

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 28, 2026

**EL POLLO LOCO HOLDINGS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	001-36556 (Commission File Number)	20-3563182 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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575 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1100, Costa Mesa, California (Address of principal executive offices)	92626 (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (714) 599-5000

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-2 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	LOCO	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC
Rights to Purchase Series A Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share		The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On May 28, 2026, El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc. (the “Company”) announced that on May 28, 2026 its Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program (the “Repurchase Program”) under which the Company is authorized to repurchase up to \$40,000,000 in shares of the Company’s Common Stock.

Under the Repurchase Program, shares may be repurchased from time to time on the open market, in block trades, in privately negotiated transactions, or transactions otherwise in compliance with Rule 10b-18 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The amount and timing of any shares repurchased under the Repurchase Program will be determined at the discretion of management and will depend on a number of factors, including the market price of the Company’s stock, general business, economic and market conditions, alternative investment opportunities, and funding considerations. The Company may also from time to time establish one or more plans under Rule 10b5-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, for the repurchase of shares of its common stock under the Repurchase Program. The Repurchase Program does not obligate the Company to acquire any particular number of shares. The authorization under the Repurchase Program has an open-ended term, but it may be expanded, modified, suspended, or discontinued at any time.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc.  
(Registrant)

Date: May 28, 2026

/s/ Ira Fils  
Ira Fils  
Chief Financial Officer

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