

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026
Agenda Item No. 14
Distribution Date: April 20, 2026
Batch No. 05

From: [Ronald Telkes](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Subject: Vote NO on Term Limit Extension
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 2:52:49 PM

- April 22 Dear Members of the Board, I am a San Diego County resident writing to ask you to vote NO on placing a supervisor term limit extension on the November ballot. In 2010, 65% of San Diego voters approved an 8-year two-term limit. That decision belongs to the voters - not to the board that benefits from reversing it. Each supervisor earns \$220,561 per year with automatic raises they vote on themselves, plus taxpayer-funded pension contributions of \$92,636 per year, lifetime pension, and near-zero cost healthcare. A third term adds another \$1.25 million per supervisor in salary and pension costs paid by taxpayers - before healthcare and office expenses. Our water rates just rose 14.7% with another hike coming. Our roads are crumbling. This is not the moment to extend your own terms. Please respect the voters. Vote no on April 22.

Sincerely,

Ronald Telkes
San Diego, CA 92106

From: [joe weinbrecht](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Vote NO on Increasing Term Limits for San Diego County Supervisors
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 3:16:35 PM

Dear San Diego County Supervisors,

My name is Joe Weinbrecht. I am a resident of La Jolla, San Diego City and San Diego County. This coming week you will listen to, or possibly read, public comments regarding a proposal to change the current two-term limit for County Supervisors which 65% of voters approved in 2010. I advocate that each of you vote NO and maintain the current two-term limit.

You should not change the current two-term limit policy by adding a third term to the limit without seeking another public vote from County residents. The precedent is already in place. Your application to change this policy without voter approval is especially repugnant given the Board of Supervisors' seemingly inadequate representation of constituents' interests and failure to obtain and deliver a broad range of meaningful positive outcomes for residents. This is a widely held view. If you vote "yes", you will be viewed as acting in your own personal interests and further erode the interests of your fellow County citizens.

Once again, I advocate that you VOTE NO ON INCREASING TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY SUPERVISORS and let the voters decide. Take a step toward winning back the credibility of the people you represent by acting in their interest. After all, being a Supervisor should remain an elected position for a set period of time and should never become someone's full time occupation.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,
Joseph F Weinbrecht

[REDACTED]

La Jolla CA 92037

[REDACTED]

From: [Lyn Booth](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Proposal to extend term limits: power grab against voters
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 3:15:44 PM

I am a resident of San Diego and oppose the move to extend term limits for supervisors to 3 terms.

This is a bold effort to consolidate the power of sitting supervisors against the current rules!

This is unjust and undemocratic! Voters should be protected from losing their power to vote for 2 terms in office. Please vote NO on the proposal!

Cheryl Booth
San Diego

From: [CapnW44](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Cc: [CapnW44](#)
Subject: [External] Please oppose extending term limits
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 3:10:53 PM

Hello,

My name is Wayne Owens and I live in San Diego. I am emailing to ask you, the Supervisor, to please oppose extending term limits. Voters set this term limit to 2 terms, 8 years, in 2010, and I respectfully request that this be honored. Please vote "NO" on April 21, 2026. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Owens

From: ltflo@cox.net
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Term Limits
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 3:04:29 PM

As I resident of the City of San Diego since 1956, I want to go on record as opposing the proposed extension of term limits. Please vote no on extending the term limits to 12 years!

Florence Helms

MEMORANDUM: Needed Amendments to Establish a Meaningful Ethics Commission

To: San Diego County Board of Supervisors

From: Sean McMorris, California Common Cause

Re: Ethics Commission Provisions – Necessary Amendments to Ensure Effective Independent Oversight and Enforcement

Date: 4/21/2026

California Common Cause is a nonpartisan good-government nonprofit organization that advocates for reforms that increase transparency, ethics, accountability, and public participation in government. Below, we provide recommended amendments to ensure that the proposed ethics commission functions as an independent body with investigative and enforcement powers to oversee the County's ethics, campaign finance, conflict of interest, and lobbying laws.

Additionally, we have attached the Los Angeles County Government Reform Task Force's report and draft ordinance for an Independent LA County Ethics Commission, as mandated in Measure G (2025). Their proposed draft ordinance is very strong as is their rationale for the reforms in the ordinance.

Summary & Recommendation

The proposed Charter amendments establishing a San Diego County Ethics Commission are a positive step toward improving transparency and accountability. However, **as currently drafted, the Ethics Commission lacks the core authorities and structural safeguards necessary to function as an effective, independent oversight and enforcement body.**

Most notably, the proposal limits the Commission to reviewing complaints and issuing reports, without granting independent investigative, enforcement, or institutional authority. This structure risks creating an advisory body rather than a meaningful watchdog.

To align with widely accepted best practices and ensure the Commission can fulfill its intended purpose, the Charter should be amended to establish, at a minimum:

1. **Independent investigative and enforcement authority**
 2. **A guaranteed and protected funding mechanism**
 3. **Clear structural independence from County officials and entities it oversees**
 4. **A comprehensive set of powers and duties, including education, transparency, and quasi-judicial functions**
 5. **A preemption clause to prevent conflicting Charter provisions from undermining the Commission**
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Problem

As proposed, the Ethics Commission:

- Lacks authority to initiate investigations independently
- Has no subpoena, audit, or enforcement powers
- Cannot impose penalties or binding decisions
- Is structurally vulnerable to influence by appointing authorities
- Has no guaranteed funding, undermining independence
- Does not define “independence” in operational or legal terms

Without these core components, the Commission will be unable to deter misconduct, ensure compliance, or build public trust.

Best Practice Framework

Effective ethics commissions are grounded in several core principles:

- Independence from those regulated, including legal and operational autonomy
- Robust enforcement authority, including investigation, adjudication, and penalties
- Secured resources sufficient to carry out duties without political interference
- Transparency and due process in enforcement proceedings
- Education and compliance assistance to prevent violations

These elements are interdependent; the absence of any one significantly weakens the Commission’s effectiveness.

Recommended Amendments

The Charter measure should be revised to include explicit language establishing the Ethics Commission’s authority, structure, and protections. At a minimum, the Commission should be empowered to:

- Independently receive, initiate, and investigate complaints
- Subpoena witnesses and records
- Conduct audits and compliance reviews
- Hold hearings and issue binding decisions
- Impose administrative penalties and sanctions
- Refer matters for civil or criminal prosecution
- Enforce relevant local and state ethics, campaign finance, lobbying (local only), and conflict of interest laws
- Provide education, training, and advisory opinions
- Maintain public transparency through reporting and accessible records

Additionally, the Charter should:

- Guarantee a minimum funding level
 - Require independent legal counsel
 - Define and protect Commission independence
 - Include a preemption clause ensuring Commission authority is not undermined
-

Conclusion

Without these amendments, the proposed Ethics Commission risks being largely symbolic. Incorporating the provisions (or a version of them) outlined below will ensure the Commission has the authority, independence, and capacity necessary to serve as a credible and effective oversight body for San Diego County.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT LANGUAGE

(Draft – Clean Insert Section)

Section X: Ethics Commission – Powers, Duties, and Independence

(a) Establishment

There is hereby established an independent Ethics Commission (“Commission”) of the County of San Diego. The Commission shall have jurisdiction over County campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest, and governmental ethics laws, and shall exercise the powers and duties set forth in this Charter.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to ensure independent, impartial, and effective administration and enforcement of laws intended to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in County government.

This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate these purposes.

(c) Independence

The Commission shall operate independently from the Board of Supervisors, and all County officers, departments, and agencies subject to its jurisdiction. It may utilize County counsel when a conflict of interest does not exist or is unlikely.

Independence shall include, but not be limited to:

- Independent authority over investigations, enforcement, and decision-making
- Authority to retain independent legal counsel
- Control over its staff and administrative functions

No County officer or agency shall interfere with, direct, or impede the Commission's exercise of its powers and duties.

(d) Preemption

The powers and duties of the Commission as set forth in this Charter shall supersede any conflicting provisions of this Charter, County ordinances, or policies that would limit or interfere with the Commission's authority to carry out its functions.

(e) Powers and Duties

The Commission shall have the authority to:

(1) Investigative Authority

- Receive, review, and initiate complaints
- Initiate investigations on its own motion
- Conduct investigations into violations of laws within its jurisdiction
- Audit filings, disclosures, and relevant records

(2) Compulsory Process

- Issue subpoenas to compel testimony and the production of documents
- Administer oaths and take sworn testimony

(3) Enforcement Authority

- Hold administrative hearings
- Make findings of fact and determine violations
- Issue binding orders and decisions
- Impose administrative fines, penalties, and other sanctions
- Require corrective action

(4) Civil and Criminal Referrals

- Refer matters to appropriate authorities for civil or criminal prosecution
- Coordinate with state and local enforcement agencies

(5) Jurisdiction

- Enforce County laws related to campaign finance, lobbying, conflicts of interest, and governmental ethics
- Enforce applicable state laws, including the Political Reform Act, as authorized by law

(6) Education and Advisory Functions

- Provide training and educational programs
- Issue formal and informal advisory opinions
- Develop compliance materials and guidance

(7) Transparency and Reporting

- Publish findings, decisions, and enforcement actions
- Maintain a publicly accessible database of filings and enforcement matters
- Issue an annual report summarizing activities and outcomes

(8) Rulemaking Authority

- Adopt rules, regulations, and procedures necessary to carry out its duties
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(f) Due Process

The Commission shall establish procedures that ensure due process, including notice, opportunity to respond, fair hearings, and judicial review.

(g) Funding

The Commission shall receive a minimum annual appropriation sufficient to carry out its duties. Such funding shall be adjusted to account for inflation, new duties, and step increases. Furthermore, this appropriation shall not be reduced below the established level except by a supermajority vote of the Board of Supervisors following the formal declaration of a fiscal emergency, in which case the reduction shall not exceed the average percentage decrease in funding applied to all County agencies.

(h) Staffing and Administration

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission and shall have authority to hire and supervise staff, including investigators, auditors, and legal personnel, as necessary to carry out the Commission's duties.

SECTION [Y]. AMENDMENT AND PURPOSE

(a) Purpose and Construction

This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes, including ensuring an independent, adequately resourced Ethics Commission with full authority to administer, investigate, and enforce the laws within its jurisdiction.

(b) Amendments by the Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors may amend this section by ordinance only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The amendment furthers the purposes of this section;
 2. The Ethics Commission approves the proposed amendment by an affirmative vote of at least **six (6) of the seven (7) members** of the Commission;
 3. The Board of Supervisors adopts the amendment by an affirmative vote of at least four-fifths (4/5) of its members; and
 4. The proposed amendment is available for public review for at least thirty (30) days prior to final adoption.
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(c) Amendments by the Voters

This section may be amended or repealed by a vote of the electorate, provided that any such amendment is consistent with and furthers the purposes of this section.

(d) Prohibition on Impairment

No amendment shall diminish or materially impair the independence, investigative authority, enforcement authority, or minimum funding protections of the Commission unless approved by the voters and expressly stating such intent.

SECTION [Z]. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Charter section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

The provisions of this section are severable. The voters declare that they would have adopted this section and each provision thereof irrespective of the invalidity of any portion.

Sincerely,

Sean McMorris
Transparency, Ethics, and Accountability Program Manager
California Common Cause

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Sean McMorris.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Hello. My name is Lawrence Doherty and I live in the City of San Diego. I am writing to urge every Supervisor to oppose extending term limits. Voters set this limit in 2010 and it should be respected. Please vote no on April 21. Thank you."
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 3:39:02 PM

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Opposed to extending term limits!
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:05:01 PM

My name is Linda Blake and I live in San Diego county. I am emailing to ask the Supervisor to oppose extending term limits. Voters set this limit in 2010 and it should be upheld. Please vote NO on April 21st.

From: [Mary Kingsley](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] VOTE NO 4/21/26 - TWO TERMS AND NO MORE
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:04:33 PM

WE HAVE ALREADY VOTED ON THIS!

Two 4-year-terms is enough! DO NOT VOTE YOURSELF MORE TIME TO HARM OUR CITY

I AM ASKING the Supervisors to oppose extending term limits. Voters set this limit in 2010 and it should be respected. Please vote no on April 21.

Mary Kingsley



From: [CAROLE LELAND](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Vote on Term Limits
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:25:43 PM

First, thank you for your service to our community. Public Service is a hallmark of democratic societies and particularly of the United States of America.

I urge you to vote NO on extending your term limits. Eight years is a sufficient amount of time to provide leadership and perspective to the critical work you do. To extend that limit is to discourage those who wish to serve, to remove incentives, particularly for young people, to participate in governance. Leadership should never be an extended promise of office but rather a period of service, perhaps intensified by its limits, to offer your best talents and commitments to those you serve. Let us open our opportunities for public service and community participation and set examples for those who should follow. Extending those term limits locks down those incentives and opportunities.

Sincerely,
Carole Leland



San Diego, CA 92119

From: [Kelly Ann Munoz](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External]
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:27:08 PM

Dear supervisors,

My name is Kelly Ann Munoz and I live in San Diego. I am writing to request that you vote "no" on extending term limits as this is what was requested by the voters.

Thank you.

From: [Wendy Marchbanks](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Oppose Extending Board of Supervisors Term Limits – Public Comment for April 21 Meeting
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:26:34 PM

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

I am a San Diego County resident writing to strongly oppose the proposal to extend term limits for the Board of Supervisors from two terms (8 years) to three terms (12 years).

In 2010, county voters approved these term limits with approximately 65% support. The clear message was that eight years is sufficient for supervisors to serve. These limits were designed to prevent entrenched power and ensure new voices and fresh ideas in county government.

The Board is now considering a charter amendment that would override the voter-approved limit. Even though it is bundled with other measures like an ethics commission and budget analyst, the central issue is elected officials voting to extend their own time in office.

I respectfully urge you to reject placing this term-limit extension on the November 2026 ballot. The voters established the current limits for good reason. Any changes should come directly from the people, not from the Board first expanding its own power.

Please include this as my official public comment for the Board meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Thank you for your service and for respecting the will of San Diego County voters.

Sincerely,

Wendy Marchbanks

La Jolla, California [REDACTED]

From: [Margit](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Vote No on term limit extension
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:29:48 PM

Hello,

My name is Margot Bartsch. I live in San Diego. I am writing to ask all 5 Supervisors to oppose extending term limits. Voters set the limit in 2010 and there is no viable reason to overturn that now. Please vote no on April 21, 2026.

Thank you,
Margot Bartsch
Sent from my iPad