



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Holly J. Mitchell
Lindsey P. Horvath
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

Commissioners

Chair

Angela Gibson-Shaw
Second District

Vice Chair

Vartan Djihanian
Fifth District

Andrew Chou
First District

Kerry Doi
First District

Barney Santos
First District

Ali Ataya
First District

Carina Rivera
First District Alternate

Ametta Mack
Second District

Sarah R. Harris
Second District

Leslie Jones
Second District Alternate

Adriana Gomez
Third District

Aura Garcia
Third District

Robyn Ritter-Simon
Third District

Scott Mayers, Ph.D.
Third District

Carmen Schaye, Ph.D.
Fourth District

Cindy Allen
Fourth District

Patrick Wilson
Fourth District

Catherine Tolentino
Fourth District Alternate

Deane Leavenworth
Fifth District

Jozef Essavi
Fifth District

Tyrone Hampton
Fifth District

Onnik Mehrabian
Fifth District Alternate

SPECIAL MEETING RETREAT NOTICE AND AGENDA Friday, December 12, 2025 12:00 PM – 2:45 PM

IN-PERSON MEETING INFORMATION:

Los Angeles County Malibu Library
23519 W Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265

PUBLIC COMMENT:

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AN AGENDA ITEM OR NON-AGENDA ITEM,
PLEASE USE THE LINK PROVIDED BELOW.

Please note that if you wish to address the Commission during the meeting, **a total of one (1) minute will be allowed.** Requests to be heard must be submitted to the DEO Staff by completing a Public Comment Form via the link provided. (The Chair may, in the interest of facilitation the business of the Board, limit the amount of time which a person may in addressing the Commission).

Attachment [Public Comment Form – Small Business Commission Meeting Public Card](#)

A. ARRIVAL, CHECK-IN, AND LUNCH

- a. Once Commissioners arrive, pick up name tags, grab lunch, and take a seat

B. CALL TO ORDER

C. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- a. Marissa Lao, DEO, will deliver the acknowledgement.

D. ROLL CALL

E. WELCOME and OPENING REMARKS

- a. SBC Chair provides the welcome message.

F. ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY

- a. "One Unique Job or Talent"
- b. Each commissioner has one minute to introduce themselves and share a unique job, skill or talent

G. DISCUSSION #1 - IDENTIFYING NEEDS

- a. Breaks in small groups
- b. Topic: What are the greatest needs of the small business community? (15 minutes for group discussion)



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H. GROUP READ-OUT AND FULL DISCUSSION

- Group return to their seats
- Each group presents key community needs identified
- Commission discusses themes and areas of shared concern

I. BREAK

- 10-minute break

J. DISCUSSION #2 – SOLUTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Topic: What can we do to help address these needs?
- Groups explore actionable strategies, partnerships, and Commission roles
- 15 minutes for group conversations

K. READ-OUT #2 - PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Each group presents recommended solutions
- Commission reviews feasibility, alignment with the County's mission, and DEO's resources implications

L. PRORITIZATION AND VOTING

- Commission votes on top priority need(s) and recommended actions for 2026 Work Plan

M. NEXT STEPS

- 2026 Commission Meeting Calendar
- Commission appreciation

N. CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: January 14, 2026

10:00 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.

Meeting location: 510 S Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Please note that public comments will be accepted by e-mail or mail.

You may submit public comment by e-mail to opportunity_sbcommission@opportunity.lacounty.gov
or by mail to:

Attention:
Department of Economic Opportunity
Office of Small Business Commission
510 S. Vermont Avenue
11th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting. Please include the agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION

Any person who seeks support or endorsement from the Commission on any official action may be subject to the provisions of the Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.160 relating to lobbyists. Violation of the lobbyist ordinance may result in a fine and other penalty. For further information, call (213) 974-1093.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, or assisted listening devices are available with at least three business days' notice before the meeting date. Agendas in Braille and/or alternate formats are available upon request. Please telephone (213) 974-1431 (voice) or (213) 974-1707 (TDD), from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Para información en español, por favor comuníquese a la oficina de Servicios de Comisión al numero (213) 974-1431 entre 8:00 a.m. y 5:00 p.m. lunes a viernes.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Supporting documentation can be obtained at the Department of Economic Opportunity, 510 S Vermont Avenue, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90020 during normal business hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.