

# Charter panel endorses single measure

By Rick Orlov

*Daily News Staff Writer*

The elected Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission voted 10-4 Monday to put a single compromise proposal before voters in June.

Critics complained the group had negotiated away key elements needed to give people more power in areas like the San Fernando Valley.

The vote came after nearly three hours of debate, in which several commissioners complained bitterly about the loss of proposed charter elements such as elected neighborhood councils, an independent redistricting commission and other factors they say would have increased community participation in city government.

"Is there anything in here that will make life better for my people and the San Fernando Valley?" Commissioner Paula Boland said. "There's nothing about reducing taxes, about making people feel closer to their government. What can I tell them?"

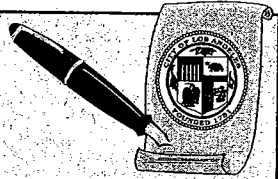
But Commissioner Rob Glushon said the consensus proposal did provide a major improvement for the Valley.

"This stops the rape of representation in the San Fernando Valley," Glushon said. "One third of the city lives in the Valley, yet we only have four council members who live there."

"This gives a voice and vote to people who live near the Harbor, near LAX or near Van Nuys

## CHARTER REFORM

Here are some of the key differences between the existing City Charter, the one proposed by the elected commission and the one proposed in the consensus proposal:



PROPOSAL	EXISTING	ELECTED	CONSENSUS
Size*	400 pages	138 pages	Unknown
Council size	15	Voters choose from 15 to 25	Voters choose from 21 to 25
General manager hiring	Mayor appoints with council confirmation	Mayor appoints with council confirmation	Mayor appoints with council confirmation
General manager firing	Mayor removes with council approval	Mayor has sole authority	Mayor removes, subject to two-thirds council override
Reorganization of departments	Council power	No position	Mayor proposes, with council approval
City Council role	Legislative and executive	Legislative	Legislative
Planning	one citywide panel	Five area panels and one citywide	Five area panels and one citywide
Living wage	No position	Included	Included
Domestic partners	No position	Included	Included
Commission appointments	Mayor appoints with council approval	Mayor appoints with council approval	Mayor appoints with council approval
Commission removal	Subject to council approval	Mayor removes with council consent	Mayor acts alone except for Police and Ethics Commission
Neighborhood councils	None	Advisory, voter option for elected panels	Advisory

\*Plus civil service and pension rules in all versions.

# Elected panel endorses compromise

CHARTER / From Page 1

Airport," he said.

Another point which drew opposition was a provision that prevented people from being able to vote to keep the City Council at its present 15 members.

The consensus plan does not mention how large the council should be, but asks voters separately if there should be 21 or 25 members.

Elected commission Chairman Erwin Chemerinsky said he and appointed Chairman George Kieffer had agreed to have further discussions where voters would be allowed to keep the council at 15 members.

But throughout the debate, dissenting commissioners voiced concern over elements of the charter proposal that were dropped.

The consensus proposal eliminates the possibility of having elected neighborhood councils with decision-making authority. Instead, it would create advisory panels.

Commissioner Janice Hahn described herself as "disappointed and troubled."

"None of us were elected to negotiate a charter," Hahn said. "We were given a mandate to change how this government operates. We have the ability to put our own proposal directly to the voters."

Hahn said she disagreed with the idea that voters could not differentiate between competing charter reform measures.

"I think it would have been exciting, fun, to debate two different proposals. We could have had everyone talking about what we're doing and now we have this

last-minute deal," Hahn said. "This last horse trade — we traded in a thoroughbred for a nag."

The action follows adoption of the consensus plan by the appointed Charter Reform Commission last week, after Mayor Richard Riordan agreed to some major concessions over his power to unilaterally fire general managers.

The elected panel will continue its work on its own plan as the City Council later this week is scheduled to receive the new proposal.

Chemerinsky and other members of the elected commission have said they will return to their original reform proposal if the council makes significant changes.

Council President John Ferraro has said he will try to keep the council from making any changes to avert the prospect of having two competing measures on the June 8

ballot.

Riordan, in agreeing to drop the right to fire general managers, did win a concession allowing him to remove commissioners on all panels — except the Ethics Commission and Police Commission — without council approval.

Other features of the consensus plan broaden the authority of the Mayor's Office in lawsuits and reorganizing city departments.

It also creates five area planning commissions and one citywide planning commission.

The area commissions would be composed of five members and the citywide panel would have nine members. The consensus plan also changes the makeup of other panels, such as requiring the Harbor Commission and the Airport Commission to have at least one resident of the immediate area appointed to serve.