

DWP Governance Reform



FAQ

Q. What is DWP reform?

DWP reform refers to the City Council's efforts to restructure the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to better ensure an efficient, nimble and responsive Department. DWP reform was initiated by a City Council [motion](#) (16-0093) authored by Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, seconded by Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr. and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell. DWP reform has a broad-based coalition of support including Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Controller Ron Galperin.

Q. What needs to be reformed?

It has been suggested that DWP needs to become more nimble and customer-focused. To make these reforms sustainable and efficient, most require changing the City Charter. This requires a vote of the people and City leaders have committed to putting options before voters later this year.

Accountability

Today, no single entity has authority over the Department. The multiple layers of oversight add time and cost to simple operational tasks.

Operations

In order to make the Department's operations more efficient, nimble and responsive reforms to the hiring and civil service process, procurement and contracting procedures and legal representation are actively being considered. Reforms in these areas are critical for the Department to cope with an aging workforce, hiring new and mid-career people with utility-specific skills and operate in a more business-like fashion.

Affordability

To continue providing reliable service, DWP needs to make long-term investments in its infrastructure, systems and employees. Rates should be set in a way that allows the Department to meet its goals while maintaining competitive pricing with other utilities and affordability for ratepayers. Changes to the ratemaking process,

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the structure of the City Transfer and creating a rate structure that can better serve public purposes are an important part of the DWP reform discussion.

Q. Can the public be involved?

Yes. The City Council is encouraging all residents, ratepayers and stakeholders to get involved. The City Council is taking its responsibilities and commitment to transparency very seriously and has launched a robust public outreach campaign to ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to offer input. The robust public outreach campaign includes public committee hearings, City Council meetings, and community forums. Additionally, Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr. is encouraging residents to use social media to offer suggestions for reform using #DWPRReform.

Q. Will Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Alliances have a prominent role?

Yes. In his first action, Council President Herb Wesson sent a [letter](#) inviting all Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Alliances to hold local discussions on DWP reform at their March and April meetings and provide City Councilmembers with Community Impact Statements, local comments, feedback, and community specific white papers.

The Council President has also called upon Neighborhood Council Alliances to partner with the City Council's Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and Neighborhoods (REIRN) Committee and Mayor Eric Garcetti's office to coordinate regional townhall meetings on the subject throughout the spring.

Q. Where can I get more information?

The City Council has launched a comprehensive website which contains background materials, documents and committee hearing podcasts on the issue of DWP reform. The website- dwpreform.lacity.org- can be accessed 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

**Document intended to provide baseline information. More specifics can be found at dwpreform.lacity.org*