



DATE: July 30, 2020
TO: Executive Board, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
FROM: Coalition of County Unions* and SEIU Local 721
RE: Board Resolution placing a proposed Charter Amendment on the November 2020 ballot concerning County budgeting

On Tuesday, July 28, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on a vote of 4-1 with Supervisor Barger casting the sole “no” vote, moved forward with hasty plans to place a ballot measure on the November 2020 ballot to divert 10 percent of the County General Fund, or “Net County Cost,” revenues to community-based organizations. Although we strongly endorse the measure’s goal of increasing rehabilitation of juveniles and adults in at-risk communities, the unions representing L.A. County 80,000 unionized employees opposed the measure on strong legal grounds. Specifically, the Board of Supervisors action is a violation of a jointly negotiated section of the Los Angeles County Employee Relations Ordinance. We were joined in our opposition by the California Contract Cities Association, the Los Angeles County Division of the League of Cities, the *Los Angeles Times* Editorial Board, and many more.

Unless a judge intervenes, the measure is now headed to the November ballot. We respectfully and urgently request that the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, take an “oppose” position on the measure for the following critical reasons:

- The measure would lead to a budget cut of more than \$800 million a year, resulting in the layoff and displacement of thousands of unionized workers, shifting work to non-unionized organizations. Further, the budget cuts will likely cause a reduction in County services to the public – including critical restorative justice services programs – permanently changing the County budgetary process, resulting in long-term negative effects on L.A. County’s Union workers and services.

- If the L.A. County Board of Supervisors succeeds in their effort at ballot box budgeting thereby abdicating the core function they were elected to perform, and clearly circumventing our collective bargaining agreements, every public agency would have license to do the same. Further, private sector employers, particularly those providing services to governmental entities, may then feel that they have legal authority to take steps to circumvent their collective bargaining agreements.
- The measure is clearly unlawful:
 - The Board of Supervisors’ own Ordinance requires the County to negotiate with its labor unions before they go to the voters to amend the County Charter.
 - Further, the measure violates State law (the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, Government Code Section 3504), which requires that the Board negotiate with its labor unions before they go to the voters to amend the County Charter.
 - The measure violates State law (County Budget Act, Government Code Section 29000, et seq.), which statutorily governs the County’s budget authority.
 - The proposed Resolution would be an unlawful restriction on the discretion of future Boards in their budget powers.

In sum, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors’ Resolution placing a proposed Charter Amendment on the November 2020 ballot concerning County budgeting sets a grave legal precedent that could ultimately impact every single affiliate of the L.A. County Federation of Labor and we strongly urge an “oppose” position. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

*The 14 member Unions united in the Coalition of County Unions (CCU) collectively represent more than 35,000 men and women employed by the County of Los Angeles. United for more than 30 years and affiliated with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, the CCU is the members’ voice on County-wide matters such as health insurance, vacation pay, retirement, and many other matters that impact all County employees and their families – not just those in an individual County Department. Affiliated unions include:

- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
 - Union of American Physicians and Dentists, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
 - AFSCME District Council 36, AFL-CIO
 - AFSCME Local 685, AFL-CIO
- Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, MEBA, AFL-CIO
- Association of Public Defender Investigators, MEBA, AFL-CIO
- California Association of Professional Employees, MEBA, AFL-CIO
- California Federation of Interpreters, CWA Local 39000, AFL-CIO
- Committee of Interns and Residents, SEIU, 1957
- Los Angeles County Firefighters Local 1014, AFL-CIO
- Los Angeles County Lifeguard Association, MEBA, AFL-CIO
- Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO
- International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 501, AFL-CIO
- Professional Peace Officers Association, MEBA, AFL-CIO
- Teamsters Local 911