



Port of
LONG BEACH
THE PORT OF CHOICE

Proposal to Modify Article V and Article XII of the City Charter

Charter Amendment Committee Meeting – June 11, 2024

Proposed Charter Changes

The proposed modifications are to Article V and Article XII of the City Charter in three key areas:

**Terms of
Commission
Members**

**Powers and Duties
of the Harbor
Commission**

**Harbor
Department
Annual Budget**

Terms of Commission Members

Article V – Officers and Employees

- Change the number and length of terms for Harbor Commissioners from a maximum of two (2), six (6) year terms to three (3), four (4) years terms. Change the number and length of terms for Public Utilities Commissioners from two (2), five (5) year terms to three (3), four (4) year terms. This would bring each term of the Harbor and Public Utilities Commissioners in alignment with the terms of other City of Long Beach commission appointments.

Powers & Duties of the Harbor Commission

Article XII – Harbor Department

- In alignment with other City departments to confer and delegate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the authority to appoint and employ staff (excluding Commission staff) to reduce vacancy rate, improve time to hire, and align onboarding process across the City.
- Increase prescribed fines and penalties for violations of any ordinance of the Harbor Commission from \$500 and/or six (6) months imprisonment, to a penalty not to exceed a \$1,000 fine and/or six (6) months imprisonment as a deterrence for violations, and to align with the City's Municipal Code (L.B.M.C 1.32.010).

Harbor Department Annual Budget

Article XII – Harbor Department

- Formally align Harbor Department's annual budget process to the City's fiscal year of October 1 to September 30.

Charter Changes

If approved by voters, the Charter Amendment will:

- Reduce the length of terms for Harbor Commissioners from six (6) years to four (4) years. Harbor Commissioners would be eligible to serve up to three terms.
- Reduce the length of terms for Public Utilities Commissioners from five (5) years to four (4) years. Public Utilities Commissioners would be eligible to serve up to three terms.
- Transfer authority for Harbor Department employment from the Board of Harbor Commissioners to the Department's Chief Executive Officer, excepting a Board-appointed Chief Operating officer, Executive Officer to the Board, and Board staff.

Charter Changes

If approved by voters, the Charter Amendment will:

- Increase fines for ordinance violations from \$500 to \$1,000.
- Align Harbor's annual budget to October 1 – September 30 fiscal year.

Charter Process

City Attorney Prepares Draft Amended Charter Language (Completed)

Language provided to amend and restate Article V (Officers and Employees) and Article XII (Harbor Department) of the City Charter to modify the terms, powers and duties of the Harbor Commission and annual budget timeline.

Meet and Confer (Completed)

Harbor staff met with impacted labor associations, who unanimously support the change in powers and duties as a necessary step to reduce time to hire and create consistency in the hiring process.

City Council referral to Charter Amendment Committee (Completed)

Request the Mayor and Council to refer Charter Amendment to the Charter Amendment Committee to discuss placing a Charter Amendment before the voters.

Charter Process

Action	Deadline
Three Public Hearings of the Charter Amendment Committee	June 11, July 16 and August 6, 2024
Last day to submit direct arguments and impartial analysis (L.B.M.C 1.24.030)	August 16, 2024
Last day to submit rebuttals to City Clerk (Elections Code § 9285)	August 26, 2024
Mailing of sample ballots	September 26, 2024
Last day to register to vote	October 21, 2024
Election Day	November 5, 2024

THANK YOU