The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org.

350 S. Bixel St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.580.7500 tel 213.580.7511 fax
info@lachamber.org

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

Measure R Means Good Government

by Gary Toebben, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Talk about ethics and government reform is spreading in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, most of the talk is about what to do after the fact.

That is why the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters of L.A. proactively sponsored Measure R on the November ballot. The measure is a comprehensive reform package that includes revisions to term limits for City of L.A. councilmembers.

This proposal will create greater accountability and transparency within L.A. city government...The time for these reforms is now.

Measure R will:

- Allow L.A. City Councilmembers to serve for up to three 4-year terms – a two-term limit is currently in place.
- Prohibit registered city lobbyists and lobbying firms from making campaign contributions to city officials they lobby.
- Prohibit registered city lobbyists from sitting on city boards and commissions.
- Impose tighter and more readily enforceable thresholds for lobbyists, and require individuals and organizations who lobby to register as lobbyists.
- Require compulsory annual ethics training for city officials and registered lobbyists.
- Prohibit former elected city officials from lobbying any city agency or department for two years after leaving city service.
- Require early disclosure of independent expenditures for candidates or ballot measures.

Our citizens want to make sure that our elected officials are acting in the public interest and those groups and individuals who lobby City Hall do not have an undue amount of influence.

Beyond that, Measure R will bring more continuity of leadership and policy by allowing councilmembers to serve for an additional term in office. Most elected officials spend the first few years in office learning the system at City Hall and then run for re-election. If re-elected they have but four more years to impact the goals on which they ran for office.

Our proposal would give L.A. City Councilmembers the opportunity to serve an additional term to complete those important long-term projects that take years to bring to fruition. It also makes councilmembers less dependent on long-time staff members and lobbyists, both of which have no term limits in their service at City Hall.

The time for these reforms is now. The voters haven’t updated our ethics and term limit laws since 1990. We ask that you join with the Chamber and the League of Women Voters in supporting our good government ethics reform package by voting YES on Measure R.

And that’s The Business Perspective.

Gary L. Toebben, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

The Business Perspective is a weekly opinion piece by Gary Toebben, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, produced with the input of Senior Policy Advisor Rusty Hammer.