

**Special Committee on International Sporting Events:
Olympics and World Cup Soccer**

**Los Angeles Goes for Gold:
Opportunities and Challenges of Hosting the 2028
Olympic and Paralympic Games**

July 10, 2025, 10 AM

1021 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Room 1200

Background Materials

Senator Ben Allen, Chair

Senator Maria Elena Durazo, Vice Chair

I. Overview, Opportunities, and Challenges

General Overview

The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LA28) will be held in Los Angeles, marking the third time the city will host the Summer Olympics. Los Angeles will become the third city, along with Paris and London, to host the Games three times. Unlike many recent Olympic Games, LA28 is structured around the use of existing and already-planned venues, minimizing the need for new construction. The organizing framework is led by a private nonprofit, the LA28 Organizing Committee, which is governed by a contract with the City of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles hosted the Games for the first time in 1932 in the midst of the Great Depression, when it was crucial to control expenses. Like the 2028 Games, the 1932 Games also largely relied on existing venues in Southern California, and the only newly constructed venue was the Los Angeles Swimming Stadium which is still open today. In 1984, Los Angeles hosted the Games for the second time, again, minimizing construction and utilizing iconic venues such as the Rose Bowl and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. These low construction plans largely allowed both Games to stay in budget and even generate a surplus. The surplus from the 1984 Games helped found the LA84 Foundation which supports youth sports.¹

Public support for the Games is high in Los Angeles, with a 2024 survey reporting 68% of county residents are “somewhat or very excited” for LA28.² Planning efforts have emphasized a cost-controlled approach, but significant logistical, financial, and intergovernmental coordination challenges remain. Currently, LA28 is planning to have over 40 venues across the Los Angeles region.³ In addition, there are plans to host events at two venues in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Games, as a result, will have widespread impacts and likely draw wide audiences. In a subsequent hearing, this committee plans to delve further into the different venues and cities hosting those venues.

¹ “Transforming Life Through Youth Sports.” LA84 Foundation. <https://www.la84.org/about>

² “The California Elections and Policy Poll (CEPP): Statewide Poll of the California Electorate, poll conducted September 12-25, 2024.” Center for Urban Politics and Policy, CSU Long Beach. <https://today.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/California-Elections-and-Policy-Poll-Statewide-Poll-Toplines-and-Crosstabs-FINAL.pdf>

³ “2028 Olympic and Paralympic Competition Venues.” LA28. <https://la28.org/en/games-plan/venues.html>

This hearing offers an opportunity to conduct an overview of hosting the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, while subsequent hearings will delve into specific topics and challenges. During this hearing, the committee will be presented with the successes and challenges of past Olympic and Paralympic Games, whether they were hosted in Los Angeles or elsewhere. In addition, the committee will be presented with an overview of each organizing entity's role in the Games, along with current successes and challenges that they are facing. Overall, this hearing will be an important opportunity to set the context and better understand what to expect for 2028.

Economic Projections and Opportunities

Independent analysis from Beacon Economics estimates that LA28 could generate between \$13.3 and \$14 billion in statewide economic output, support up to 94,000 full-time equivalent jobs, and result in \$690 to \$742 million in combined state and local tax revenues.⁴ These projections are based on a multiplier model incorporating expected spending by the organizing committee, visitors, and related industries.

Tourism, hospitality, and regional branding are expected to be among the sectors seeing temporary gains. The use of multiple existing venues throughout Los Angeles, Long Beach, Inglewood, Carson, Pasadena, and Anaheim reduces the need for major new capital investments, which has historically been a source of cost overruns in other Olympic host cities.

Labor and workforce development are key components of LA28's broader planning efforts. The Games are expected to support tens of thousands of temporary and permanent jobs across sectors, including event operations, security, hospitality, construction, and transportation. LA28 has established working groups focused on community business and procurement, along with local hire and workforce development.⁵

⁴ "Analysis of Economic, Fiscal, & Social Impacts of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles." Beacon Economics.
<https://beaconecon.com/published-research/impacts-of-the-2024-olympic-and-paralympic-games-in-los-angeles/>

⁵ "LA28 collaborates with local community leaders to plan for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games." LA28.
<https://la28.org/en/newsroom/LA28-Collaborates-With-Local-Community-Leaders-to-Plan-For-the-2028-Olympic-and-Paralympic-Games.html>

The PlayLA youth sports initiative, supported by up to \$160 million in funding from the LA28 organizing committee, is already underway. This initiative is meant to support young athletes in Los Angeles playing Olympic and Paralympic sports. As of the end of 2023, it has reached over 500,000 youth participants and aims to reduce cost barriers to sport access in underserved neighborhoods.⁶

Financial and Logistical Risks

The LA28 Games are projected to cost \$7.1 billion, funded through private sources such as sponsorships, ticket sales, and licensing revenue. LA28 has stated they have obtained commitments of \$5.1 billion from licensing and corporate sponsors, and that the rest of the budget will come from ticket sales.⁷ In a recent article from the LA Times, the LA28 Organizing Committee commented that they are confident they are on track to cover the costs of the Games without requiring a backstop from the City or State.⁸

The City of Los Angeles has agreed to a \$270 million contingency fund, and the Legislature passed AB 132 (Jones-Sawyer, 2017), which Governor Jerry Brown signed, authorizing a backup guarantee of up to \$270 million. Subsequent budget overruns would then be covered by the City. These financial commitments expose the City and State to potential cost overruns.

Security presents another area of logistical risk. The Games have been designated a National Special Security Event, placing primary responsibility with the U.S. Secret Service. Local and state agencies remain responsible for operational support, and the scope of coordination between federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement is extensive.

Transportation planning is being developed by the Games Mobility Executives, a consortium that includes LA Metro, Caltrans, LADOT, and other agencies. The Mobility Concept Plan for the 2028 Games from Metro describes a supplemental bus system and regional mobility hubs, but funding and implementation remain ongoing issues.⁹ In a subsequent hearing, this committee plans to delve further into the transportation planning and coordination between LA28, the city of Los Angeles, and venue cities.

⁶ "LA28-funded youth sports program achieves new heights for youth in Los Angeles." LA28.

<https://la28.org/en/newsroom/la28-funded-playla-doubles-enrollment.html>

⁷ "L.A. Made Big Promises for the Olympics. Can It Deliver by 2028?" Adam Nogourney and Jesus Jimenez. New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/28/us/los-angeles-olympics-challenges.html>

⁸ "L.A. Olympic organizers confident they will cover estimated \$7.1 billion cost of Games." Thuc Nhi Nguyen and Dakota Smith. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/sports/olympics/story/2025-06-09/los-angeles-olympics-costs-corporate-sponsor>

⁹ "Mobility Concept Plan for the 2028 Games." Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. https://cdn.beta.metro.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/15175735/2028_Games_MCP_Report.pdf

II. Roles and Responsibilities: LA28, City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County

The LA28 Organizing Committee

The LA28 Organizing Committee is a California nonprofit corporation responsible for delivering the 2028 Games. It is overseen by a volunteer board and governed by a Host City Contract with the International Olympic Committee and a Games Agreement with the City of Los Angeles.

LA28 is responsible for venue planning, sport programming, logistics, marketing, sponsorship, and coordination with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee. The Games Agreement requires LA28 to file annual reports, provide financial statements, and adhere to risk management provisions, including maintaining an insurance program and establishing a contingency reserve fund.¹⁰

The organizing committee has launched several planning initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; environmental sustainability; and community engagement. It has also formed working groups focused on procurement, workforce development, and transportation. These are consultative in nature and are intended to shape LA28's planning in advance of formal implementation deadlines.

City of Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles serves as the host city and provides municipal oversight under the Games Agreement. It is responsible for permitting, public services, and local compliance. City agencies, particularly the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), monitor LA28's activities and submit periodic reports to the City Council.

In addition to coordinating citywide service delivery, the City participates in public safety planning, transportation coordination, and the development of sustainability and economic inclusion strategies.

While the Games are privately funded, the City has made financial commitments, including the establishment of a \$270 million contingency account. The City retains authority over venue changes, ceremonial plans, and any deviation from agreed venue locations within city limits.

¹⁰ "Host City Contract." International Olympic Committee.
<https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Documents/Host-City-Elections/XXIV-Olympiad-2028/Host-City-Contract-2028-Principles.pdf>

Los Angeles County

The County of Los Angeles does not serve as a host party but plays a critical supporting role. County responsibilities include oversight of regional health services, emergency management, and law enforcement agencies that will participate in the Olympic Security Cooperative. County-managed venues are also part of the event footprint. The County is a key stakeholder in the regional transportation system and participates in mobility planning through Metro.

Role of the State of California

Although not a signatory to the Host City Contract, the State of California is directly involved in planning and oversight. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) participates in security coordination and risk mitigation planning. Caltrans is engaged in regional transportation planning, and the State Legislature retains oversight of any public funds committed to Games-related purposes.

The State's approval of a \$270 million backup guarantee under AB 132 signals a readiness to support Games delivery if financial gaps emerge beyond the City's initial \$270 million guarantee. Ongoing state oversight is also relevant for any infrastructure, environmental, or labor-related issues that arise in connection with Games planning or legacy programs.

Conclusion

The LA28 Games are a major event with potentially wide-ranging impacts on the Los Angeles region and the State of California. While the use of existing venues and private funding reduces some of the traditional risks associated with Olympic hosting, the scale of the event—combined with public safety, financial, and logistical complexities—warrants continued oversight. The State Legislature's role in reviewing these elements will be critical as planning accelerates toward 2028.