



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2023

6 out of 10 City Employees Don't Live in the City of LA; \$3.6 Billion in Pay Exited the City in 2022, According to New Analysis from Controller Kenneth Mejia

LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia today released a residency analysis of 2022 City of Los Angeles Employee Payroll, which includes the finding that 64% of City employees (not including Department of Water and Power employees), which amounts to 32,066 employees and \$3.6 billion in payroll, lived outside the City of LA.

Visit: 2022 CITY OF LA PAYROLL EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE ANALYSIS

<https://controller.lacity.gov/landings/2022-employee-residence-analysis>

Highlights:

6.4 out of every 10 (64%) City employees (minus DWP) lived outside the City of LA.

- Amounts to 32,066 employees
- Amounts to \$3.6 billion in payroll

3.6 out of every 10 (36%) City employees (minus DWP) lived in the City of LA.

- Amounts to 18,246 employees
- Amounts to \$1.2 billion in payroll

20% (6,350 employees) of the 32,066 City employees that lived outside the City of LA made less than \$50,000.

49% (9,008 employees) of the 18,246 City employees that lived in the City of LA made less than \$50,000.

506 City employees lived out of state.

- Amounts to \$65 million in payroll
- 71% were from the Fire and Police departments

Top departments/offices where employees lived outside the City of LA

- Fire (86%) or \$656 million in payroll
- Police (81%) or \$1.45 billion in payroll
- Pension (77%) or \$14 million in payroll
- Information Technology Agency (75%) or \$33 million in payroll

Top departments/offices where employees lived in the City of LA

- Aging (72%) or \$2.6 million in payroll
- Recreation and Parks (70%) or \$109 million in payroll
- Council (66%) or \$23 million in payroll
- Library (63%) or \$47 million in payroll

Although City employees are not required to live in the City, some of the benefits of City employees living in the city they work in include:

- Reinvesting tax dollars back into the city (e.g. local spending / local taxes)
- Increases in our city budget due to more local revenue which means more spending on city resources and services
- More engagement with the local communities they serve as City employees
- Shorter commutes and faster response time in case of work emergencies
- Less traffic, greenhouse gas emissions and stress on workers and their families

Where people choose to live is the product of many factors – including affordability, lifestyle choices and family ties. But a close match between City staff and the communities they serve strengthens not only the economic health of Los Angeles, it also strengthens the bonds of connection and public trust.

Programs like “Targeted Local Hire” foster that relationship, but reform of the Civil Service system is needed to expand those opportunities beyond entry-level positions which are usually lower paying positions compared to other city jobs as evidenced by our analysis. This is especially important considering that our City suffers from chronic staffing vacancies where 1 out of every 6 jobs are unfilled. Other large cities have implemented incentives for employees, including first responders, to live in the communities they serve. Continued progress toward promoting additional affordable housing in our city, especially workforce housing and transit-oriented community projects, can offer more and better choices that are affordable to City workers.