

## References

### Los Angeles Municipal Code

§§ 49.5.3, 49.5.11, 49.5.12

### California Government Code

§§ 87406.3, 87407, 1090

### California Code of Regulations, Title II

§§ 18746.2-18747



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**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION**

The City Ethics Commission (CEC) has authority to investigate and enforce fines on violations of campaign finance provisions, the municipal lobbying ordinance, and governmental ethics laws.

To review these laws and other CEC publications in detail, please visit our website at:

<http://ethics.lacity.org>

For information about the City Ethics Commission, its programs, and/or the laws discussed on this brochure, please contact our office.

#### Address:

Los Angeles City Ethics Commission  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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# Post-City Service Reminders

## for Former City of LA Officials and Employees



## “Revolving Door” Reminders for Former City Officials and Employees

When City officials<sup>\*</sup> and employees leave City service, they may wonder what governmental ethics restrictions apply to them once their City service ends. Like many other governmental agencies, the City of Los Angeles has established certain “revolving door” provisions. The “revolving door” is a term used to describe the movement of a public official from a public sector job to one that involves lobbying government on behalf of a private sector employer or client. Restrictions on this movement are established to prevent former City officials and employees from exercising, or appearing to exercise, improper influence over City decisions and, thereby, assure fair and open governmental decision-making.

There are several revolving door restrictions to keep in mind when you leave City service.

### Temporary Restrictions

City law prohibits a former City official from receiving compensation to attempt to influence actions of City agencies for a specific period of time that is based on the type of position the official held:

- **Elected Officials<sup>\*\*</sup>**  
A 2-year ban on attempting to influence *any* City agency.
- **“High-level” Officials<sup>\*\*\*</sup>**  
A 1-year ban on attempting to influence *any* City agency.
- **All Other City Officials**  
A 1-year ban on attempting to influence a City agency in which the official served during the 12 months before leaving City service.

<sup>\*</sup> A City official is a person who is required to file a statement of economic interests (California Form 700) under a City conflict of interest code.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Elected officials are also subject to state revolving door laws which in some respects are stricter than City law.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> High-level officials are designated by position. To determine whether you were a high-level official, please refer to the City’s Governmental Ethics Ordinance §49.5.2, downloadable at [http://ethics.lacity.org/PDF/laws/law\\_geo.pdf](http://ethics.lacity.org/PDF/laws/law_geo.pdf), or contact the City Ethics Commission.



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the public interest...”*

### Permanent Restrictions

City law also establishes two permanent prohibitions:

- **“Personal and Substantial” Ban**  
Former City officials and employees may not receive compensation to attempt to influence any City agency regarding matters in which they personally and substantially participated during City service. This ban lasts for as long as the matter is still pending with the City or the City has an interest in it. The ban also prohibits a former City official or employee from receiving compensation to assist another person who is attempting to influence those matters.

Personal and substantial participation includes activities such as making a decision or a recommendation, conducting research and/or an investigation, and giving advice. There are some narrow exceptions to the ban; please contact the City Ethics Commission for more information.

- **Use of Confidential Information**  
Former (and current) City officials and employees may not disclose or use for personal gain any confidential information that they acquired in the course of their City service.

### Other Reminders

- **Negotiating Future Employment**  
A City official may not negotiate future employment with a person (other than a government agency) who has a matter that is within the jurisdiction of the official’s agency or is currently pending before the official. In addition, a City official may not participate in or influence a decision involving the interests of a person with whom the official (1) has an arrangement regarding future employment, or (2) is negotiating, including discussing possible employment, if the decision will have a material financial effect on the prospective employer. A “person” is an individual, a business, an organization, or any other group of persons acting in concert.
- **Leaving Office Statement**  
A City official who leaves City service must file a [California Form 700](#) as a “leaving office” statement, which discloses the official’s economic interests for the period beginning on the date of the official’s last annual statement through the last date of City service. The official must file the form with his or her departmental ethics liaison within 30 days of leaving City service.
- **City Contracts**  
After you leave the City, state law may bar you or possibly your new employer from receiving any benefit from a contract that you participated in creating while with the City.

Please note that this brochure provides only general guidelines that apply to former City officials and employees. Applying the laws to a particular set of facts can be complex. Please contact the City Ethics Commission for more information about how these laws apply specifically to you.