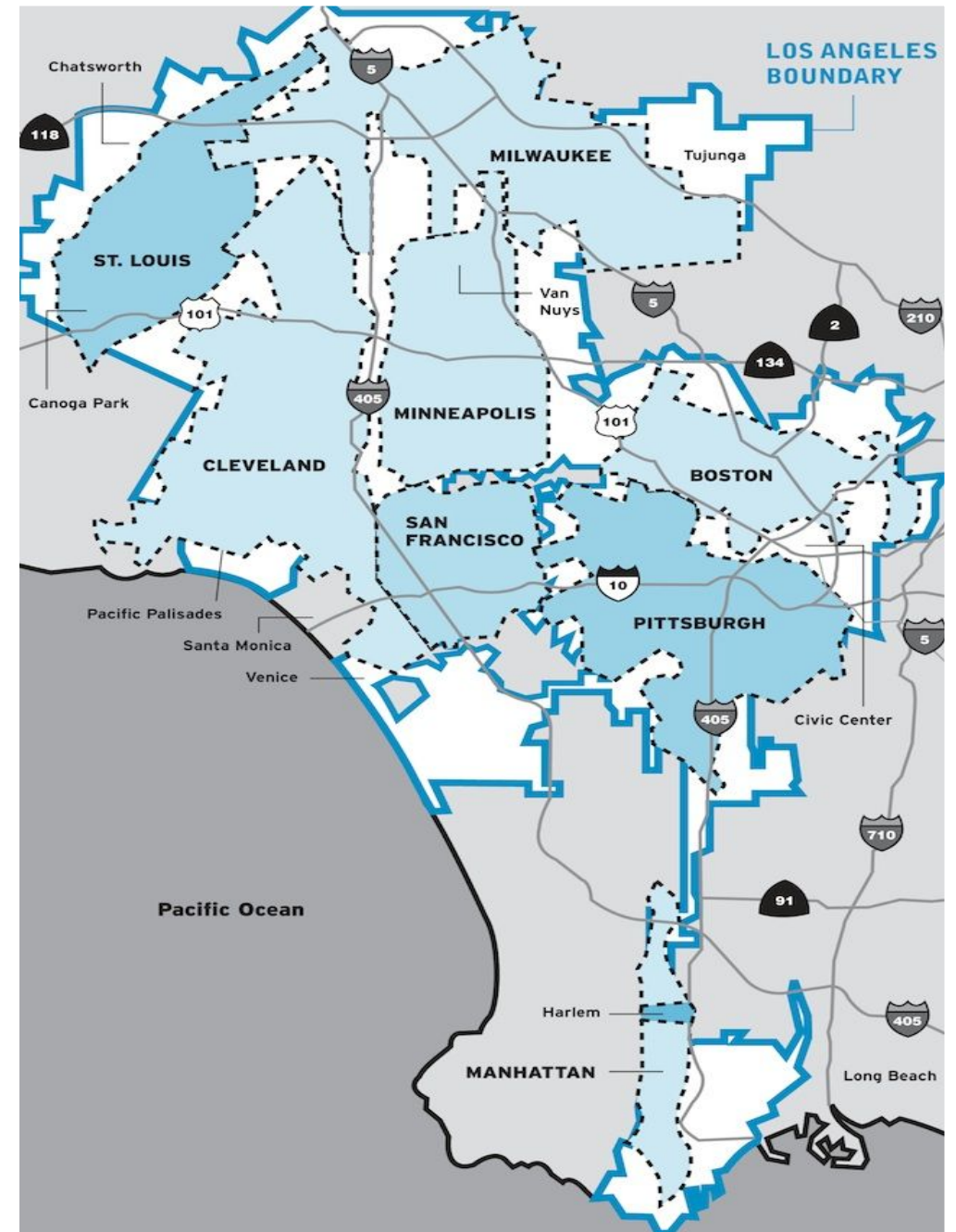
465 Square Miles



7,366 Miles of Streets

CD

15 Council Districts – Each Representing over 260,000 constituents



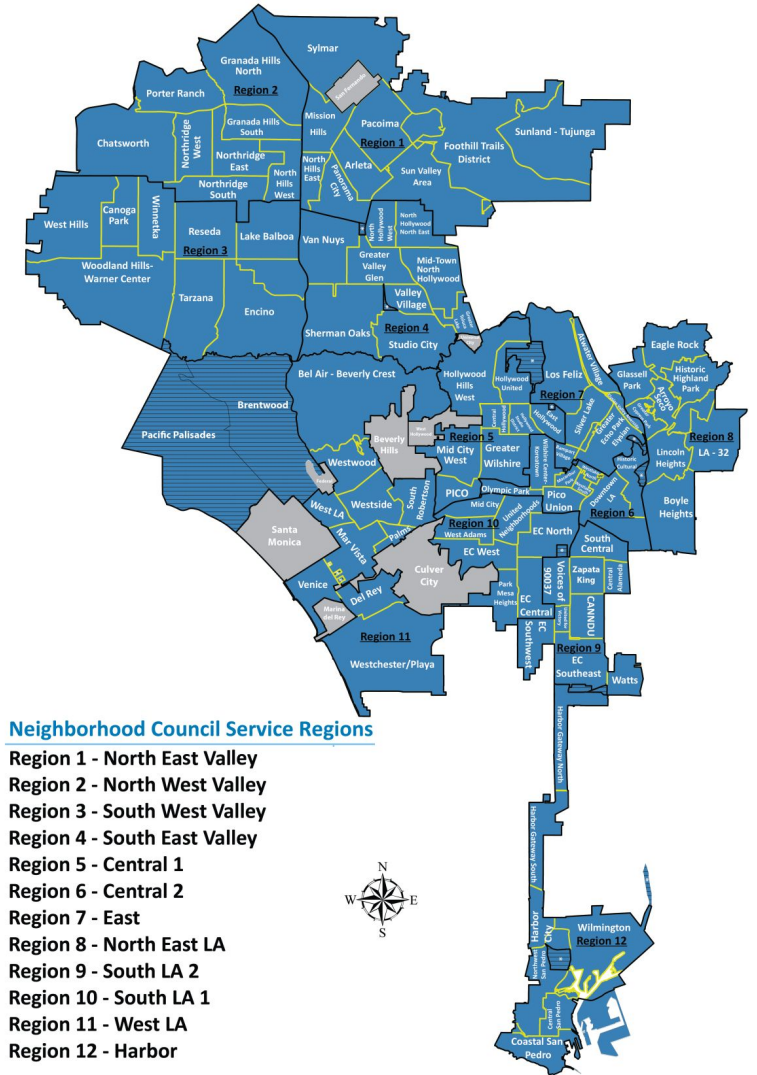
WHAT

Are Neighborhood Councils?

How many Neighborhood Councils are in the City of Los Angeles?

99

Each Neighborhood Council represents from 20,000 to 100,000 people



WHEN

The Creation of Neighborhood Councils

On June 8, 1999

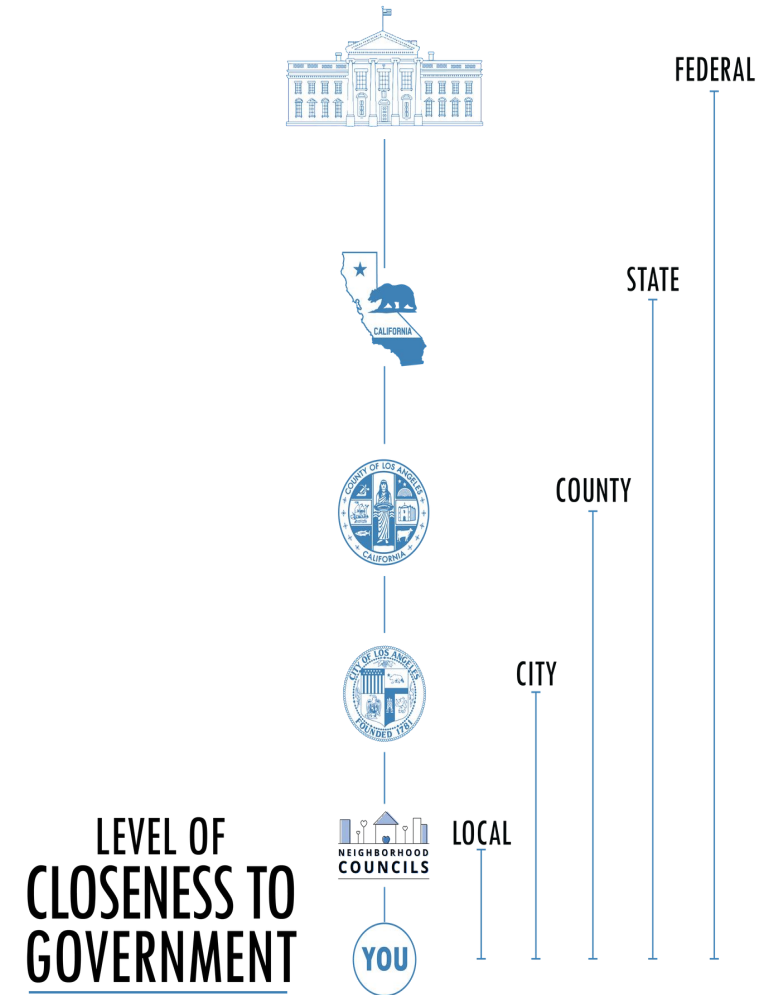
Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved (60%) a new Los Angeles City Charter, the first comprehensive revision of the City's governing document in 75 year.

60%



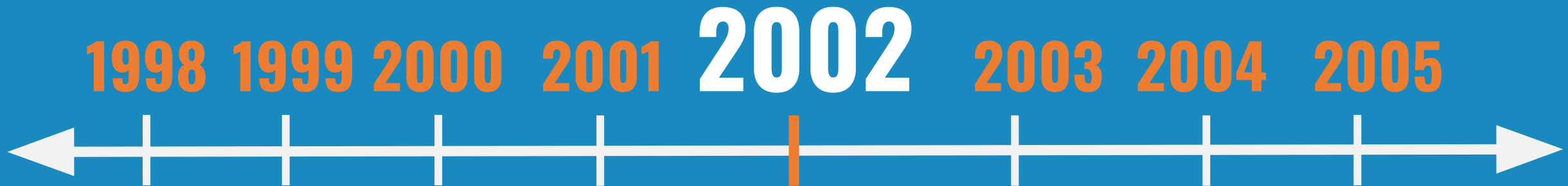
The new City Charter

created a new system of Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to promote **greater participation** in government and giving residents an even larger role in determining the quality of their lives.



**WHE
N**

Were Neighborhood Councils Formed?



The first two (2) Neighborhood Councils were formed in 2002



WHO

Are The Neighborhood Councils?

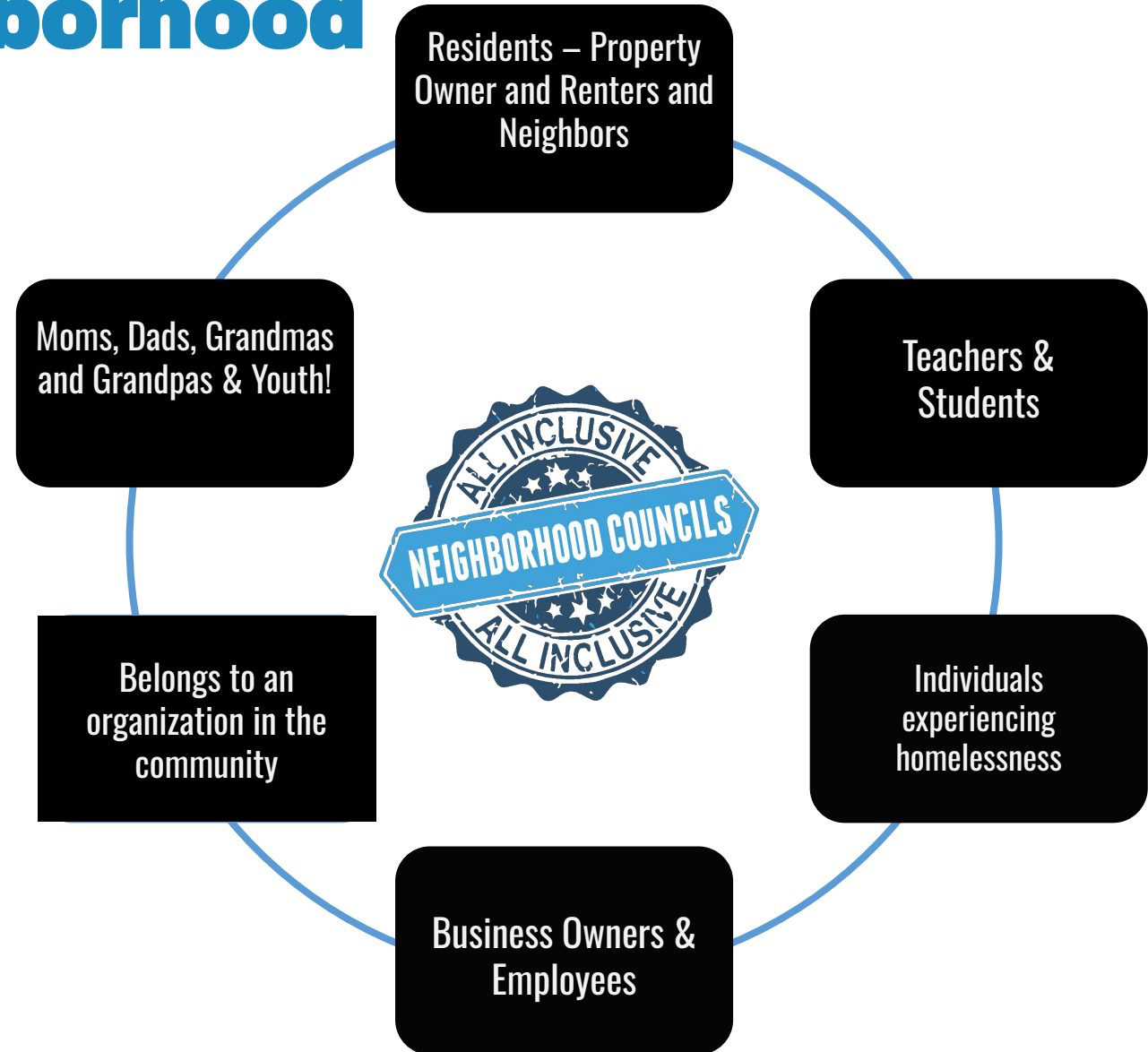
Their members are everyday Angelenos like YOU!

WHO

Are Our Neighborhood Councils?



Neighborhood Councils are made up of volunteer, elected public servants who serve as board members.



WHO

Are Our Neighborhood Councils?

Neighborhood Councils are comprised of “Community Stakeholders”



Those who live, work, study, worship or own real property in the neighborhood.

A “Community Interest Stakeholder” is also...



...is a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the Neighborhood Council’s boundaries and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, nonprofit and/or religious organizations

WHO

Are Our Neighborhood Councils?

YOUTH SEATS

- **Stakeholders in the Neighborhood Council**
 - This could mean that you live and/or go to school in the NCs service area
- **Between the ages of fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) at the time you are appointed to this seat.**
- **Some youth seats are**
 - appointed at a meeting - you have to contact the board and complete an application
 - others require you to run during the Neighborhood Council election cycle

WHERE

**DO NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCILS MEET?**



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

WHY

The Purpose of Neighborhood Councils



ADVICE

Community Impact
Statements & Budget
Advocates



REPRESENT

Outreach



COLLABORATE

With community
and government

Each Neighborhood Council receives public funds of \$25,000/year to support their communities.



**Elysian Valley Riverside NC
2023 Senior Spring Celebration**



**Greater Cypress Park NC
2023 Waste Bin Community Improvement Project**



**Central Hollywood NC
2023 Community Input on
Mixed-Use Development**

99NCs.com

Scan the QR code and find your local Neighborhood Council



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EmpowerLA.org/Councils for a full listing of all 99 Neighborhood Councils



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Charter Reform Recommendations

- Clarity and Accessibility of Language
- Strengthening Purpose and Mission
- Inclusive Stakeholder Representation
- Enhancing the Role and Capacity of the Department
- Expanding Neighborhood Council Functions and Impact
- Expanding Neighborhood Councils role in City budgeting and resource allocation



Article IX, Section 900: Purpose

States the purpose of the creation of a citywide system of Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

“To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs.”

Recommendation:

Replace the term “citizen” with “civic” to allow for more inclusive language. Neighborhood Councils are open to all stakeholders, regardless of immigration status.

Article IX, Section 901: Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Establishes the Department and outlines its core duties.

Recommendation:

Clarifying language by replacing the term “Officers” with “Board Members”

Article IX, Section 902: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Establishes the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and gives them the responsibility for policy setting and policy oversight, approval of contracts and leases, and promulgation of rules and regulations.

Recommendation:

Clarifying the Commission's role in approval of contracts and leases *prepared on behalf of Neighborhood Councils or the Neighborhood Council System.*

Article IX, Section 903: General Manager

Places the day-to-day management of the Department on the General Manager who is appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 904: Development of the Neighborhood Council Plan

Lays out the required components of the “Plan” for a System of Neighborhood Councils:

- Shall seek public input
- Contain statement of goals, policies and objectives
- establish the method by which boundaries are determined
- Must ensure all areas of City are given equal opportunity to form
- Sets the procedures and criteria for certification
- Requires all certified to adopt fair and open procedures for how business is conducted

Recommendation:

Update to section title to “Development and Maintenance of the Neighborhood Council Plan.”

Article IX, Section 905: Implementation of the Plan

Sets a clear timeline for the development and adoption of the Plan.

Recommendation:

Update to section title to “Initial Implementation of the Plan”

Article IX, Section 906: Certification of Neighborhood Councils

Specifies the requirements for official recognition and certification of a Neighborhood Council.

- Submission of Bylaws to the Department
- Petition for Certification and Approval

Recommendation:

Update section to clarify that Bylaws must specify the method officers and Board Members are selected.

Replace the phrase “everyone who lives, works, or owns property in the area (Stakeholders)” with “all stakeholders as defined by City Ordinance.” This will be inclusive of Community Interest Stakeholders.

Article IX, Section 907: Early Warning System

Establishes procedures for receiving input from Neighborhood Councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees, Boards, and Commissions.

Recommendation:

Change the section title to “Advance Notice and Opportunities for Input.”

Article IX, Section 908: Powers of Neighborhood Councils

Allows City Council to delegate authority to Neighborhood Councils to hold public hearings before the Council makes decisions on matters of local concerns.

Recommendation:

Expand this section to provide clearer and more comprehensive description of the work of Neighborhood Councils. Include their role as advocates to the City, responsibility of outreach, organizing community forums, collaborating, mobilizing, strengthening community engagement, and representation.

Article IX, Section 909: Annual City Budget Priorities

Provides Neighborhood Councils the opportunity to present the Mayor and City Council an annual list of priorities for the City Budget.

Recommendation:

Work with the Mayor and City Council to develop a City budget feedback mechanism.

Article IX, Section 910: Monitoring City Services

Gives Neighborhood Councils an oversight role to actively monitor the delivery of services within their boundaries.

Recommendation:

Retitle section to ‘City Services Reporting and Collaboration.’

Create a feedback mechanism to collect community input on quality of City services, report on progress of City initiatives, identify opportunities, and foster partnerships between Neighborhood Councils and City government.

Article IX, Section 911: Appropriations

Requires the Mayor and City Council to appropriate funds for the Department and startup funds for the Neighborhood Council system.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 912: Review

Requires the Mayor and City Council to appoint a commission to evaluate the provisions of Section 900, and regular adopted pursuant to the Section 900 no later than seven years after the adoption of the Charter.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 913: Transfer of Powers

Provided a period of stability and protection for the new Department. For the first five years after the Neighborhood Council Plan was implemented, the Mayor and City Council could not transfer the powers and duties of the Department to any other City Department or agency.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Article IX, Section 914: Effect Ordinances

Clarifies that while the Charter and the Plan create the framework, the City Council retains the ultimate power to legislate on matters concerning Neighborhood Councils.

Recommendation:

No recommendations

Closing and Next Steps

- Submit formal Department Recommendations
- Continue to engage 99 Neighborhood Councils in the Charter Reform process, opportunities, and methods for input
- Board of Neighborhood Commissioner's Presentation and Recommendations (January 2026)

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