

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Q:** I understand that the government of the City of Los Angeles was originally designed to be simple and to function without political parties (unlike other big U.S. cities). How is the City governed today?

The initial concepts may have been simple, but as described in this Haynes-funded project, municipal governments in Los Angeles and elsewhere in the US have had to modernize to reflect the changing needs and wishes of its citizens.

As a city, Los Angeles, compared to the well-established cities of the East Coast, came late to the game. Los Angeles only became a Mexican city in 1835 and a US city in 1850 when California became a state, long after major east coast cities and states already possessed large populations and extensive infrastructure.

Population first boomed in Los Angeles when the first rail service arrived in 1876, a decade after the end of the Civil War in 1865. Then, as times and conditions continue to change, the structure of Los Angeles City Government also changed, driven by people, ideas, events and agencies. For example, large infrastructure projects for seaports, airports, and sewer and water supply have attempted to keep up with demand. And, in contrast to the majority of cities in the US, these large projects are owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles.

You will find the full story in this two volume set, with articles written by an outstanding group of historians, political scientists and public administrators. Take a look.

CITATION

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