



FAIRBANK, MASLIN,
MAULLIN, METZ
& ASSOCIATES

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: FM3 Research

SUBJECT: Key Findings from a Recent Survey on Government Reforms in Los Angeles

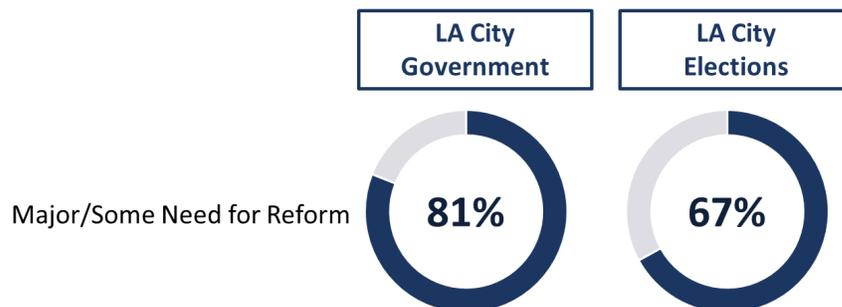
DATE: August 17, 2023

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently completed a survey of 826 likely voters in the City of Los Angeles which showed **voters strongly believe in the need to reform City government and elections and support a range of reform policies.**¹ Support for various proposals is broad and crosses most demographic and geographic subgroups including Council District, race/ethnicity, age, and gender. Key findings from the survey include:

Need for Reform

- **There is broad agreement in the need to reform City government and elections.** Over 80% of LA voters believe there is a need to reform City government, and another two-thirds see a need to reform the City’s elections (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1: Need for Reform in Los Angeles



- **Further, vast majorities think they do not have a say in how our city is governed.** 71% of voters think they have too little influence over City elected officials, and “**big money campaign contributors**” and “**special interests**” have too much influence according to 84% and 71% of Angelenos, respectively.

¹ **Methodology:** From July 15th – 23rd, 2023, FM3 completed 826 telephone and online interviews with randomly-selected likely November voters in the City of Los Angeles. The margin of sampling error for the study is $\pm 3.7\%$ at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%. FM3 Research is a California-based company that has been conducting public policy-oriented opinion research since 1981.

Support for Reform Policies

- **Majorities favor expanding the City Council, including 62% who support expanding to 23 members and 55% who support 29 members.** After pro and con messaging on Council expansion, opinions remain solid and increase slightly in favorability to 64% for 23 members and 59% for 29 members, respectively.
- **Nearly eight-in-ten voters support independent redistricting.** 78% of voters support requiring an independent panel of LA residents be responsible for drawing and finalizing City Council district boundaries and free from the interference of elected officials, candidates and their staffs.
- **Seven-in-ten voters support ranked choice voting.** 71% of voters support using ranked choice voting to elect Los Angeles City officials, when it is described as giving voters the option to rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference.
- **Two-thirds of voters support a ballot measure to amend the City Charter to enhance government accountability and transparency, including implementing a democracy vouchers program.** 70% of voters would support amending the charter to increase disclosure on political advertising in City elections, lower the amount of allowable campaign contributions to City campaigns, further restrict former City officials from acting as lobbyists, create a voluntary program for public campaign financing through \$100 in vouchers issued to adult City residents, provide additional resources to the Los Angeles Ethics Commission for implementation and increased enforcement of ethics rules/laws. Just 17% said they would oppose such a measure and 12% were undecided.
- **A majority support an independent, resident-led charter reform commission.** 65% of voters support establishing a committee of randomly-selected residents to review and propose changes to the City’s Charter, which is the document that sets the rules for how the City operates
- **Overwhelming majorities support potential reforms such as increasing disclosure and reporting, remote meeting participation, and criminal prosecution of campaign finance law violators.** Details on the opinions on these proposals are listed in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Support for Reform Proposals

Reforms	% “Support
<i>Requiring City officials to disclose meetings with lobbyists about issues under consideration by the City Council</i>	90%
<i>Requiring the City to maintain the options for the public to observe and share comments at City Council both in-person and online</i>	90%
<i>Allowing criminal prosecution of candidates who repeatedly violate city campaign finance laws.</i>	86%
<i>Establishing citizens’ assemblies which are panels of a representative cross-section of residents brought together to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the City Council</i>	80%
<i>Banning lobbyists and lobbying firms from fundraising for candidates for City elections.</i>	75%