



Ktown for All

Los Angeles City Council Report Card

2021 in Housing & Homelessness Policy

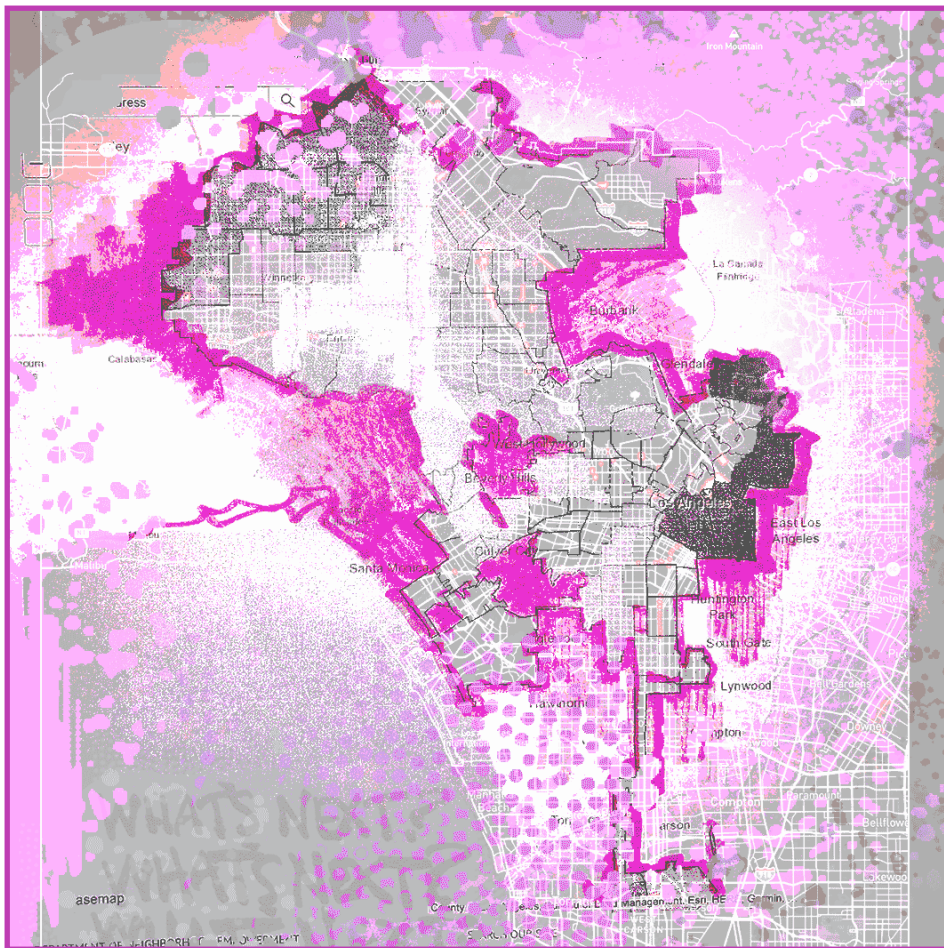


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GLOSSARY

41.18	The city of LA's law governing sitting, sleeping, lying, and storing property in public space. It's most recent version, passed this summer, allows councilmembers to create zones where camping is illegal in their districts.
85.02	The city of LA's law governing vehicle dwelling, which has, in the past, made it illegal to live in your vehicle.
A Bridge Home	A citywide program to build interim housing in every district, introduced by Mayor Garcetti in 2018.
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)	A small additional unit, often a building in a backyard, that provides an additional living space on an existing property.
Affordable housing covenant	An agreement between a government and a property owner to follow affordability requirements over a period of time.
Community Land Trust (CLT)	Nonprofit, community-based organizations designed to ensure community control of land. They can be used for housing or as a tool for environmental preservation.
Congregate Shelter	Shelters for unhoused people in which multiple people are sleeping in a single space.
Criminalization zone	An area designated by the city as an area where unhoused people cannot reside. Under LAMC 41.18, sitting, sleeping, lying, or camping in those areas are forbidden.
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA)	The city department that manages LA's social housing stock.
Interim Housing	Short-term housing meant to provide a transition toward permanent housing. This includes the city's A Bridge Home program and its tiny home projects.
Lobbying Motion	A motion advocating for an action by another government (e.g. state, federal). The city maintains a lobbying calendar with the non-city legislation it supports.
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)	A joint city-county agency that deals with homelessness funding, outreach, and policy.
Moved / Sponsored	Introduced a motion for consideration by city council or a relevant committee.
Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent homes for formerly-unhoused people with on-site case management and services.
Project Homekey	A state-level pandemic program to acquire hotels, motels, or apartments for use as permanent housing for unhoused people.
Project Roomkey	A state-level pandemic program to lease hotel rooms as interim housing for unhoused people.

GLOSSARY

Report Back	A motion requesting that a relevant city department provide data, proposals, or other documents in pursuit of a particular legislative goal.
SB10	A state law requiring cities to allow more density in transit-rich areas.
SB478	A state law forbidding cities from passing certain rules against density.
SB9	A state law allowing homeowners to turn single-family homes into 2-4 unit buildings.
Seconded	Moving a motion requires a second councilmember to endorse it, known as "seconding" the motion.
Single-family zoning	Zoning rules that allow only detached, single-family homes to be built in an area.
Social housing	Permanent housing owned and managed by the government. In LA, social housing is managed by HACLA.

INTRODUCTION

LA's city council is a body with enormous power. Our 15 city councilmembers determine much of LA's approach to homelessness and housing, both through legislation and through their administrative authority in their own districts. Moreover, LA's council districts are considerably larger than those in other cities, meaning that each councilmember represents nearly 260,000 constituents.

2021 was a year of continued crises, as systemic issues of housing insecurity and homelessness were exacerbated by the acute effects of an ongoing pandemic. As an organization we are committed to advocating for policies that will address the immediate needs as well as the root causes of the homelessness crisis while having a lasting impact. As part of that effort, we decided to systematically examine how those setting policies responded to homelessness, and to compare how LA's councilmembers performed over the course of the past year.

We began a process of extensive research into the actions and statements of each member. Research took two forms: primary research based on the city's council file database, and secondary research backed up by reputable media and social media sources. Over the summer, working with a research fellow from the UCLA Institute for Inequality and Democracy, we developed a system and database for tracking and analyzing council motions related to homelessness and housing. Using a broad set of search terms to identify relevant legislation, the final dataset (which can be [accessed in the KFA Motion Database](#)), includes 108 motions introduced by councilmembers during the year's council session. The data covers a period from mid-December 2020, when new councilmembers were sworn in, through the end of December 2021, and numbers cited in this report are accurate as of January 20th, 2022.

In addition to this primary research, we also looked to reputable media and social media sources applicable to a councilmembers' performance. We looked especially closely at councilmembers' own statements, as well as direct responses to their claims from other officials, the press, and activists. These sources were helpful in contextualizing how each members' legislative record fit into their broader philosophy on homelessness and housing issues.

The result of this research produced comparative grades for each council-

INTRODUCTION

member and our first annual **Ktown For All Councilmember Report Card**. Our goal in evaluating the performance of city councilmembers is to educate the public and provide useful information about how LA city government works (or doesn't).

We hope to continue this project, tracking councilmembers' records over time, and using the data to hold politicians accountable. We hope the Report Card will be educational and engaging — provoking discussion and bringing new people into the complicated, wonky, sometimes overwhelming and intimidating, world of local politics and policy.

HOW WERE COUNCILMEMBERS GRADED?

As in previous reports where we graded candidates, we evaluated each councilmember on four specific topic areas:

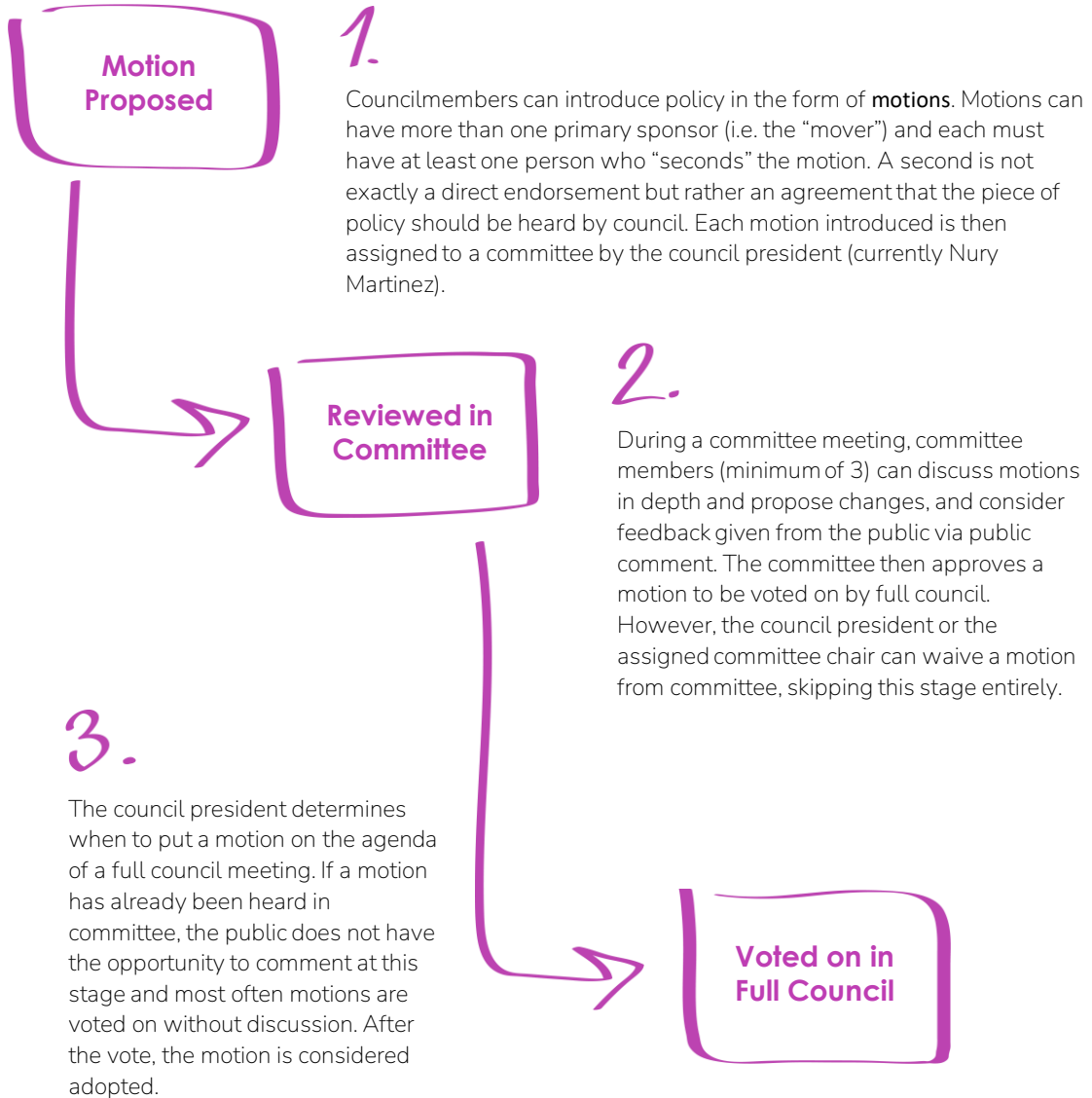
- **Homeless Services and Projects**
- **Housing Policy and Tenancy**
- **Criminalization and Enforcement**
- **Effort and Depth of Knowledge**

Ktown for All members were invited to review the research and rate each councilmember. Ratings on each area were then aggregated into an overall grade. Councilmembers were compared directly to each other, with a "C" grade representing the average councilmember.

In looking at each member of the council, we compared their record against the policies and values Ktown for All advocates for:

- Councilmembers should be active legislators on these issues and should work to honestly inform the public about what is and isn't working.
- Councilmembers should be expanding homelessness services. This includes both case management for navigating shelter/housing, and more immediate, street-level services (e.g. bathrooms, trash pickup, etc.)
- In the long term, housing is the solution to homelessness, not shelter. While interim options can be incredibly valuable, the lack of affordable, accessible housing options is the main problem city council should be tackling.
- Fighting for tenants is part of fighting homelessness. Protecting people who are precariously housed from eviction is key to stopping people from losing housing in the first place.
- Enforcement-led policies that prioritize criminalization over housing and services are wasteful, cruel, and counter-productive.
- Councilmembers should take a systemic and holistic view of homelessness. Rhetoric that blames individuals for their own housing status diverts attention and effort from building real solutions. Leaders should focus on the big-picture choices that led to our current crisis.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



Above is a very simplified overview of the typical legislative process for the City of Los Angeles. Of course, there are instances where special rules are invoked that change this process ([i.e. what happened with 41.18](#)). The time that it takes for a motion to go from proposed to adopted can be as short as a week, but most often the committee and council schedules dictate that the average process to be a few months. In Los Angeles, almost every motion that is voted on in council is unanimously approved. Often legislation “dies” in between these stages, when either a committee chair or the council president does not prioritize putting a motion on an agenda, leaving proposed legislation in limbo indefinitely before it expires two years after it is introduced.

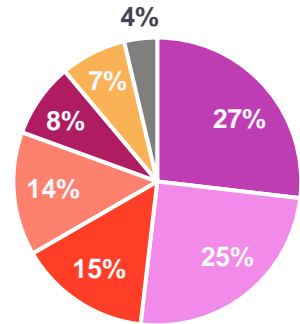
2021 HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS POLICY YEAR IN REVIEW

A total of 108 motions were tracked, coded, and analyzed. See [Appendix A](#) for a more detailed description of our methodology, or view the raw data in the [KFA Motion Database](#).

2021 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING MOTIONS BY TOPIC

Almost one-quarter of the motions were related to affordable housing (27%), followed by services (25%). Administrative changes (e.g. permitting issues, etc.) were the least common topic (4%) among the motions.

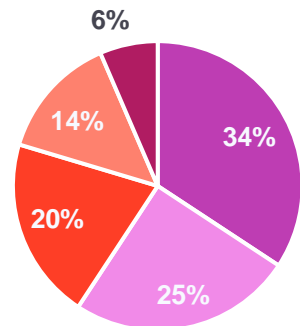
- Affordable Housing
- Services
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Budget
- Criminalization
- Administrative



2021 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING MOTIONS BY ACTION

The most common action invoked was a report back or request for data (34%), closely followed by project funding or creation (25%). Creating a new ordinance was the least common action invoked by a motion (6%).

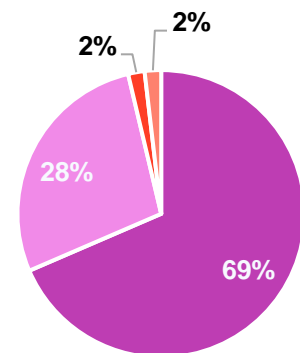
- Report/Data
- Project
- Lobbying
- Budget Adjustment
- Ordinance



2021 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING MOTIONS BY STATUS

The majority of motions introduced in 2021 were adopted (69%). 28% were referred to a committee but have yet to be agendized in that committee. Only two motions have been disapproved in committee: Lee's motion to revoke funding from a behind-schedule permanent supportive housing project ([CF 21-0434](#)), and Buscaino's motion to withdraw from the joint powers authority agreement with the county in overseeing the Los Angeles Homelessness Authority (LAHSA) ([CF 21-0706](#)).

- Adopted
- Referred to committee
- Pending
- Disapproved in committee

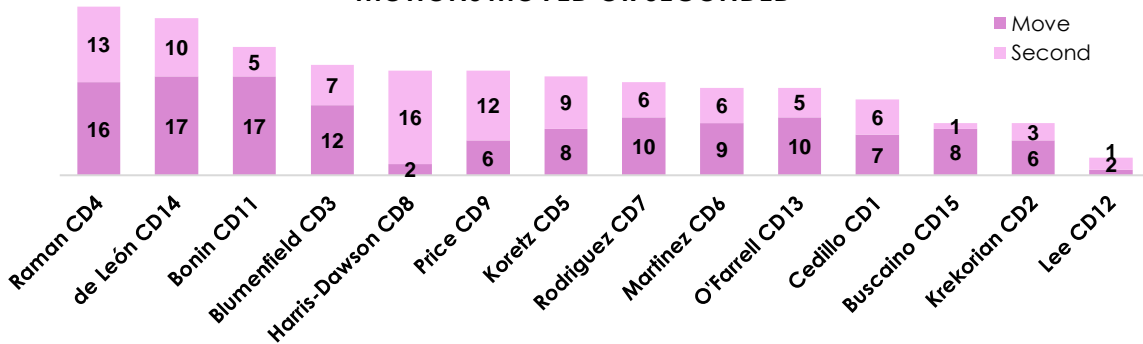


2021 HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS POLICY YEAR IN REVIEW

Council District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Move	7	6	12	16	8	9	10	2	6	15	17	1	10	17	8
Second	6	3	7	13	9	6	6	16	12	16	5	2	5	10	1
Move OR Second	13	9	19	29	17	15	16	18	18	31	22	3	15	27	9

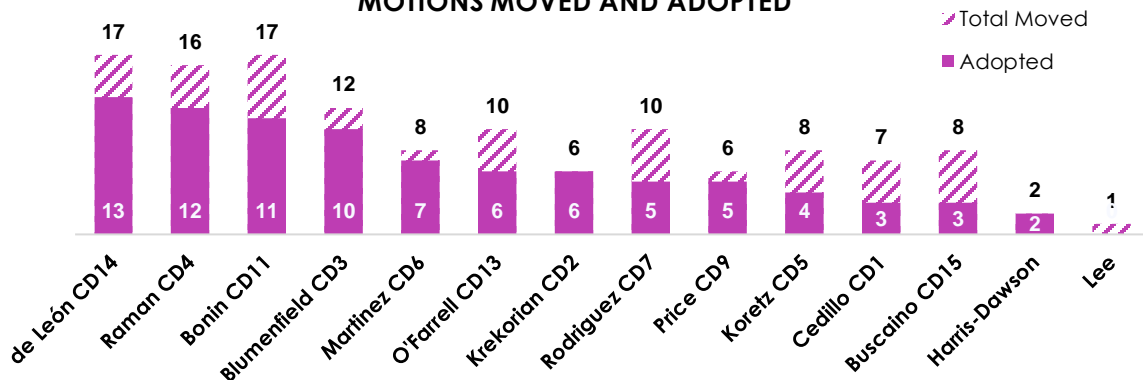
In 2021, Councilmembers Bonin (District 11) and de León (District 14) were the primary sponsors of the most¹¹ motions related to homelessness and housing — 17 motions each, accounting for over 30% of total legislation on these topics. Taking into account motions moved and seconded, Councilmember Raman (District 4) narrowly edged out de León with 29 motions and 27 motions respectively. Councilmember Harris-Dawson (District 8) was the primary sponsor of just one motion, however he led in co-sponsoring by seconding 16 pieces of legislation.

MOTIONS MOVED OR SECONDED



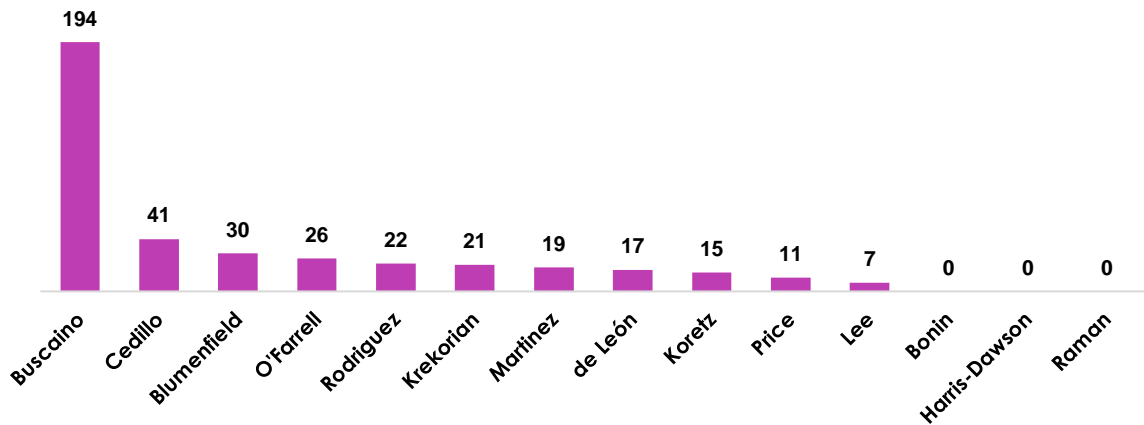
Councilmember Lee (District 12) was the least active this session on homelessness. He introduced one piece of legislation (which was disapproved in committee) and was the second sponsor of two motions. Councilmember Buscaino (District 15) led in introducing 8 motions, however rarely was the co-sponsor, being the sole councilmember to only second one motion. The most successful councilmembers in passing legislation were de León (13 motions), Raman (12), and Bonin (11).

MOTIONS MOVED AND ADOPTED



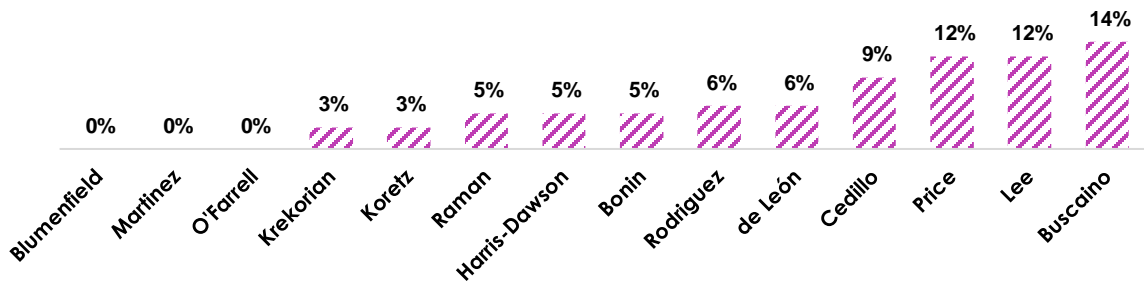
2021 HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS POLICY YEAR IN REVIEW

PROPOSED CRIMINALIZATION ZONES BY COUNCILMEMBER



In late summer, council passed an ordinance amending LAMC 41.18, which allowed individual councilmembers ban sitting, sleeping, and lying within designated areas. To ban a site, councilmembers must introduce resolutions with listed sites, and they are voted on by full council. In the fall, council members began introducing resolutions and a total of 403 sites have been proposed. Most of these sites were approved and are effectively banned apart from Councilmember Buscaino’s much larger number of proposed sites, which have been “filed” for later review. Details on these resolutions are included in [the database](#).

ABSENCES FROM HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS VOTES BY COUNCILMEMBER



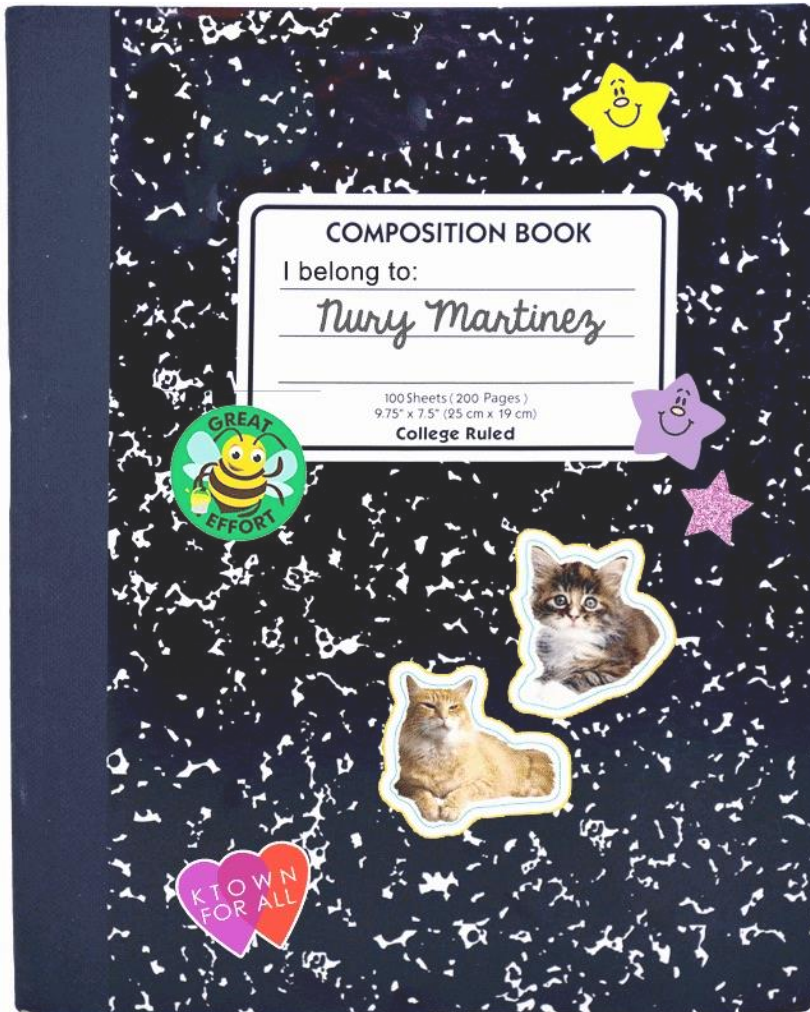
Councilmember Buscaino (District 15) led the council in absences, missing 14% of the votes related to these motions. Councilmembers Lee and Price also missed over 10% of the votes examined. Councilmembers Martinez (District 6), O'Farrell (District 13), and Blumenfield (District 3) were present for all votes studied. On October 20th, Council District 10’s Mark Ridley Thomas was suspended from council and was absent from 16% of the votes for the remainder of the year.

THE GRADES

Councilmembers were graded on a 5-point, relative scale from “one of the worst” to “one of the best” on each issue. Member grades were averaged, and then letter grades were assigned based on a curve, with “C” representing the average grade.

	Homeless Services & Projects	Housing Policy & Tenancy	Criminalization & Enforcement	Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge	OVERALL GRADE
CD1 – Cedillo	B+	B-	D	C+	C+
CD2 – Krekorian	B-	D	D	C+	C-
CD3 – Blumenfield	B	C	C-	B	C
CD4 – Raman	A	A	A	A	A
CD5 – Koretz	F	F	F	F	F
CD6 – Martinez	C	C+	F	C-	C-
CD7 – Rodriguez	B-	B-	D	C+	C
CD8 – Harris-Dawson	B+	B+	B-	B	B
CD9 – Price	C	C	C	D	C-
CD 10 –					
CD11 – Bonin	A	A	A	A	A
CD12 – Lee	F	F	F	F	F
CD13 – O’Farrell	C-	C-	F	D	D
CD14 – de León	C	C	D+	D	C-
CD15 – Buscaino	F	D	F	F	F

COUNCILMEMBER REPORT CARDS

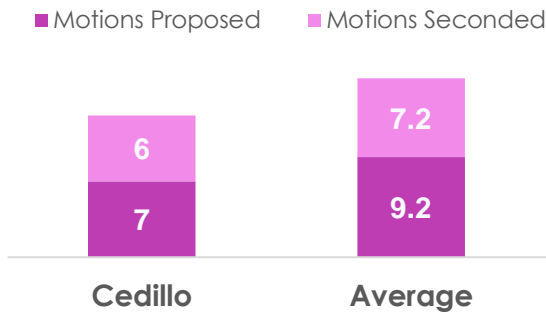




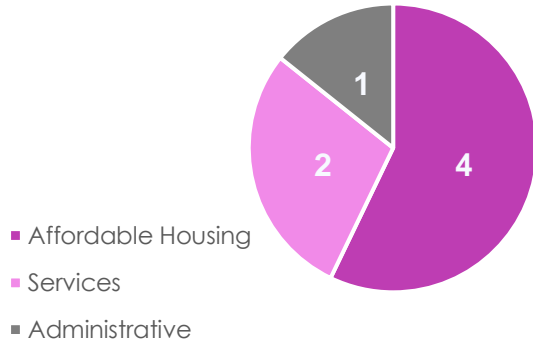
Councilmember Cedillo has been an advocate on housing affordability, especially at the state level. He is not the most active legislator, and his approach to addressing issues is often cautious. He has focused more on housing than shelter as a solution to homelessness, especially compared to other pro-criminalization councilmembers. Despite that, he occasionally employs rhetoric around “reclaiming space” and inherent danger, which raises concerns.

OVERALL GRADE: C+

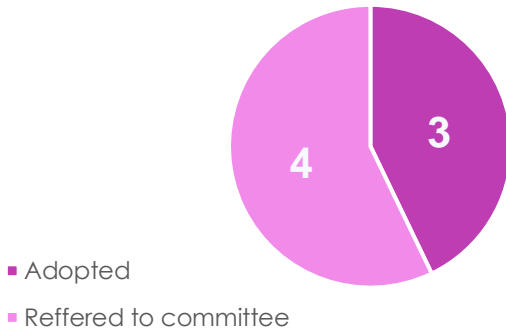
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



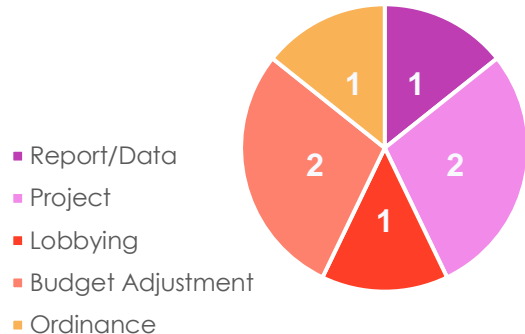
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



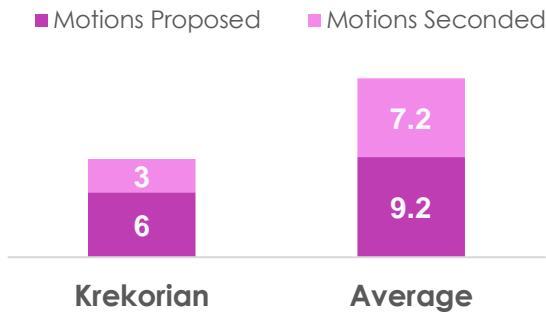
<p>Homeless Services and Projects</p> <p>B+</p>	<p>Councilmember Cedillo's efforts tend to focus on housing and less on other services. In response to a rainy and cold December of 2020, Cedillo introduced a motion in January of 2021 that would expand the number of winter shelters around the city, and seeking to identify what would be needed to open one in each district. Cedillo's district has a significantly higher-than-average number of permanent supportive housing units built or in the pipeline (approximately 1,200). In the last year, the City approved a mixed use supportive and affordable housing project in Lincoln Heights.</p>
<p>Housing Policy and Tenancy</p> <p>B-</p>	<p>On tenancy issues, Councilmember Cedillo has been inconsistent. In Chinatown, he has faced criticism for his lack of responsiveness to tenants of Cathay Manor, a low-income senior housing complex. He moved to provide assistance to Cathay Manor seniors facing a landlord's refusal to fix their elevators. In February, he responded to demands from tenants at Hillside Villa by putting forward a motion to purchase the building, an affordable housing covenant development heading to the covenant's expiration date. During council debate over tenant protections, he introduced amendments criticized by housing justice advocates as intentionally weakening proposed tenant protection legislation to limit landlord harassment. Councilmember Cedillo frequently lobbied the state about issues related to affordable housing and housing covenants.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>D</p>	<p>Councilmember Cedillo voted in favor of revising LAMC 41.18 to create criminalization zones, saying that the ordinance is "work we must do together to find a balance to make progress for all." In December of 2021, Cedillo introduced 16 sites under these rules. In the fall, he moved to close MacArthur Park for deferred maintenance, though his office insisted that this was being done differently than in Echo Park Lake releasing an official side by side comparison from his office. He has promoted enforcement-focused cleanups as positive measures, even in cases where they destroy the shelters and possessions of unhoused people.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>C+</p>	<p>Councilmember Cedillo is somewhat active on tenancy issues, but was less active than other legislators in 2021 on housing and homelessness issues overall. He has shown a commitment to building more permanent and temporary housing and is to the left of others on criminalization issues, but his statements and rhetoric are sometimes concerning, especially when he embraces tropes about the danger of homeless people. His office is less committed than others to frequent public communication on these issues.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be bolder — stand on the side of tenants instead of watering down proposals. • Avoid "balance" rhetoric that falsely pits housed constituents against unhoused constituents. • Stay focused on housing as the solution to homelessness, not shelter or enforcement.



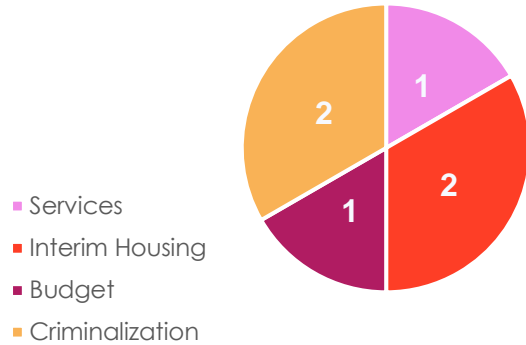
Councilmember Krekorian’s statements show a focus on expanding shelter as the carrot associated with the stick of forced removal and criminalization. His advocacy for tiny home villages over congregate shelters is an improvement, but his criticisms of social housing coupled with a lack of a clear plan for addressing housing affordability issues leaves a lot to be desired.

OVERALL GRADE: C-

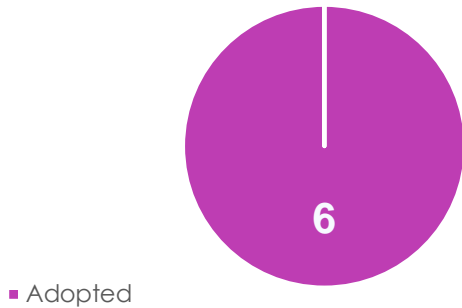
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



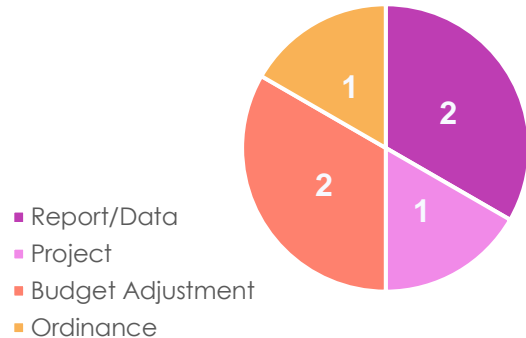
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



<p>Homeless Services and Projects</p> <p>B-</p>	<p>Councilmember Krekorian is at the forefront of building “Tiny Homes” as shelter, opening one site in North Hollywood and getting another approved. He passed a motion to reduce interagency redundancy, co-sponsored a motion to obtain funding for a new LAHSA access center in CD4, worked with Council President Martinez to explore expanding Project Roomkey and identify federal funding to pay for it, although no additional funds were forthcoming. In addition, Krekorian co-sponsored a motion to explore the use of additional Department of Transportation properties as Safe Parking and recently broke ground on the Vanowen Apartments, a 49-unit supportive housing project which he claims will cost 20% less than a standard HHH building project.</p>
<p>Housing Policy and Tenancy</p> <p>D</p>	<p>There has not been a lot of action from Councilmember Krekorian around issues relating to housing. He strongly opposed state measures aimed at reducing single-family zoning, describing them as “trickle-down housing,” but he has been unclear about what he believes would work better here. As chair of the budget committee he has so far refused to agendize Councilmember Cedillo’s proposal for the city to use eminent domain to purchase 124 units of affordable housing, and additionally took a minority position on a vote to claim the city was legally unable to move forward with the motion.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>D</p>	<p>Councilmember Krekorian sponsored a motion allocating over \$3 million to Rec & Parks for equipment to remove homeless encampments. He has consistently voted in favor of criminalization measures, including the revised LAMC 41.18, though he did vote no on Councilmember Buscaino’s more extreme version. He has established 21 criminalization zones in his district.. Krekorian has employed service resistance rhetoric, and has also made misleading public statements about the justifications for banning encampments in certain public places.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>C+</p>	<p>Councilmember Krekorian is detail-oriented and understands budgeting and homeless services, but he moved or seconded a lower-than-average number of motions on homelessness. His public statements about service resistance are concerning, as are his descriptions of the city’s new policies on encampments.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your knowledge of the system to move bigger legislative changes. • Be honest about the lack of available housing and services. • Put more effort into housing policy and tenancy issues.

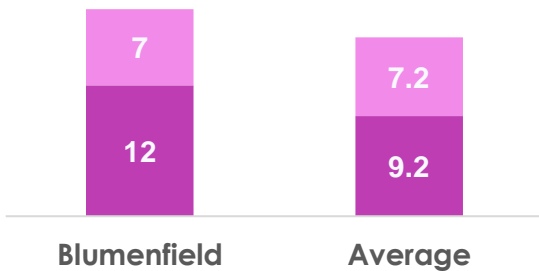


Councilmember Blumenfield has a mixed record on housing and homelessness. His willingness to pursue projects and communicate frequently with the public are appreciated; however, his record shows a focus on interim over permanent housing. Blumenfield’s public statements are at times valuable, particularly pushing back on the idea of service resistance, but his pragmatic approach can lead him to embrace contradictory rhetoric on homelessness issues.

OVERALL GRADE: C

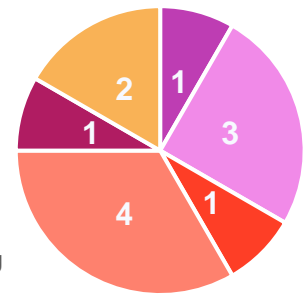
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED

■ Motions Proposed ■ Motions Seconded



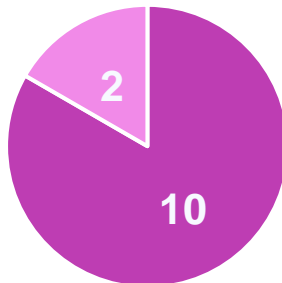
MOTIONS BY TOPIC

- Affordable Housing
- Services
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Budget
- Criminalization



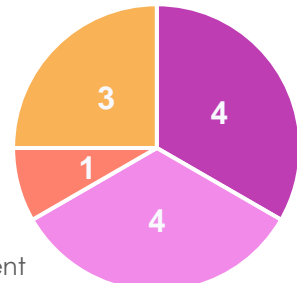
MOTIONS BY OUTCOME

- Adopted
- Referred to committee



MOTIONS BY ACTION

- Report/Data
- Project
- Budget Adjustment
- Ordinance



<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>B-</p>	<p>Legislatively, Councilmember Blumenfield is the 4th most active member with respect to services and projects. He opened a 52-unit interim housing “Tiny Home Village,” in Reseda, a 75-unit Bridge Home in Canoga Park, and partnered with Councilmember Bonin to move a motion streamlining the creation of more Safe Parking sites. With Councilmembers Price, O’Farrell, and De Leon, Blumenfield sought to lower costs by altering design standards for shelters. He also was the mover of a proposal to find a way to fund housing for people in recovery for substance abuse.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Councilmember Blumenfield introduced a motion lobbying the state legal assistance to renters. Along with CMs Raman, Bonin, and Koretz, he co-authored a motion aimed at regulating short-term rentals to maintain affordable housing stock, though this motion has not yet been added to the agenda for a final vote. Blumenfield also put forward a motion to provide assistance for development of accessory dwelling units as homeless housing. Blumenfield has focused on increasing property values, which is at odds with the goal of making housing more affordable.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>C-</p>	<p>Councilmember Blumenfield has focused on criminalizing homelessness in underpasses and near interim housing projects. He voted for the revised LAMC 41.18 and later introduced 30 sites where homeless people would be banned under the new framework. Blumenfield explicitly linked building shelters to new enforcement measures, stating that “having these beds makes it easier to implement laws like the new 41.18.” He expressed sympathy in reaction to sanitation throwing away a homeless resident’s essential belongings, but also has made statements like “we need to be compassionate, but we must also insist on compliance with rules and regulations.” He has, at times, spoken out against service-resistance narratives, stating that “when offered, people who experience homelessness typically accept shelter if immediately available.”</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Councilmember Blumenfield is an active legislator on homelessness issues, and has put forward small but useful policies on housing and services. His office has been open to addressing concerns, and spends a fair amount of time communicating with the public about homelessness and projects in their districts. Blumenfield has a good understanding of how the city works, however, this budget-mindedness can lead him to more moderate or fiscally conservative positions. His views are shaped by his district, with a general focus on the needs of homeowners.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On housing, don’t prioritize increasing property values over affordability. • Fully commit to pushing back on “service resistance” and crime rhetoric. • Think bigger — individual projects are good, but they aren’t enough.

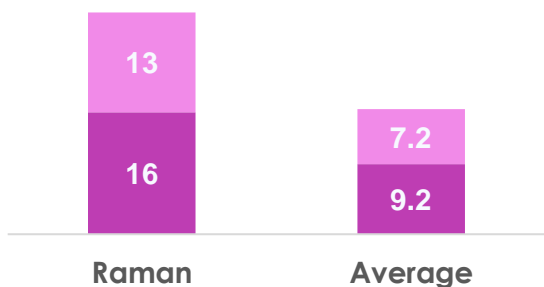


Councilmember Raman proved to be an active legislator in her first year on the council, pursuing both smaller scale projects and pushing motions with an eye towards more holistic, systemic solutions. Her advocacy against criminalization and in favor of services has been consistent and vocal, and her office has made efforts to engage and educate the public.

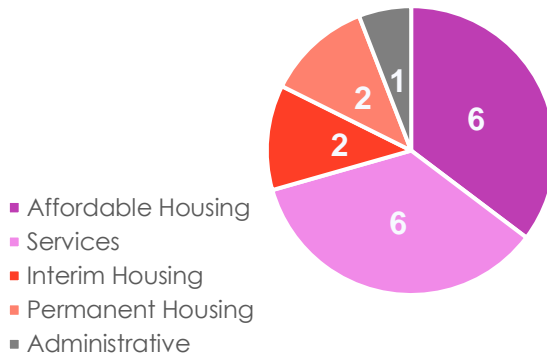
OVERALL GRADE: A

MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED

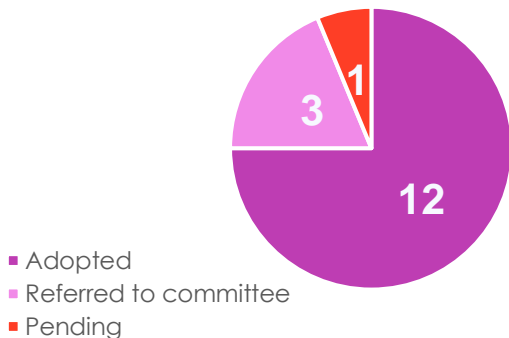
■ Motions Proposed ■ Motions Seconded



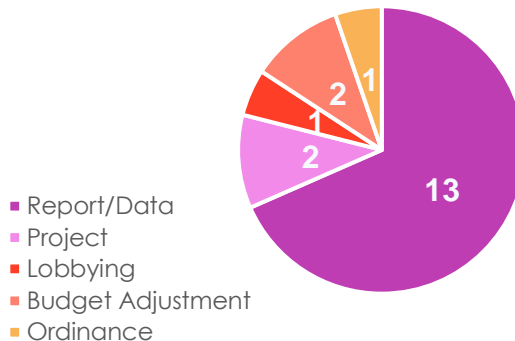
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



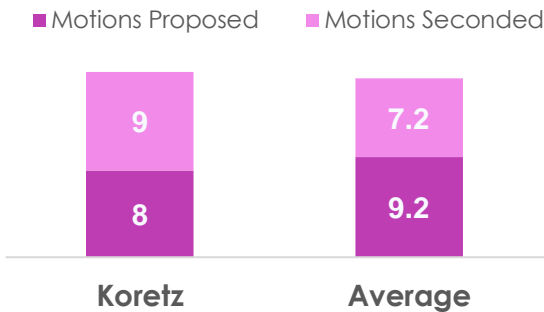
<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Raman was one of three movers of a motion supporting federal rental assistance and subsidies for tenants. Raman also authored motions to request reports on LAHSA outreach teams, adding regularly-serviced trash cans to larger encampments, and identifying sites for additional storage units. She put forward a motion for the department of sanitation to develop voluntary cleanup protocols as an alternative to sweeps. Within her district, Raman also introduced a motion to identify sites and sources of funding for a navigation center in CD4. Raman established monthly neighborhood support days to provide showers, meals, and other services to unhoused constituents.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Raman proposed a motion to create a tenant anti-harassment enforcement program. She also co-presented a motion to increase oversight and accountability of HACLA, which oversees the city's stock of public housing. Raman additionally proposed a pair of motions to assess the suitability of two city-owned properties for permanent housing projects. Raman opposes SB 9, but is in favor of SB 10.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>A</p>	<p>As noted above, Councilmember Raman introduced a motion calling for LA Sanitation to develop voluntary cleanup protocols as an alternative to sweeps. Along with Councilmember Bonin, she has been a loud voice on council against criminalization. Raman was one of two votes against the revised LAMC 41.18, showing a willingness to push back against the council consensus on these issues.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Raman consistently puts forward motions that call for solutions to the homeless crisis and push back against the criminalization of unhoused people. In her first year on council, Raman moved or seconded the largest number of motions of any councilmember. She is active on social media, publicizing how to access rent relief and talking about the difficulties in relocating folks from a closed winter shelter.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put more active focus into expanding affordable housing options. • Focus on educating and mobilizing compassionate people. • Don't let the haters divert focus from the goal of housing people.



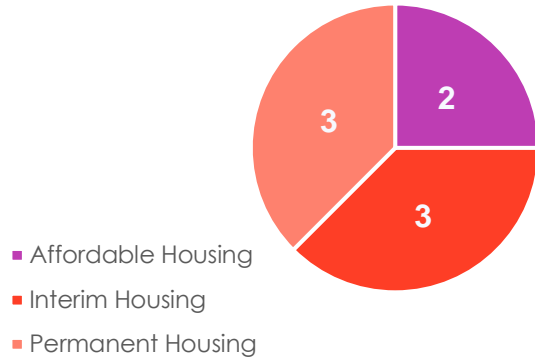
While Councilmember Koretz is an average legislator in terms of overall activity, his record on homelessness and housing is inconsistent. He has at times supported tenants, but failed to follow through on eviction protections. He has argued for services, but opposed them in his own district. His record shows a focus on the concerns of homeowners over those of renters and unhoused people.

OVERALL GRADE: **F**

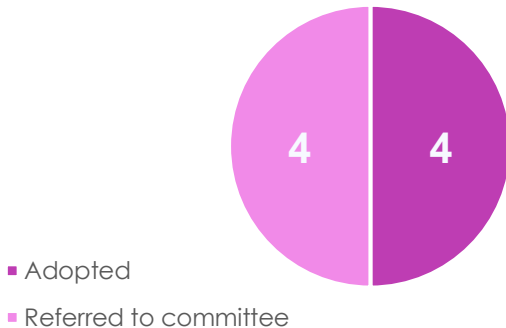
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



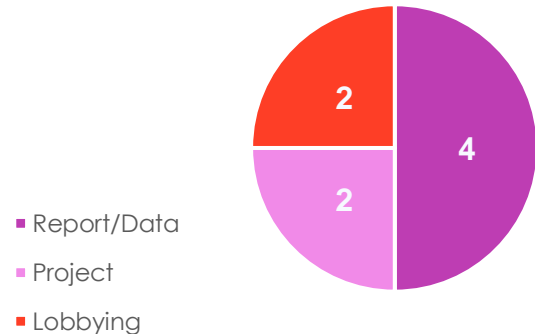
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



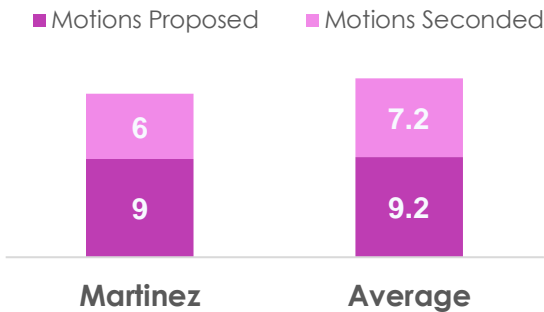
<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Koretz does not have many accomplishments to point to on homelessness, with his own website only providing general statements of support for community organizations and services providers. Koretz was the second on a motion to explore severing the city’s ties with LAHSA. The motion cites Echo Park Lake, repeating the inaccurate Councilmember O’Farrell’s office “successfully transitioned over 200 unhoused residents . . . into housing.” Koretz opposed a tiny home village in his district, pointing to the cost and the construction impacts on nearby landowners.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Koretz piloted an eviction defense program in 2019, though the motion he introduced to extend this program ultimately expired in December 2021. Koretz opposed SB9, SB10, and SB478, focused mostly on SB9’s destroying “single-family zoning” as a threat to homeowners and all three bills’ failure to require affordability. Many of his criticisms focus on density and not affordability as the primary concern of these bills. A 2021 Fair Share Report showed that CD5 maintains a high level of single-family zoned housing and very few affordable units permitted. A 2020 Inventory of subsidized low-income housing showed that CD5 had the lowest number of units in the city, with fewer than half of the next lowest district.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Koretz generally supports criminalization, and is a proponent of increased policing. He has utilized his district’s discretionary fund to pay over \$30,000 for police overtime. Although he stated some opposition to 41.18 in 2019, he voted for the renewed version of the bill in July 2021. He introduced motions adding fifteen criminalization zones in his district. Of the 163 people displaced by these zones, 19 received any kind of shelter and only 3 of those 19 people were placed into permanent housing. Koretz also seconded CM Buscaino’s motion to renew 85.02, the criminalization of car dwelling. Koretz routinely refers to homeless people as transients or “criminal transients” in his advocacy for additional police resources.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Koretz rarely introduces motions related to homelessness of substance beyond requests for reportbacks or lobbying measures. He does appear as a second frequently on criminalization measures and pro-policing measures.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a more active role in creating solutions • Don’t oppose projects and programs without valid alternatives • Stop pushing legislation and rhetoric that dehumanizes unhoused people



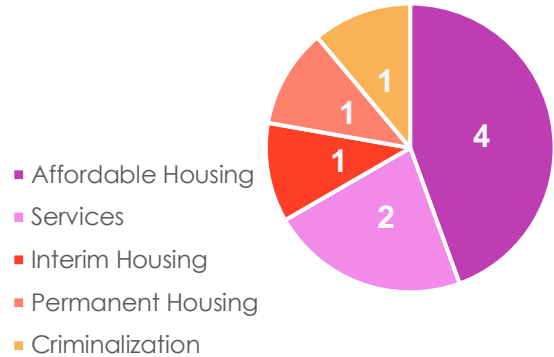
As Council President, Martinez is one of the single most powerful people in city government, controlling the legislative calendar — very little can happen without her approval. On housing and services, she has made positive, if sometimes tentative moves. She also played a crucial role this year in expanding LA’s criminalization and enforcement-driven approach to homelessness. Her rhetoric pitting working families against unhoused people and advocates raises concerns.

OVERALL GRADE: **C-**

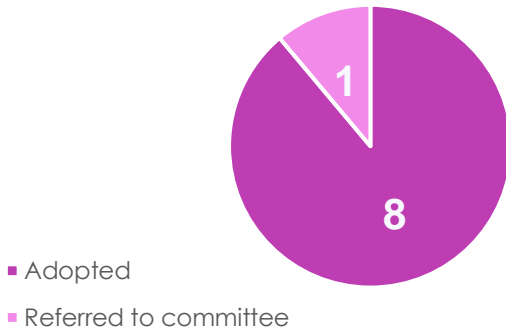
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



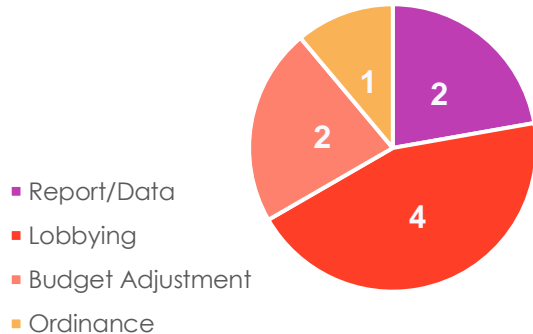
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



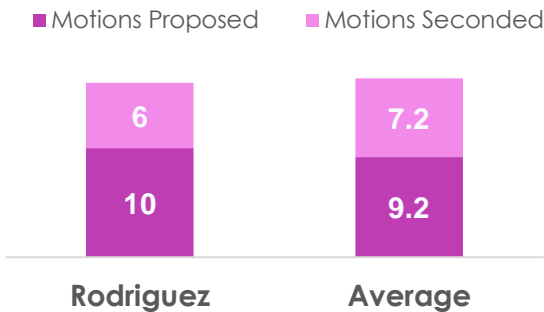
<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Council President Martinez both publicly praised and moved to expand Project Homekey. She also sponsored legislation aimed at better understanding and improving the efficiency of LAHSA's homeless outreach practices. Martinez was criticized by this organization for the council's slow action on taking FEMA funding for homeless housing and non-congregate shelter.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>C+</p>	<p>Council President Martinez put forward several motions on affordable housing, and supports (with some caveats) state bill SB 679 to fund & establish a new state agency focused on affordable housing solutions. She has explored options for a one-to-one affordable housing replacement rule for rent-controlled units removed from the market. She seconded a motion to study tenant harassment issues which was sent to committee in June but so far has not received a vote.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>F</p>	<p>Council President Martinez was crucial to pushing through the revised 41.18 this summer, creating homelessness banishment zones. She used her power as president to call an emergency meeting to pass the motion with minimal public debate. She has submitted 19 sites in her district for 41.18 enforcement. She has argued that providing basic services "normalizes" homelessness. Martinez has at times leveraged identity politics against the unhoused community, framing homelessness issues as a clash between hardworking immigrants and unhoused people, despite the overlap in these two populations.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>C-</p>	<p>Council President Martinez certainly understands how the city works, but her rhetoric on homelessness often sidesteps the city's systemic responsibility, placing the blame for homelessness on unhoused people. Martinez made homelessness a cornerstone of her political platform as incoming Council President, but hasn't fully utilized her position to accomplish those goals. As Council President, she has offered a slightly above average number of motions, but her legislative efforts have focused on reports and data rather than pushing through significant changes. She has shown hostility to first amendment-protected protests through a controversial motion banning demonstrations near homes, including those of public officials.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your power as Council President to move more and bigger solutions • Listen to unhoused people, advocates, and members of the public • Uplift everyone - don't pit marginalized groups against each other



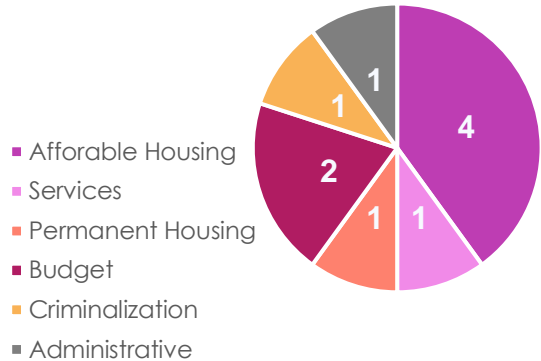
Councilmember Rodriguez has made some valuable contributions, working on strategies to house people, investing in resources for unhoused youth, and pushing back against ill-advised ideas from other councilmembers. She has advocated for audacious housing goals, but she often focuses on appeasing homeowners angry at unhoused people, and this approach was even turned into policy at a shelter site in her district.

OVERALL GRADE: C

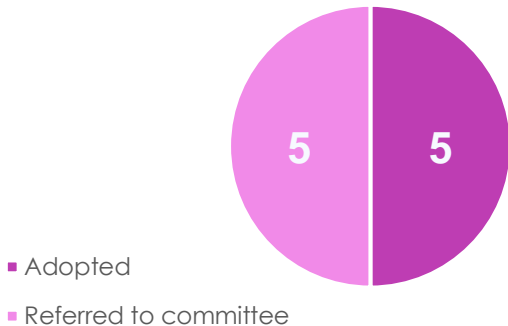
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



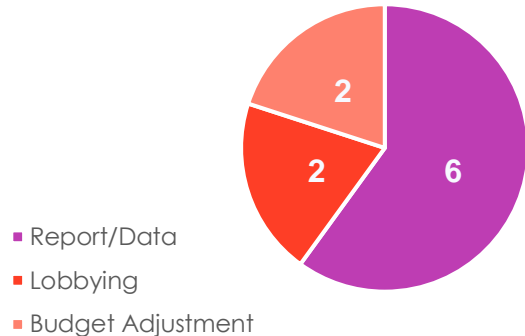
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>B-</p>	<p>Councilmember Rodriguez worked with agencies and other officials in Pacoima to move 65 individuals into temporary housing via Project Roomkey. Rodriguez engaged in similar projects elsewhere, and also introduced a motion to develop metrics on Project Homekey. Rodriguez co-introduced a motion to create the City’s first Youth Development Department, which will have resources for youth experiencing homelessness. Rodriguez’s city website credits her with the creation of the “Good Neighbor Policy” related to operation of the Pacoima Winter Shelter. The policy intended to address previous concerns from housed residents about “excessive noise, trash, blight, and loitering from transients housed in the nearby shelter.” This banned walk-ups, added security guards, increased enforcement around the shelter, and established a hotline for housed residents to request feedback on concerns and questions.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>B-</p>	<p>As of March 2021, Councilmember Rodriguez had failed to make good on her pledge to establish supportive housing units in her districts. Along with Kevin de León, Rodriguez called on the state and federal government to support the creation of at least 25,000 new housing units in the city by 2025, though this plan included few details. When Councilmember Lee proposed revoking a contract from an affordable housing development, Rodriguez pushed back in committee, stating “we can’t keep punting the obligation.” Rodriguez introduced a motion to expedite the permitting process and coordination of affordable housing projects, and co-presented a motion to create participatory budgeting process for public housing residents.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>D</p>	<p>Councilmember Rodriguez consistently voted in favor of the revised 41.18, and created criminalization zones at 22 sites in her district. Rodriguez supported criminalization policies, particularly in her position as chair of the Public Safety Committee. Her comments about issues around the winter shelter gave priority to the complaints of housed neighbors over the interests of unhoused constituents. Her approach to engaging with street encampments appears to focus heavily on services and connections to housing, however, she has put up fences to prevent unhoused residents from returning to areas.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>C+</p>	<p>Councilmember Rodriguez sponsored an average number of motions on housing and homelessness, with a focus on data and reporting motions. She has expressed support for services, but paired with criminalization rhetoric and policies, and at times she has embraced NIMBY fear-mongering. Her efforts to create participatory budgeting for HACLA housing residents suggest openness to public input.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to push for more systemic solutions on housing affordability • Avoid appeasing anti-homeless voices with anti-homeless rhetoric • Focus on developing specific plans and processes for bigger goals

COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

Marqueece Harris-Dawson

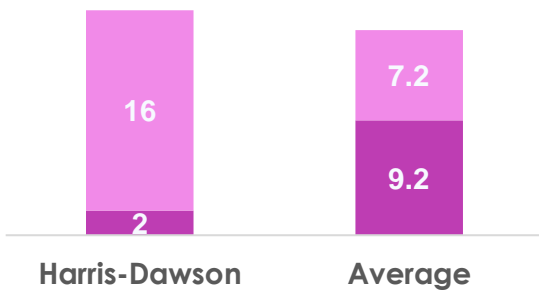


Councilmember Harris-Dawson is a positive voice for housing and services, though not a reliable vote against enforcement. He is the most likely councilmember to co-sponsor measures on homelessness and housing, though he is rarely the lead. He has offered some promising approaches on housing, and emphasizes the link between housing issues and the homelessness crisis. Harris-Dawson generally votes in favor of efforts to assist renters and tenants.

OVERALL GRADE: **B**

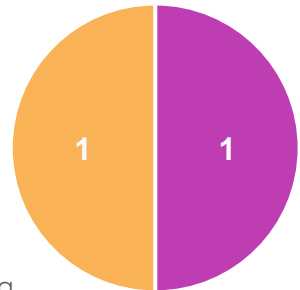
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED

■ Motions Proposed ■ Motions Seconded



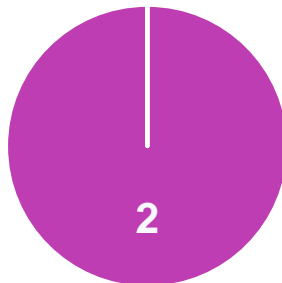
MOTIONS BY TOPIC

■ Affordable Housing
■ Criminalization



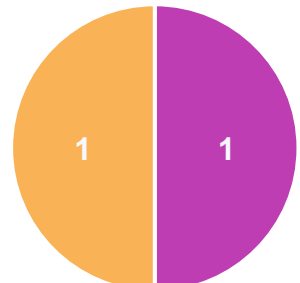
MOTIONS BY OUTCOME

■ Adopted



MOTIONS BY ACTION

■ Report/Data
■ Ordinance



<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>B+</p>	<p>Councilmember Harris-Dawson is a frequent co-sponsor of service-provision motions. He seconded motions to identify a citywide strategy for providing storage to unhoused people, to draft reports on Project Roomkey expansion, and for street services guidelines that prioritized following CDC rules and providing services during cleanups. Early this year, Harris-Dawson helped open a navigation center to provide case management, storage, and hygiene services. In public statements, he has emphasized the importance of permanent housing as a solution, as opposed to interim housing alone.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>B+</p>	<p>Councilmember Harris-Dawson recently passed a motion exploring Affordable Housing Overlay Zones, which would incentivize and prioritize 100% affordable projects in high-opportunity areas. He also co-sponsored a motion exploring the creation of a citywide community land trust (CLT) program, which would allow the creation of community-owned, permanently affordable housing. Harris-Dawson voted to approve construction of a controversial luxury development with ties to Jose Huizar’s time in CD14.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>B-</p>	<p>Councilmember Harris-Dawson voted in favor of this summer’s revised 41.18, though he was part of a bloc on the council advocating for an approach that prioritized services. Describing the passage of the revised 41.18, Harris-Dawson told Knock.LA that “both sides are right. It is absolutely a public nuisance, and is absolutely a humanitarian crisis. And so... how do you get the most people on to the best scenario, and that’s kind of what you saw happen.” He has so far not submitted motions to ban encampments in locations in CD8.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>B</p>	<p>As mentioned above, Councilmember Harris-Dawson has not been a frequent primary sponsor of motions this year, though he is often an advocate for policies put forward by his colleagues. His statements on the importance of housing over shelter alone are positive, and his efforts around CLTs and Overlay Zones suggest he is moving in a positive direction.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t just criticize enforcement measures, actually vote against them • Focus on introducing more legislation as the primary sponsor • Push for the implementation of a more holistic vision on housing

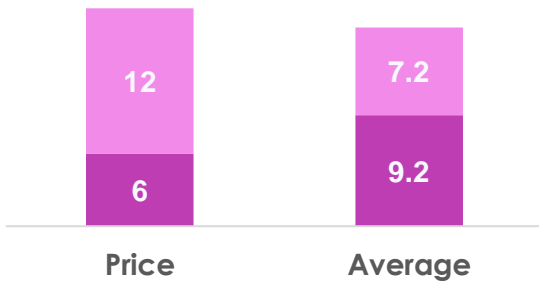


Councilmember Price offers a mixed bag on homelessness and housing issues. While he has advocated for more permanent housing in his district, he has also supported shortsighted, quick-fix measures like criminalization zones and mass-congregate shelters.

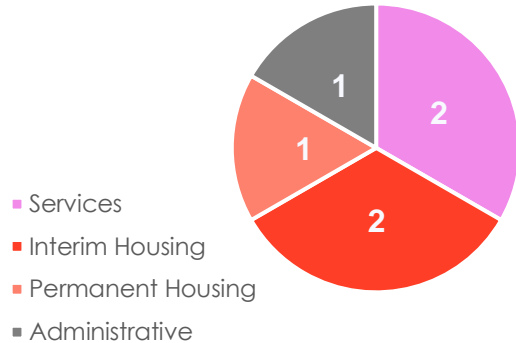
OVERALL GRADE: C-

MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED

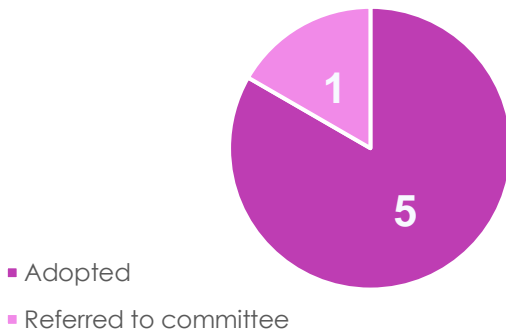
■ Motions Proposed ■ Motions Seconded



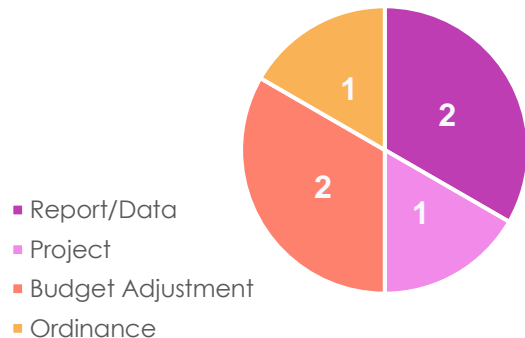
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Councilmember Price broke ground on a permanent supportive housing project in his district. He, along with CMs Raman and Krekorian, presented a motion to improve service coordination and provision among LA’s homeless outreach teams. However, Price also suggested building a congregate shelter at the LA Convention Center without plans for how to prevent the spread of COVID in such a large space.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>C</p>	<p>In June 2021, Councilmember Price introduced a motion to develop permanent supportive housing in various properties located in CD9, however it has not yet been put on an agenda. Price also presented a motion to “develop a new set of design standards that provides the most amount of design flexibility and reduces capital costs for homeless shelters in LA” while also expediting the building process.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Councilmember Price's voting record demonstrates consistent support for the criminalization of homelessness. Price voted yes on 41.18, and has introduced and passed 11 criminalization zones in his district.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>D</p>	<p>Councilmember Price seems to be aware of the homeless crisis in his district considering he has stated that his district has the highest concentration of homelessness outside of Skid Row. Price is tied with Councilmember Lee for the second-most absences on votes examined, having missed about 12% of votes on housing and homelessness.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance — make sure you’re showing up for important council debates and votes • Focus on realistic goals, not moonshots and mass congregate shelters • Do more to provide affordable and supportive housing in your district

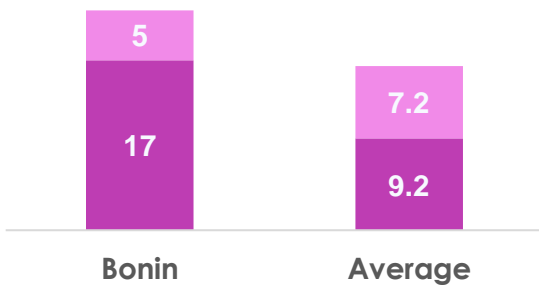


Councilmember Bonin is a positive voice for housing and services, who consistently votes in-line with his public statements. He is one of two council members who routinely vote in opposition to motions to expand the number of 41.18 sites in Los Angeles. He is an active legislator, though he also has a backlog of motions that are languishing in council. He makes efforts to reach out to homelessness advocacy organizations.

OVERALL GRADE: A

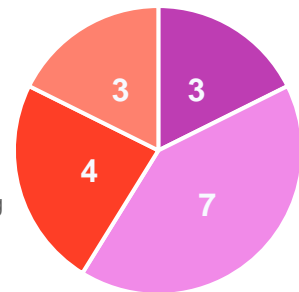
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED

■ Motions Proposed ■ Motions Seconded



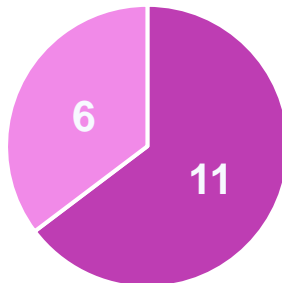
MOTIONS BY TOPIC

■ Affordable Housing
 ■ Services
 ■ Interim Housing
 ■ Permanent Housing



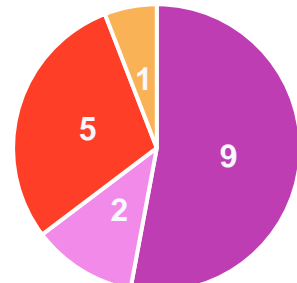
MOTIONS BY OUTCOME

■ Adopted
 ■ Referred to committee



MOTIONS BY ACTION

■ Report/Data
 ■ Project
 ■ Lobbying
 ■ Ordinance



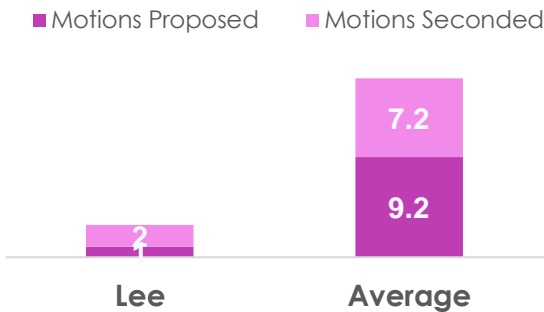
<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Bonin is one of the more active legislators on homeless services, and has introduced a higher-than-average number of motions on homelessness. These include motions requiring sanitation to comply with CDC public health guidelines and to work with encampment residents, expanding safe parking, asking for draft reports on an expansion of Project Roomkey, and pushing for more hotel/motel conversions under the program.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Bonin has advocated for a “housing now” program that would allow for earlier intervention to prevent people from ending up on the streets. This would come in the form of purchasing hotels / motels, rental subsidies, and housing vouchers. He has been an advocate for the city to guarantee low-income tenant leases, for linkage fees requiring developers to pay into an affordable housing fund, vacancy taxes to prevent apartments from remaining off the market, and eviction prevention programs.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Bonin voted in opposition to the revised 41.18 and has voted against other council members' proposed sites. During the discussion, he called the draft “ass-backwards,” and offered a sharp critique of the city’s strategies for addressing the growing crisis: “We cannot legislate homelessness away... we can house it away, we can service it away, we can prevent it away, but we cannot legislate it away.” He has so far not submitted any motions to ban encampments in locations in CD11.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Councilmember Bonin has been a frequent sponsor of motions prioritizing housing and services. His public statements and voting record indicate an understanding of the problems causing homelessness, and he is among the most active legislators on this issue.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to gain support for the backlog of motions you’ve sponsored • Publicly push back on colleagues backing criminalization and enforcement



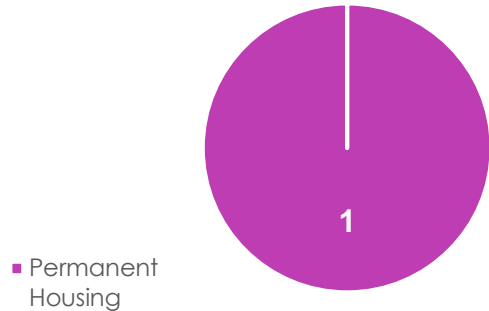
Councilmember Lee was a quiet voice on housing and homelessness in 2021, with only one motion introduced — an attempt to claw back funds for an in-progress housing project. He also joined with Councilmember Buscaino to put the criminalization of homelessness on the ballot. Lee has few if any achievements to point to on homelessness and housing issues.

OVERALL GRADE: **F**

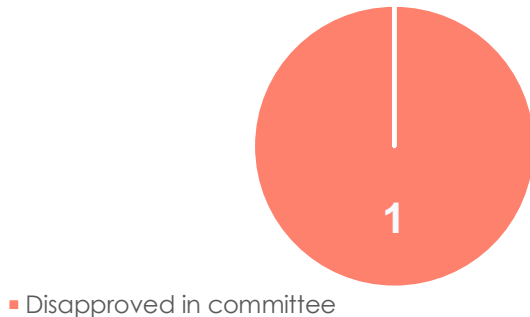
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



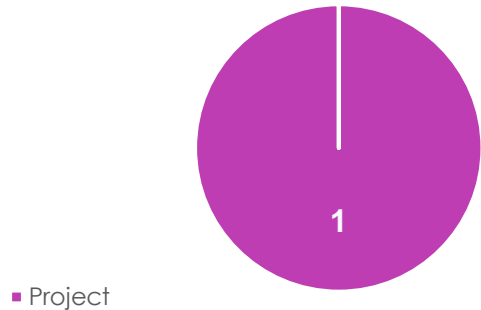
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



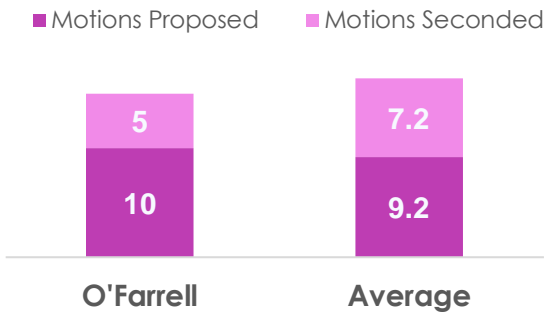
<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Lee’s record on homeless services is thin. He was the primary sponsor of just one motion on the subject, which sought to rescind funding from an in-progress supportive housing building that used HHH funds, the only such development in CD12. The motion did not pass. He had previously worked to reduce the scope of the project from 64 to 55 units, increasing the cost of construction. The only motions he co-sponsored focused on “cleaning up” public spaces.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Lee has minimized the importance of housing as a solution to homelessness, stating in an interview that “we can’t just focus on building more housing,” and should instead focus on mental health. During council debates about expanding tenant anti-harassment laws, Lee pushed to reduce the scope of what qualifies as harassment, leaving tenants with fewer protections.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>Councilmember Lee joined with Councilmember Buscaino to try and place an initiative on the ballot banning homeless people from many public spaces. He voted in favor of the revised 41.18 that made it easier to cite, arrest, and banish homeless people. He has been a consistent vote for enforcement policies, and has created 7 criminalization zones in his district.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">F</p>	<p>As stated above, Councilmember Lee’s record on issues related to affordable housing and homelessness shows a lack of meaningful legislative action compared to other councilmembers. His primary focus this year was on shutting down the only permanent supportive housing project in his district, and he has made public statements disconnecting homelessness from housing issues.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take an active role in legislating on these issues • Don’t undermine services and projects without viable alternatives • Attendance — make sure you’re showing up for important council debates and votes



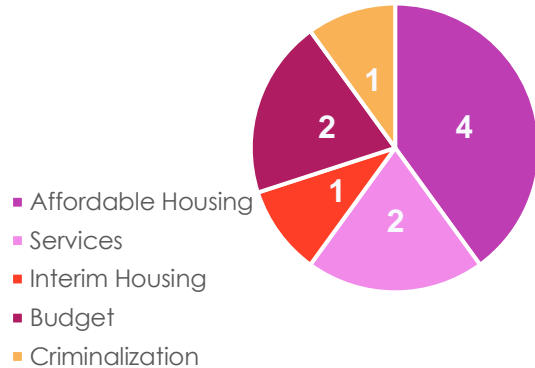
Councilmember O'Farrell has been active in supporting projects in his districts and lobbying for federal and state funds. His office has emphasized the importance of services. However, he has also been active in pushing enforcement and criminalization, and using claims of "compassion" to argue for a more aggressive approach. His office is notably hostile to outsiders, and has been criticized for a lack of honesty and transparency.

OVERALL GRADE: D

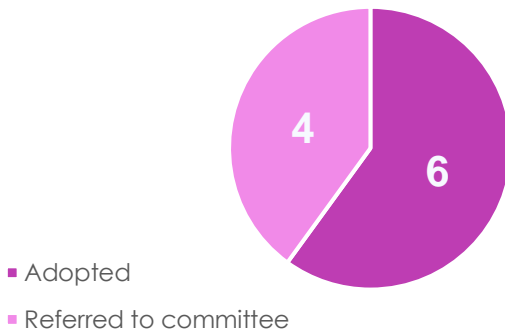
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



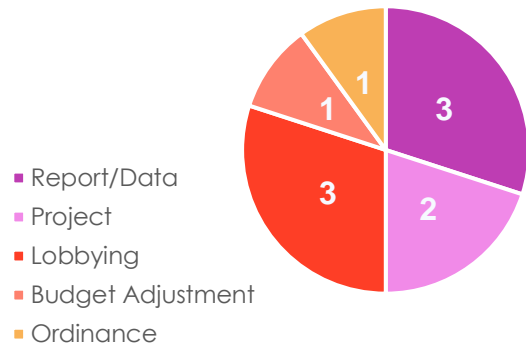
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>C-</p>	<p>Councilmember O'Farrell has sought to streamline design standards for homeless shelters, arguing that current mandates slow down progress. He has helped create sanctioned encampments and tiny home projects in his district, and supported the purchase of a newly built apartment complex, now used for permanent housing. At times, O'Farrell's office has chosen to go outside of normal LAHSA channels, giving funds from his office and newly allocated money to Urban Alchemy, a relative newcomer to homeless services who has faced serious criticism. O'Farrell's office has been a major driver of the city's choices to deploy resources based on complaints rather than need.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>C-</p>	<p>Councilmember O'Farrell co-sponsored a motion calling to repeal state limits on affordable housing, though it has not moved forward. O'Farrell also sponsored a lobbying bill calling for increased state taxes to address housing and homelessness. He also pushed through the allocation of funds for a multi-family affordable housing project. O'Farrell co-sponsored Kevin De León's measure to set a goal of 25,000 units of homeless housing by 2025, though the steps to achieve this are unclear. In the past, O'Farrell has shown a tendency to side with landlords over tenants in tenants' rights struggles.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>F</p>	<p>Councilmember O'Farrell has been a consistent voice in favor of criminalization measures. He voted to support the revised 41.18, and moved to ban homeless people from a number of locations in his district. In the spring, his lack of transparency around the closure of Echo Park Lake was criticized by both activists and the LA Times, and choices to secretly deploy police resulted in injuries and mass arrests. His claims that over 200 people were housed during this operation have been called into question by former park residents, as well as LAHSA, which claimed the number of people permanently housed was actually 4. The events surrounding this operation lead this organization to call for his resignation. O'Farrell has employed dangerous rhetoric about "reclaiming public spaces" from unhoused people.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>D</p>	<p>Councilmember O'Farrell is a fairly active legislator, putting forward motions that range from projects to lobbying to administrative fixes. He has also been a strong advocate for criminalization and enforcement policies. He has a tendency to focus on issues of crime, mental illness, and drugs when talking about homelessness. O'Farrell has been known to deflect criticism of the council to LAHSA.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be honest and thorough in your public statements • Avoid denigrating and demonizing unhoused constituents • Make a meaningful effort to reach out to those who've criticized your approach to housing and homelessness

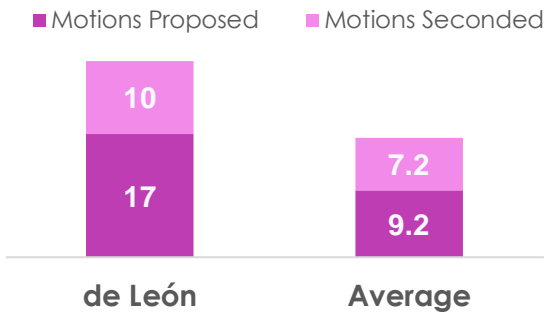


While Councilmember de León has taken an active approach to legislation on housing and homelessness, the results are a mixed bag. He has made some admirable efforts to expand housing and services, but has also advocated for criminalization and displacement. He has embraced being a critic of city hall, at times making controversial calls to change status quo practices without clear alternatives.

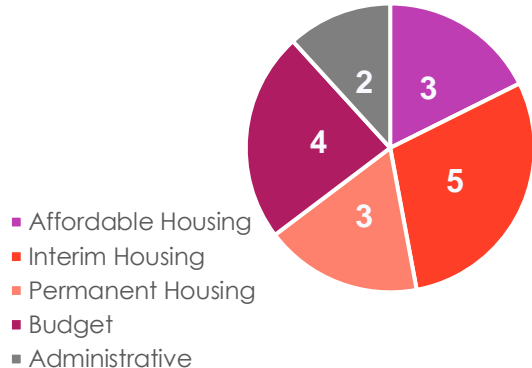
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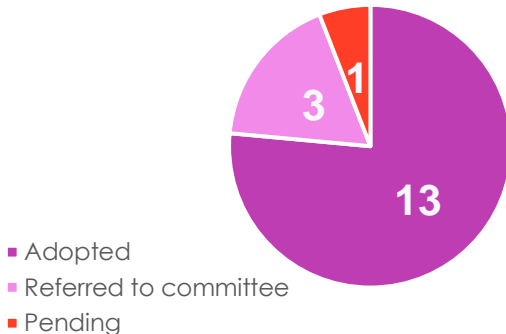
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



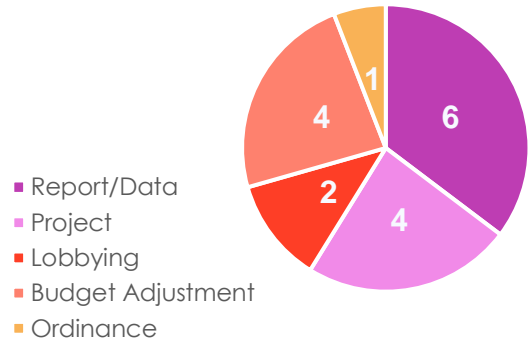
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



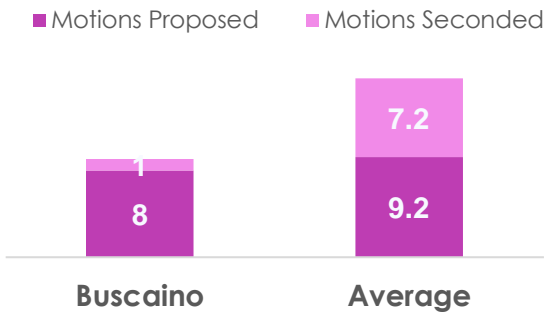
<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Councilmember de León spent his first full year on the council pursuing changes to the homeless services system. This included pushing for expedited permitting of supportive housing with Councilmembers Price and Rodriguez, temporary housing on underutilized government land, and exploring the use of those locations as permanent housing. More controversially, De León voted against a budget allocation for additional LAHSA outreach services, and has pushed for the withdrawal of funds from HHH housing projects he deems too slow.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Councilmember de León’s signature housing initiative created a city-wide goal to provide 25,000 additional affordable units by 2025, though details of this plan have so-far remained vague. After occupations and protests, de Leon has recently supported plans to purchase empty homes in El Sereno from CalTrans for housing. However, he’s been criticized by United Caltrans Tenants for not supporting their efforts to create a community-controlled land trust, instead looking to sell the houses to nonprofit housing developers. De León has stated his support for tenant anti-harassment measures and a tenants’ right to counsel.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>D+</p>	<p>Councilmember de León has put out mixed messages, arguing for “compassion” and “services,” while also voting in favor of the revised 41.18 creating homelessness criminalization zones. De León took this further with two motions creating a 22 zones in his district, including a strongly criticized choice to make it illegal to sit or lie near City Hall. Councilmember de León opposed a more audacious criminalization plan put forward by Councilmember Buscaino.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>D</p>	<p>Councilmember de León has been an active legislator on homelessness and housing issues, tied with Councilmember Raman for introducing the second-most motions related to housing and homelessness. He recently took over as chair of the Homelessness & Poverty Committee following Mark Ridley-Thomas’s suspension. For better and worse, de León has positioned himself as an outsider coming in to change city hall, calling for an “all of the above” approach to homelessness</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the details, not just large, symbolic efforts • Listen to a wider circle of advocates, not just those in your political networks • Take action on the backlog of motions pending in the Homelessness & Poverty Committee



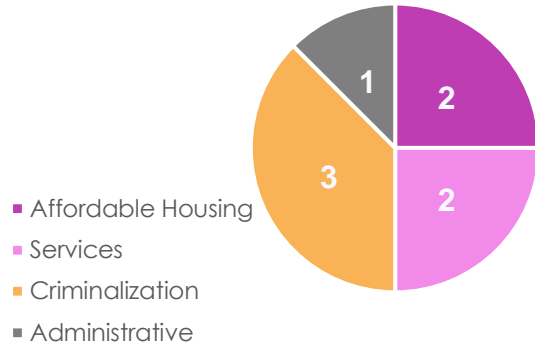
Councilmember Buscaino has a lot to say about homelessness, but most of it is focused on the goal of removing homeless people from public spaces. His legislative record and public statements focus on criminalization, while often ignoring the need for housing and services.

OVERALL GRADE: F

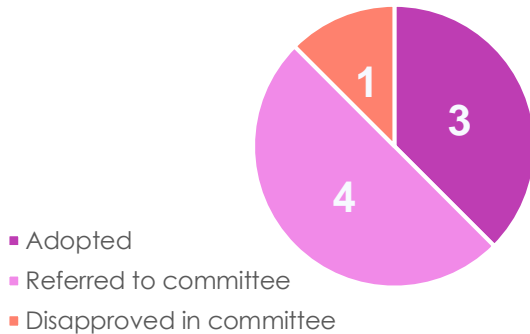
MOTIONS PROPOSED OR SECONDED



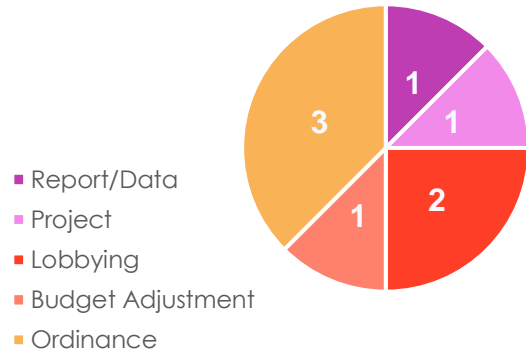
MOTIONS BY TOPIC



MOTIONS BY OUTCOME



MOTIONS BY ACTION



<p>Homeless Services & Projects</p> <p>F</p>	<p>In 2021, Councilmember Buscaino introduced more motions to criminalize homelessness and ban people from public space than he did to provide positive solutions to homelessness. Buscaino took a major swing at homeless services when he introduced a motion exploring withdrawal from LAHSA, which was voted down in committee. Councilmember Buscaino's approach has prioritized enforcement over providing services and housing. He criticized the city's "street strategy," an effort to provide some amount of outreach prior to removing people, as too slow. Buscaino introduced a motion in October to study emergency medical response specifically serving unhoused people. He opposed a motion exploring the use of public land on the westside for interim housing.</p>
<p>Housing Policy & Tenancy</p> <p>D</p>	<p>As part of his mayoral campaign, Councilmember Buscaino has stated that he wants to "build more housing, faster." While this is a noble goal, his actions on council this year have not shown a great deal of progress on that front. Councilmember Buscaino passed a motion funding construction of a 65-unit affordable housing complex in his district, and broke ground on a 28-unit affordable housing project in the pipeline. As part of his effort to expand the criminalization of homelessness, Buscaino has emphasized interim solutions over permanent housing, though the current interim options have failed to transition most residents to permanent housing.</p>
<p>Criminalization of Homelessness</p> <p>F</p>	<p>There is no doubt about where Councilmember Buscaino stands on criminalization issues, as his mayoral campaign is linked closely to a ballot measure banning homeless people from areas throughout the city. Councilmember Buscaino is the leading voice on the council advocating for the criminalization of homelessness. He proposed more draconian banishment measures than those ultimately adopted by his colleagues this summer, has attempted to revive stricter anti-tent enforcement, and was the first to resume sweeps in his district after they had been paused for COVID based on CDC guidance.</p>
<p>Legislative Effort & Depth of Knowledge</p> <p>F</p>	<p>Councilmember Buscaino has been a loud voice in homelessness debates this year based on his strong advocacy for criminalization. As a legislator, he introduced a below-average number of motions on housing and homelessness this year, and many of those focused on enforcement, not solutions. Buscaino clearly understands how the system works in Los Angeles, but he has put his effort into clearing people out rather than providing additional housing options.</p>
<p>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid misrepresenting the availability of shelter and housing • Stop supporting ballot measures attacking the civil rights of unhoused people • Focus on expanding services and housing options, not just enforcement • Attendance — make sure you're showing up for important council debates and votes

APPENDIX A

LA CITY COUNCIL MOTION DATABASE

In order to build the database, Ktown for All retrieved data on motions related to homelessness introduced during this period. Information was gathered from the [LA City Clerk](#)ing [Connect](#) website. Using its *Advanced Search* feature, Ktown for All volunteers collected homelessness-related data that were introduced from **December 14, 2020 to December 31, 2021**, reflecting a full year of LA City Council activity. The following search terms were used to collect this information: **homeless (39), homelessness (20), encampment (1), encampments (1), housing (5), affordable housing (23), and unhoused (2)**. Data was also collected by searching motions that related to the following city council committees: **Homelessness & Poverty (10) and Housing (5)**.

At the end of 2021, a total of **125 unique motions** were retrieved using the designated search terms. All of the following data reports on the motions introduced by city council members, and excludes those introduced by other city government officials such as the mayor and city attorney. Motion data was extracted and each motion was coded across several domains. Codes were determined by an iterative coding process, with three individuals assigning themes and categories, discussing discrepancies and refining into a minimal yet inclusive set of codes. It should be noted that resolutions introduced to the 41.18 ordinance (i.e. the sit, sleep, lie ban) were not included in the council file database, however they were included in the individual council member qualitative research.

Motion Content

Nine categories were identified to reflect the content of the motion. **Services** were motions that were introduced related to increasing services for people experiencing homelessness outside of housing or shelter, such as transportation, access centers, amongst other things (ex. CF 21-0774 proposing increasing the access of storage facilities for people experiencing homelessness). Motions related to shelter and housing were designated into five categories: **Emergency Housing** reflected short term shelters (i.e. winter shelters); **Interim Housing** reflected programs designed for residents to stay ideally 60 days (but often much longer) while waiting for a permanent housing option and included Tiny Homes, A Bridge Home shelters and Project Roomkey; **Permanent Housing**, housing often with supportive services specifically for the most vulnerable unhoused population and intended for long term residency was distinguished from **Affordable Housing**, which was housing that is intended for low-income residents; rent for affordable housing units is not more than 30% of the residents monthly income (ex. [CF 21-0002-S46 - AB 1486 \(Ting\) / Surplus Land Act Amendment / Affordable Housing Projects / Streamlined Process / City of Los Angeles](#)). **Budget** reflected motions most often related to increasing or distributing the budgets for homelessness and housing services in LA (ex. [CF 21-0508 related to funding distribution from state grant Homeless Emergency Aid Program](#)). **Criminalization** were motions where the intention

was to restrict the behaviors, reduce accessibility or mobility, and/or penalize the unhoused population (ex. CF [21-0218 moving to ban homeless encampments surrounding the Union Pacific Railroad](#)).

Motion Action

Each motion was also coded to reflect the action that was proposed. The overwhelming majority of motions were coded as **Report / Data** and instructed the city to create a report or generate data related to the content of the motion or potential project (for example, [Council File: 12-1549-S18 - 1905 North Highland Avenue / Affordable Housing / Permanent Supportive Housing / Asset Evaluation Framework Review](#)). Those coded as **Project** refer to motions that require the formation, creation, or building of a new homelessness-related programming including housing and services (for example, [Council File: 21-0734 - SB 344 \(Hertzberg\) / Pet Assistance and Support Program for People Experiencing Homelessness](#)). **Lobbying** were motions that called for council to formally support homelessness and housing legislation at the state or federal level (for example, [Council File: 21-0002-S142 - SB 15 \(Portantino\) / California Department of Housing and Community Development Grants / Local Government / Idle Site Rezoning / Housing Development / Low and Moderate Income Households](#)). **Budget Adjustment / Reprogramming** refers to motions that require an adjustment in budget or allocations of funds; this also includes motions that request changes in an existing program (for example, [Council File: 21-0664 - Affirmative Marketing Plan / Property Management Plan / Private Sector Developers / Affordable Housing Units / City Covenants](#)). A few motions coded as **Ordinance** invoked changes to LA Municipal Code (for example, [CF 21-0218 - Union Pacific Railroad](#)).

Motion Status

Motions were coded based on their status as of Dec 31, 2020. Four categories were identified: **Adopted** had been voted on by the full council and approved, **Referred to Committee** were motions that were introduced and have yet to be heard in committee they were referred to; **Pending** designated motions that had been voted on in at least one committee but had yet to be scheduled to be heard by full council for adoption; Motions heard in committee and subsequently disapproved were coded **Disapproved in Committee**.

For each motion, each council member's related actions were recorded including *Move* (i.e. introducing and being a primary sponsor of the legislation), and *Second* (co-sponsoring the motion to be heard by committee or council). If a motion had been voted on, council members' affirmative or disapproving vote was recorded, as well as instances where a council member was absent for the motion vote.

APPENDIX B

OVERALL MOTION DATA (12/14/2020 – 12/31/2021)

MOTION CONTENT	n	%
TOTAL MOTIONS	126	100%
Affordable Housing	30	22.58%
Services	27	21.77%
Interim Housing	19	15.32%
Permanent Housing	12	8.87%
Housing - Multiple	10	8.06%
Criminalization	10	7.26%
Budget	8	6.45%
Emergency Housing	3	2.42%
MOTION ACTION		
Report/Data	38	30.65%
Project	36	29.03%
Lobbying	24	19.35%
Budget Adjustment/Reprogram	17	13.71%
Ordinance	7	5.65%
MOTION STATUS		
Adopted	81	65.32%
Referred to committee	34	27.42%
Pending	7	5.65%
Disapproved in committee	2	1.61%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ktown for All would like to acknowledge the contributions of the UCLA Institute for Inequality and Democracy, Rebecca Escoto, Jeremy Rosen-Prinz, Meredith Alden Lewis, Sherin Varghese, Uwaila Omokaro, Octavio Trujillo, Maggie Casey, Mike Dickerson, and Robin Petering for their contributions to this report.



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