



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What authority does the City of Los Angeles have to change LAUSD?

The City's authority can be found in the California Constitution Article XI, Section 5, and Article IX, Section 16. It specifically gives the City of Los Angeles authority over issues of governance, such as elections, compensation, size and terms of board, as well as redistricting and annexation or consolidation. These are also addressed in Article VIII of the Los Angeles City Charter. A city charter amendment that would affect the school district would require a vote of the people and would include areas outside of Los Angeles that are served by LAUSD.

2. Who appointed members to the Commission and what is its scope?

The 30-member volunteer Commission includes 15 appointees of the Los Angeles City Council, 9 appointees of the LAUSD Board of Education, 2 appointees of the Mayor of Los Angeles and 4 appointees made by Mayors of cities other than Los Angeles that are served by LAUSD. This broad representation ensures diversity of interests and ideas. The Commission, organized for a one-year term was empowered to examine LAUSD's current governance structure and to make recommendations for changes that would lead to better policy making, improved student performance, increased parental involvement, efficiency, accountability, and safety.

3. When was the Commission formed and what has it done to date?

The Commission held its first meeting on July 13, 2005 and has held 27 meetings to date (17 standing meetings and 10 community outreach meetings throughout the school district which will continue through April). The offices of Councilmembers Alex Padilla, Jose Huizar and Eric Garcetti, School Board Member Marlene Canter, the Los Angeles City Clerk and the Los Angeles City Attorney have assigned staff to support the Commission. In addition, the City hired RAND Corporation to provide research and analysis for the Commission. RAND presented a 162-page working paper on the issues explored by the Commission in December 2005, the Los Angeles City Attorney's office released a legal analysis of governance options in January 2006, and the Commission issued a status report January 31, 2006 which included a variety of governance options that it will further consider in the coming months. These documents are available on the Commission website located at www.lacity.org/council/Commission/lausd.

4. When will the Commission conclude its work?

The City Council directed the Commission to provide its recommendations by June 30, 2006.

5. What types of governance changes is the Commission considering?

The recent Status Report by the Commission lists many possible options that fall into 7 broad categories.

1. School board changes: size, role, compensation, selection methods
2. District decentralization
3. Los Angeles mayoral involvement
4. Mayoral involvement for other mayors whose cities are served by LAUSD
5. Formal collaborations between cities and the school district
6. Alternative funding mechanisms
7. School and student safety changes

The Presidents' Joint Commission on LAUSD Governance holds its standing meetings in the Boardroom of the Metropolitan Water District Headquarters located at 700 N. Alameda Street (next door to Union Station)
For more information go to the Commission website at www.lacity.org/council/commission/lausd
call 213-922-9790 or email to Governlausd@lacity.org