

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
MEASURE ON HARBOR AND PUBLIC UTILITIES (MEASURE HC)**

FAQ SHEET

**1. What is being proposed?**

- Reduction in the length of terms for Harbor Commissioners from six (6) years to four (4) years.
- Reduction in the length of terms for Public Utilities Commissioners from five (5) years to four (4) years.
- Transfer of authority to appoint and employ personnel from the Board of Harbor Commissioners to the Executive Director (Chief Executive Officer).
- Increase of fines and penalties for violation of any Harbor ordinance from \$500 and/or six (6) months imprisonment, to \$1,000 and/or six (6) months imprisonment.
- Align the Harbor Department annual budget process with the City of Long Beach fiscal year of October 1 to September 30.

**2. Was the public provided an opportunity to hear detailed discussion and provide input?**

- Yes. Public meetings were held on June 11, July 16, and August 6, 2024.

**3. What is the timeline for implementation?**

- If approved, changes will take place January 1, 2025.

**Terms of Commission Members (Section 508)**

**4. What does the proposed amendment change?**

- The proposed charter amendment provides that any person appointed as a member of the Harbor Commission or the Public Utilities Commission, who was not a member of such commission as of January 1, 2025, would be limited to serve no more than three (3) full terms of four (4) years each, on either the Harbor Commission or the Public Utilities Commission.
- If appointed to three (3) full terms, Harbor and Utilities Commissioners will be able to serve up to twelve (12) years.

**5. How will current Commissioners be impacted?**

- Commissioners appointed on or before January 1, 2025 will continue to serve the duration of their appointed term.
- Commissioners may serve up to a maximum of twelve years.

**6. Why the reduction to four (4) year term limits?**

- The reduction to a four (4) year term aligns the term of office for members of the Harbor and Public Utilities Commissions with other Charter Commissions such as the Civil Service Commission, Ethics Commission, Police Oversight Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission.
- The Civil Service Commission, Ethics Commission, Police Oversight Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission are limited to no more than two (2) full 4 year terms on any one commission, Harbor and Public Utilities Commissioners may serve up to three (3) full 4 year terms.

**7. Will the amendment change how Harbor and Public Utilities Commissioners are selected and appointed?**

- No. Harbor and Public Utilities Commissioners will continue to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

**Powers and Duties of the Commission (Section 1203)**

**8. What is the current hiring process in the Harbor Department?**

- The Harbor Department Human Resources Division conducts merit-based recruitments with candidates selected based on qualifications, skills and abilities.
- Upon identification of a suitable candidate for hire and successful completion of all stages of the pre-employment process (i.e., background check and physical exam), the Human Resources Division places the candidate on a Harbor Commission meeting agenda.
- The selected candidate is required to be affirmed by the Harbor Commission before an employment start date is provided.

**9. How does the Harbor Department hiring process compare to other City of Long Beach departments?**

- The City of Long Beach has twenty-three (23) departments.
- The Harbor Department is the only department with a requirement for selected candidates to be affirmed by a Commission or approval body.

**10. Will the charter amendment change the recruitment and selection process for appointees?**

- No, the Harbor Department Human Resources Division will continue to conduct merit-based recruitment, hiring and outreach.

**11. Does the proposed measure remove all oversight and authority for hiring from the Harbor Commission?**

- The measure shifts limited authority for hiring Harbor Department personnel to the Executive Director (Chief Executive Officer).
- The Harbor Commission will retain authority to:
  - Appoint and employ an Executive Director (Chief Executive Officer), Assistant Executive Director (Chief Operating Officer), and all Commission staff.
  - Approve all budgeted officers and positions of employment in the permanent service via resolution for the Harbor Department to fill.
  - Create bureaus and divisions of the Harbor Department.
  - Prescribe and fix the duties, authority and compensation of all positions.

**12. Is this proposal related in any way to Measure JB – the City of Long Beach Measure on Civil Service and Human Resources consolidation?**

- No. Measure JB focuses on the proposed consolidation of Civil Service and the City of Long Beach Department of Human Resources. The Harbor Department has a separate Human Resources Division that is not related to the consolidation.

**13. Does this action remove job protections for classified employees?**

- No. The proposed changes do not affect status in classified service.

**14. Are there mechanisms in place to prevent the appointment of immediate family members?**

- Yes. Section 511 of the Charter of the City of Long Beach, prohibits any officer, commission, or member of any Commission of the City from appointing any member of their immediate family into any office or position of employment.
- The Charter defines immediate family as wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, step-parent, step-child, or any person who regularly cohabits with or uses the domicile of said officer or commission member in their residence.
- Section 511 applies to Commissioners and Harbor Department staff

**15. How will the limited transfer of appointing authority from the Harbor Commission to the Executive Director (Chief Executive Officer) be advantageous to job applicants?**

- The limited transfer of appointing authority is anticipated to reduce time to hire by up to thirty (30) calendar days.

**16. Why is the fine amount increased from \$500 and/or six (6) months imprisonment, to \$1,000 and/or six (6) months imprisonment, for penalties in violation of any Harbor ordinance?**

- The proposed change aligns the penalty and fine structure with the City's Municipal Code (L.B.M.C. 1.32.010).

**Annual Budget (section 1210)**

**17. Why change the annual budget timeline?**

- In 1996, the City of Long Beach adopted a fiscal year of October 1 to September 30 for the annual budget process. The Harbor Department's annual budget timeframe was not updated at the time to coincide with the City's revised fiscal year. The Harbor Department now seeks to modify the charter language to formally align its annual budget process with the City's fiscal year for uniformity.