

## CITY LEADERS

### **THE MAYOR**

The Mayor is the elected head of the city government and represents the entire city. As executive officer of the city, the Mayor is responsible for:

- Approving or vetoing legislation passed by the Council
- Recommending an annual budget to the Council
- Appointing City Commissioners and Department heads, subject to confirmation by the Council.

### **THE CITY ATTORNEY**

The City Attorney is elected at large and serves as the attorney and legal advisor to the City, the Council, and departments. The City Attorney is responsible for:

- Rendering legal opinions on legislation and city contracts
- Representing the city and its officers in all legal proceedings
- Prosecuting misdemeanors that occur in the city

### **THE CONTROLLER**

The Controller is elected at large to serve as auditor and chief accounting officer for the city. The Controller makes sure the city's money is spent according to the city's regulations and submits an annual report to the Mayor with estimated revenue for budget purposes.

## **THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Council is the governing body of the city. It is composed of 15 members, each representing a geographical area (council district). Councilmembers are elected by registered voters of the district they represent. The Council is responsible for:

- Enacting city legislation, subject to approval or veto by the mayor
- Ordering city elections, levying some taxes, authorizing public improvements, adopting traffic regulations
- Adopting or modifying the budget proposed by the mayor

## **CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

The Council President is elected by the members of the City Council, serves a two year term and is responsible for:

- Appointing members to Council Committees
- Chairing City Council meetings and setting the agendas

## **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Council is organized into 15 committees and several Ad Hoc committees. Through reports and hearings, the committees study and make recommendations to the full Council. Each Councilmember serves on at least 3 committees.

*\*All elected city officials can serve up to two four-year terms, unless otherwise noted.*

## CITY DEPARTMENTS

Aging  
Airports  
Animal Regulation  
Building and Safety  
Community Development  
Community Redevelopment  
Cultural Affairs  
Disability  
Emergency Preparedness  
Environmental Affairs  
Fire  
Housing  
Library  
Neighborhood Empowerment  
Planning  
Police  
Public Works  
Recreation and Parks  
Transportation  
Water and Power  
Zoo

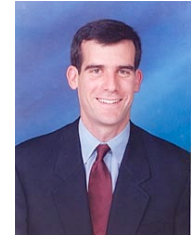
**To learn more** or speak to someone at a city department, call **3-1-1** the city's toll free number for information and non-emergency services



Or visit our web page at [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org)

## **Neighborhood Improvement Guide #5: City Government 101 How to work with city government**

Council District Thirteen



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## HOW TO ENACT LEGISLATION

### RESIDENT REQUEST PROCESS

1. A city resident submits a written request to the City Clerk.
2. City Clerk reviews and may send request to the City Council President.
3. Council President reviews and may refer the request to the appropriate council committee for study.
4. Council committee studies request and may recommend council action. A motion is prepared for the full council.
5. City Council votes on the motion

### PROCESS FOR WORKING WITH A COUNCILMEMBER

1. Residents can lobby a councilmember to support an idea they have for council action.
2. The Councilmember can prepare a motion which is sent to the appropriate committee for study.
3. City Council votes on the motion.

A proposed council action requires at least 8 votes. A proposed ordinance requires 10 votes. Ordinances must be signed by the Mayor before becoming law. The city council can override a mayoral veto by a 2/3 vote.

### INITIATIVE PROCESS

1. Residents prepare a petition for a proposed city ordinance. There special rules governing how such a petition must be written.
2. To qualify for presentation to the Council, the petition must be signed by registered voters of the City in an amount equal to 15% of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of Mayor at the last general municipal election.
3. Petition is sent to City Clerk for verification of signatures. All signatures must be gathered within 120 days before filing petition with City Clerk.
4. Valid petitions are sent to the City Council for adoption. Council can also send the proposed ordinance before City voters in a special election or the next general election.

To learn more, contact the City Clerk by calling **3-1-1** or by visiting <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/>



## THE CITY BUDGET

### The Budget Dollar



### HOW THE MONEY IS USED

	(cents)
<b>Community Safety</b>	
Crime Control	26.5
Fire Control	9.0
Public Assistance	2.2
Other	3.5
<b>Home &amp; Community Environment</b>	
Sewage Collection, Treatment, Disposal	12.6
Solid Waste Collection, Disposal	5.2
Blight Identification, Elimination	3.0
Planning & Building Enforcement	2.4
Aesthetic, Clean Streets& Parkways	1.1
Other	1.7
<b>Transportation</b>	
Street and Highway	7.9
Traffic Control	3.6
Other	0.6
<b>Cultural, Educational, Recreational</b>	
Recreational Opportunities	4.2
Educational Opportunities	1.8
Arts and Cultural Opportunities	0.5
<b>Human Resources, Economic Assistance and Development</b>	2.1
<b>General Administration and Support</b>	
Financial Operations, Special Revenue	1.8
Administrative, Legal and Personnel	1.6
Legislative	1.3
Public Buildings and Facilities	0.5
Executive	0.2
Other	6.7