



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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1 Out of 6 Jobs in City of LA Still Vacant - Controller Kenneth Mejia Releases Update to Staffing Vacancy Data Tool and Analysis

LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia today released an update to the Controller's Office's City of LA staffing vacancies data tool. The Controller's Office compiled new data from all City Departments and Offices from the final pay period of September 2023. The tool originally used data through June 2023. As of June 2023, the citywide vacancy rate was 17%. As of September 2023, the citywide vacancy rate remains at 17%, meaning 1 out of every 6 jobs remain unfilled.

The data tool provides an interactive chart that shows vacancy counts by department or bureau, as well as the raw dataset.

Visit the data tool:
deptvacancies.lacontroller.io

Departments with high vacancy rates include:

- Public Works - Street Lighting** 32.10% (130 positions unfilled)
- Economic & Workforce Development** 28.65% (49 positions unfilled)
- Public Works - Street Services** 26.25% (410 positions unfilled)
- Recreation & Parks** 23.32% (399 positions unfilled)
- Animal Services** 17.60% (69 positions unfilled)

From June 2023 to September 2023, there was an overall **net increase of 876 positions filled** (805 regular positions and 71 resolution positions):

- 23 departments had a total **net increase** of **1,064** positions filled
- 14 departments had a total **net decrease** of **188** positions filled
- 6 departments had **no change** in positions filled

What can be done? Attracting new talent to public service is a national challenge, but there are things Los Angeles can – and must – do to avoid a steady degradation in the quality of life in our community:

- Undertake the long-term (and overdue) reform of the Civil Service system which will require constructive dialogue with the City's labor partners and an eventual vote of the people to amend the City Charter

- Convene a shorter-term task force of city leaders and unions to seek additional creative ways to work within the existing Charter constraints to treat the challenge for what it is: a growing crisis that affects every Angeleno's safety and well-being
- Build on the success of the Targeted Local Hire and Bridge to Jobs programs to expand the effort to provide a pipeline for local residents to seek and attain rewarding careers in public service
- Invest in the Personnel Department's staffing, training and technology to augment their capacity to not just fill jobs, but attract and retain the talent needed to serve a 21st Century metropolis
- Streamline City bureaucracy, reform outmoded service models and embrace innovation to raise productivity and improve services to the community
- Partner with the community, civic institutions, the private sector, non—profits and others to more closely collaborate on creative approaches to problem-solving while the City works to rebuild our workforce
- Pursue long-term strategic budget and capital planning that goes beyond a year-to-year time horizon and balances the City's changing and growing needs with the public staffing, funding and capital investment available to address those needs.

The issues that frustrate Angelenos can't be wished away. The aspirations for a safer, cleaner, greener and more equitably prosperous city can't be supported by a chronically understaffed City workforce. There is much work to be done. It is vital that we work on ensuring there are enough committed public service workers to do it.