

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES CHARTER AMENDMENT DD

### **TITLE:**

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

### **THE ISSUE:**

Shall the City Charter be amended to establish an independent redistricting commission to redraw Council District boundaries in the City of Los Angeles every ten years?

### **THE SITUATION:**

The City Charter currently requires that Council District boundaries be reviewed every ten years by an advisory commission that recommends district boundary changes to the City Council. Final district boundary decisions are made by the Council and Mayor. The City has proposed establishing an independent redistricting commission to consider changes and make the final decision on district boundaries.

### **THE PROPOSAL:**

This measure would change the City Charter to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission to:

- Make final decisions on City Council District boundaries following each ten-year federal census without the involvement of the Council or Mayor;
- Comply with redistricting criteria and processes set forth in the Charter and other City law;
- Act in an impartial manner that ensures integrity and fairness in the redistricting process;
- Educate and inform the public about redistricting;
- Receive and consider public input;
- Make recommendations to City officials on the redistricting process; and
- Perform other redistricting functions as set forth in City law.

The Commission would consist of 16 members and four alternates.

Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission would be selected without involvement from elected officials.

No City official, employee, commissioner, lobbyist, or any person who has contributed to a political campaign of an elected City official, as set forth in City law, would be eligible to serve on the Commission.

### **A YES VOTE MEANS:**

You want to require the City to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission to redraw Council District boundaries in the City of Los Angeles every ten years.

### **A NO VOTE MEANS:**

You do not want to require the City to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission to redraw Council District boundaries in the City of Los Angeles every ten years.

**THE FULL TEXT OF THIS MEASURE BEGINS ON PAGE 14.**

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# DD

## INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. CHARTER AMENDMENT DD.

Shall the City Charter be amended to establish an independent redistricting commission to redraw Council district lines every ten years in the City of Los Angeles?

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### IMPARTIAL SUMMARY BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The City of Los Angeles (City) Charter (Charter) establishes the process by which Council District boundaries in the City are drawn every ten years and adopted by ordinance following the federal census. Subsequently, those Council District boundaries are used for Council member elections, recalls, and for filling Council vacancies. Currently, an appointed advisory commission recommends to the Council changes to those boundaries during the redistricting process. Final District boundary decisions are made by the Council and Mayor.

This measure would amend the Charter by requiring the establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) with the powers, duties, and responsibilities to adopt Council District boundaries every ten years following each federal census. The Commission would be required to draw Council District boundaries in compliance with the United States Constitution, California Constitution, and federal Voting Rights Act, as well as follow the redistricting criteria and process set forth in the Charter and by other City law.

The Commission would be required to act in an impartial manner in the development of Council District boundaries without involvement by elected officials. The final Council District boundaries would be approved solely by the Commission. The Commission would also educate and inform the public about redistricting; conduct public meetings and hearings; receive and consider public input; make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and Ethics Commission regarding the redistricting process; and perform other redistricting functions as set forth by City law. A Commission member would be prohibited from communicating with an individual or organization regarding redistricting matters outside of a public meeting.

The Commission would be selected without involvement by elected officials and consist of 16 members and four alternates. The Commission would be established every ten years after each federal census and no later than April 1 of each year ending in the number zero. Each member of the Commission would begin their term on the date of selection and expire upon the selection of the succeeding Commission's first member. The qualifications and restrictions of Commission members include the following:

- Be at least 18 years old and a resident of the City at the time of selection;
- Have resided in the City for at least five years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application;

- Demonstrate collaborative skills, experience in civic engagement, and the ability to analyze complex data;
- A person is not required to be a registered voter or a citizen of the United States;
- A person cannot be an employee of the City or a City Commissioner for at least two years preceding submission of an application;
- A person or person's spouse or family cannot be engaged in prior political lobbying activities described in the California Elections Code provisions regarding eligibility requirements for independent redistricting commissions;
- Commission members are required to file a statement of economic interests and other financial disclosures;
- While serving on the Commission, a person cannot endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a campaign contribution to, any elected City officer or candidate for elective City office, or serve on a redistricting commission for any other governing body;
- A Commissioner may be removed for substantial neglect of duty or other misconduct in office by a two-thirds vote of the Commission, which may be appealed to the City Ethics Commission;
- A City Data Bureau would be established to prepare and manage demographic and geographic data for the Commission and other City departments; and
- The City Clerk would manage the Commission application process, with the Ethics Commission providing oversight.

This Charter amendment will become effective if approved by a majority of voters.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT BY MATTHEW W. SZABO, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

This measure establishes a 16-person Independent Redistricting Commission for the City of Los Angeles every ten years. Commissioner compensation will be set by Ordinance in amounts unknown at this time. This measure requires the Office of the City Clerk and the Ethics Commission to support commissioner selection and requires the City Clerk to support administrative tasks associated with the normal functions of the commission. While commissioner compensation will be established via Ordinance and City Department administrative costs will be addressed as part of the City's annual budget process once administrative procedures are developed, actual costs will vary from year-to-year based on the commission's workload. Partial year costs are anticipated beginning in 2028-29. The impact to the City's General Fund is estimated at \$1,163,746 in 2028-2029. Full year costs for 2029-30 are estimated at \$2,405,256. Cumulative costs over the life of the commission are anticipated to be approximately \$6,154,130.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT DD

For 100 years, Los Angeles City Councilmembers have had the last word on drawing their own district lines. Too often, they've used that power to draw districts that bolster their own chances of re-election, regardless of the impacts on our neighborhoods and communities. For the first time in our city's history, CHARTER AMENDMENT DD will take that power away from elected officials and instead create an Independent Redistricting Commission for the City.

Two years ago, this city was shaken by scandal when a few Councilmembers were recorded trying to game the redistricting process for themselves while diluting the power of entire communities.

CHARTER AMENDMENT DD will stop that kind of backroom dealing.

Every ten years, a new commission will be selected to redraw Council district lines. Applicants will be rigorously screened for potential conflicts of interest. No elected officials or their staff or family members. No candidates, lobbyists or political consultants. Half of the commissioners will be selected from a pool of screened applicants at random, like a lottery. They will then select the rest, from the same pool, to ensure the Commission reflects the diversity of our city, taking race, gender, age, income, and other factors into account. The entire process will be managed by the City Clerk with no involvement by Councilmembers at all.

The independent commissioners will draw Council districts that are roughly equal in population, and will ensure that no racial or ethnic communities are arbitrarily divided into multiple districts to dilute their opportunity for representation.

Fair elections in fairly-drawn districts are essential to democracy and to effective city government. Once and for all, CHARTER AMENDMENT DD will let the voters choose their Councilmembers, instead of the Councilmembers choosing their voters.

Let's take the politics out of the redistricting process.

**VOTE YES ON CHARTER AMENDMENT DD!**

**Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and are not checked for accuracy by any City agency.**

**PERSONS SIGNING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT DD**

PAUL KREKORIAN  
Councilmember, District 2  
City of Los Angeles

NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, District 4  
City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED.**

DRAFT

## **REBUTTAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT DD**

CHARTER AMENDMENT DD will create the first truly Independent Redistricting Commission to draw Council District lines in Los Angeles history. It is a vitally important step in reforming City Hall once and for all.

This proposal was developed through months of extensive engagement by government reform advocates, academic experts and community representatives. Some experts have referred to Charter Amendment DD as the “gold standard” of redistricting reforms. There is no argument in opposition to it.

Council districts designed by independent citizen commissioners, drawn fairly from all areas of the city and reflecting the full diversity of Los Angeles, will serve the public better than those designed by politicians to serve their own personal ambitions.

Put an end to the back room dealing exposed on the scandalous audio recording.

Vote YES on CHARTER AMENDMENT DD for fair representation and a stronger democracy in Los Angeles city government.

### **PERSONS SIGNING REBUTTAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CHARTER AMENDMENT DD**

PAUL KREKORIAN  
Councilmember, District 2  
City of Los Angeles

NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, District 4  
City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE

FERNANDO GUERRA, PH.D.  
Board Member  
L.A. Governance Reform Project

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New provisions or language added to the Charter or to existing Charter sections are shown in underline type; words deleted from the Charter or from existing Charter sections are shown in ~~strikeout~~ type.

## CHARTER AMENDMENT DD

Section 1. Sections 480 to 490 are added to the Charter of the City of Los Angeles to read as follows:

### ***City of Los Angeles Independent Redistricting Commission***

#### **Sec. 480. Commission Establishment and Purpose.**

(a) There shall be in the City of Los Angeles an Independent Redistricting Commission (the "Commission") that shall have the powers, duties, and responsibilities set forth in the City Charter and by ordinance.

(b) The purpose of the Commission is to strengthen the governance of the City of Los Angeles by developing Council district boundaries through a fair, transparent, inclusive, and independent redistricting process that empowers public participation and public access to its proceedings.

#### **Sec. 481. Commission Organization, Powers, and Duties.**

(a) The Commission shall consist of 16 members and four alternate members.

(b) A new Commission shall be established every ten years after each federal decennial census. The members of the Commission shall be selected no later than April 1 of each year ending in the number zero.

(c) The term of office of each member of the Commission shall begin on the date of that commissioner's respective selection and shall expire upon the selection of the first member of the succeeding Commission.

(d) The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

(1) adopt the boundaries of the Council districts of the City of Los Angeles following each federal decennial census;

(2) comply with the redistricting criteria and process set forth in the Charter and by ordinance;

(3) act in an impartial manner that ensures the integrity and fairness of the redistricting process;

(4) educate and inform the public about redistricting, solicit and encourage public participation in the redistricting process, and hold public meetings and hearings that are accessible and provide the public the opportunity to participate and provide comment throughout the process;

(5) make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and City Ethics Commission regarding redistricting matters; and

(6) perform other redistricting functions as prescribed by ordinance.

**Sec. 482. Commissioner Qualifications and Restrictions.**

(a) Each Commission member shall be at least 18 years old and a resident of the City at the time of selection, and shall have resided in the City for at least five years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application. A Commissioner is not required to be a registered voter or a citizen of the United States.

(b) A person shall not be eligible to apply to or serve on the Commission if the person has been an employee of the City or a member of a City Commission at any time in the two years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application.

(c) A person shall not be eligible to apply to or serve on the Commission if the person or person's spouse or family has engaged in the prior political and lobbying activities described in the California Elections Code provisions regarding eligibility requirements for independent redistricting commissions. Additional eligibility requirements may be provided by ordinance.

(d) Applicants to the Commission shall demonstrate collaborative skills, experience in civic engagement, and the ability to analyze complex data.

(e) While serving on the Commission, a member of the Commission shall not endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a campaign contribution to, any elected City officer or candidate for elective City office, or serve on a redistricting commission for any other governmental body.

(f) A member or former member of the Commission shall not do any of the following:

(1) Be a candidate for elective City office unless more than five years have elapsed from the commissioner's last date of service on the Commission or ten years have elapsed from the date of the commissioner's selection to the Commission, whichever is less.

(2) Be a candidate for City Council for any district for which the election will be conducted using district boundaries that were adopted by the Commission on which the member served.

(g) For a period of four years after the last date of service on the Commission or ten years after the date of selection to the Commission, whichever is less, a member or former member of the Commission shall not do any of the following:

(1) Accept appointment to another City Commission.

(2) Accept employment as a paid staff member of, or receive compensation as a consultant to, an elected City officer or candidate for elective City office.

(3) Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City.



(4) Act as a registered City lobbyist.

(5) Accept appointment to a City office.

(h) Alternate members of the Commission shall be subject to the same eligibility requirements, standards of conduct, and restrictions as other Commission members.

**Sec. 483. Commissioner Selection and Removal.**

(a) An application process to identify prospective commissioners shall commence no later than April 1 of each year ending in the number nine.

(b) The City Clerk shall manage the Commission application process, with the City Ethics Commission providing oversight. The City Clerk and City Ethics Commission may delegate these responsibilities to their staff or consultants.

(c) The City Clerk shall conduct an outreach and education program to ensure that there is publication and awareness of the Commission application process, with efforts to reach underserved communities and with efforts conducted in multiple languages as identified by ordinance. The City Clerk shall monitor and make public the demographic data of application submissions and enhance outreach as reasonably needed to ensure that the applicant pool has a sufficient number of qualified applicants and reasonably reflects the City's diversity.

(d) An interested person meeting the eligibility requirements for service on the Commission may submit an application to the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall review the applications and establish an applicant pool consisting of those individuals who meet the objective eligibility requirements specified in subsections (a) through (c) of Section 482.

(e) The City Clerk shall post the names of individuals in the applicant pool for public review and establish a process by which the public may provide information regarding the eligibility of an individual in the applicant pool. The City Ethics Commission shall review the information provided by the public and determine whether any individual shall be removed from the applicant pool.

(f) Following the public review period, the City Ethics Commission shall evaluate the applications of the individuals in the applicant pool to identify individuals who satisfy the eligibility requirements specified in subsections (a) through (d) of Section 482 and who shall be included in the Commission Selection Pool. After the establishment of the Commission Selection Pool, the City Ethics Commission shall have the authority to receive information from the public and make determinations regarding the continuing eligibility of individuals in the Commission Selection Pool.

(g) The City Clerk and City Ethics Commission, with assistance from the City Data Bureau and through a process that allows for public input, shall designate eight geographic regions of the City with generally equal population. The City Clerk shall conduct a random drawing at a public meeting to select one person from each of the eight geographic regions. The result of this selection process shall be the selection of eight members of the Commission, one from each of the eight geographic regions.

(h) The eight selected commissioners shall review the applications of all remaining applicants in the Commission Selection Pool to select eight additional members of the Commission. These selections shall be made at a public meeting by a two-thirds vote of the eight initial commissioners based on the applicant's relevant experiences and backgrounds, familiarity with the City's neighborhoods, ability to be impartial, and to ensure that the Commission reflects the City's diversity, including racial, ethnic, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, income, professional, and geographic diversity. However, formulas or ratios shall not be applied for this purpose.

(i) After the 16 commissioners have been selected, the Commission shall select four persons from the remaining applicants in the Commission Selection Pool to serve as alternate commissioners. The selection of alternate commissioners shall be made in a manner that ensures geographic diversity among the alternate commissioners.

(j) The Commission may remove a commissioner for substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, inability to discharge the duties of office, failure to comply with the commissioner eligibility requirements and restrictions described in Section 482, unexcused absences, or failure to abide by transparency requirements. Removal under this provision requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission after providing the member notice of a public hearing and an opportunity to respond in writing and at the public hearing. The removed member may appeal the Commission's decision to the City Ethics Commission.

(k) The Commission may immediately remove a commissioner who has been charged with a felony offense, or who has been charged with a criminal misdemeanor related to a violation of official duties as described in Section 207(c). Removal under this provision requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission. The removed member may appeal the Commission's decision to the City Ethics Commission.

(l) The position of a member of the Commission shall become vacant if the member pleads guilty to or no contest to or is convicted of a felony.

(m) If a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the Chair of the Commission shall conduct a random drawing at a public meeting to select one of the alternate commissioners to serve as a commissioner.

#### **Sec. 484. Redistricting Criteria.**

(a) The Commission shall adopt Council district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Each district shall have a reasonably equal population with other districts, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act or as allowable by law.

(b) In addition to following the requirements of subsection (a), the Commission shall adopt Council district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:

(1) To the maximum extent practicable, districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.

Areas that are separated by water and not connected by a bridge, tunnel, or regular ferry service are not contiguous.

(2) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criterion in this subsection, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single election district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Characteristics of communities of interest may include, but are not limited to, shared public policy concerns such as education, public safety, public health, environment, housing, transportation, and access to social services. Characteristics of communities of interest may also include, but are not limited to, cultural districts, shared socioeconomic characteristics, similar voter registration rates and participation rates, and shared histories. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(3) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subsection, districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the City. District boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents.

(4) To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subsection, districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

(c) The Commission shall not adopt district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party, and the place of residence of an incumbent or candidate shall not be considered in the development of district boundaries.

(d) Other additional criteria should be considered by the Commission when adopting district boundaries, including consideration of the community and cultural association with economic and cultural landmarks and resources. All decisions concerning additional criteria shall be considered and approved in public meetings. The Commission’s consideration of additional criteria should be considered in compliance with and subordinate to the applicable requirements of subsections (a) through (c).

(e) After the Commission has adopted district boundaries, the Commission shall number each Council district such that, for as many residents as possible, the number of the Council district they reside in remains the same.

#### **Sec. 485. Public Meetings, Outreach, and Accessibility.**

(a) The Commission shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act and other applicable open meeting laws.

(b) The Commission shall take steps to encourage residents to participate in the redistricting process, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities.

(c) The Commission shall hold public hearings and workshops in a manner that ensures that the public has the opportunity to participate and comment in each phase of the redistricting process.

(d) The Commission shall provide live translation of Commission meetings in English and Spanish and as further provided by ordinance. The Commission shall provide materials in the languages required by federal and state law and as provided by ordinance.

(e) The Commission shall develop and implement an Accessibility Plan to ensure that people with disabilities and seniors are able to access and fully participate in Commission meetings and hearings. The Commission shall develop this plan prior to the initiation of public hearings.

(f) For purposes of providing testimony, elected City officers shall be subject to the same public comment procedures as members of the public.

(g) Ex Parte Communications.

(1) A member of the Commission shall not communicate with any individual or organization regarding redistricting matters outside of a public meeting. This provision does not prohibit communications with another commissioner, Commission staff, legal counsel, or consultants retained by the Commission. This provision does not prohibit communications with City staff to the extent those communications are related to administrative matters or educational presentations made to the public.

(2) The Executive Director of the Commission, any mapping staff member or mapping consultant of the Commission, and other Commission staff as designated by the Commission shall not communicate with any elected City officer, candidate for elective City office, or staff of any such officer or candidate, either directly or through an agent, regarding redistricting matters outside of a public meeting. This provision does not prohibit communications with City staff to the extent those communications are related to administrative matters or educational presentations made to the public.

(3) A member or employee of the City Ethics Commission, City Clerk, or other City department involved in the process for selecting members of the Commission shall not communicate with any elected City officer, candidate for elective City office, or staff of any such officer or candidate, either directly or through an agent, regarding any matter related to the selection process outside of a public meeting before that process has been completed. This provision does not prohibit communications to the extent those communications are related to administrative matters, legal advice, or educational presentations made to the public.

(4) The Commission may adopt other rules regarding communications provided the rules comply with the Brown Act, do not conflict with the provisions in

this subsection, and are adopted in a public meeting of the Commission.

**Sec. 486. Commission Conduct of Business, Administration, and Personnel.**

(a) Each member and alternate member of the Commission shall be a designated employee in the conflict of interest code for the Commission adopted pursuant to the California Political Reform Act, and shall file with the City Ethics Commission a statement of economic interests and other financial disclosure statements as required by law.

(b) The affirmative votes of a majority of the Commission shall be required for any official action, except the following actions which shall require the approval of two-thirds of the Commission:

(1) a vote for the final redistricting plan;

(2) a vote to remove a commissioner;

(3) a vote for the selection of the eight commissioners described in Section 483(h);

(4) a vote to hire the Executive Director, mapping consultant or mapping staff member, and any other position designated as key staff by the Commission; and

(5) a vote to authorize the delegation of hiring or contracting authority, to the extent such authority is delegable under state and City law.

(c) The alternate members of the Commission may fully participate in Commission deliberations but may not vote and may not be counted towards the establishment of a quorum.

(d) The Commission shall select one commissioner to serve as the Chair of the Commission. The Commission may designate other officers from its membership.

(e) Consideration of principles for the development of district boundaries for draft and final redistricting plans shall be conducted in a public meeting and approved by a vote of the Commission.

(f) The Commission shall post proposed map principles and any proposed final map on the Commission's website for a minimum of seven days before consideration at a Commission hearing or meeting.

(g) The Commission shall hire an Executive Director and redistricting, technology, and outreach staff, whose positions shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of the Charter.

(h) The Commission shall have the authority to hire consultants through a competitive process consistent with the contracting provisions of the Charter and as provided by ordinance.

(i) The City Clerk shall provide support to the Commission in accessing City resources, coordinating with City departments and personnel, and other administrative matters as needed.

(j) The Commission may utilize the City Attorney as legal counsel or may request the City Attorney to retain legal counsel for the Commission.

**Sec. 487. Adoption of Final Redistricting Plan.**

(a) The Commission shall adopt its final redistricting plan establishing new Council district boundaries no later than September 30 of each year ending in the number one.

(b) If the Commission does not adopt a final redistricting plan by the deadline in subsection (a), the City Attorney shall immediately petition the Superior Court for an order prescribing new Council district boundaries in accordance with the redistricting criteria described in Section 484, and those boundaries shall apply to City elections until the Commission is able to adopt a final redistricting plan.

(c) The Commission shall issue, with the final plan, a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions in achieving compliance with the redistricting criteria described in Section 484.

(d) Upon adoption of a final redistricting plan, the Commission shall submit the plan, final report, and any other accompanying materials to the City Clerk and publish this material on the Commission's redistricting website.

(e) The City Clerk shall post the Commission's final redistricting plan and report on the City's website. The City Clerk shall publish the final plan and description of the new Council district boundaries in the same manner as an ordinance of the City.

(f) The final redistricting plan establishing new Council districts shall become effective 31 days from its publication as provided for ordinances in the Charter.

(g) The final redistricting plan shall be subject to referendum in the same manner as a City ordinance.

(h) No change in the boundary or location of any district by redistricting shall operate to abolish or terminate the term of office of any member of the Council prior to the expiration of the term of office for which the member was elected.

(i) District boundaries adopted by the Commission shall not be altered until after the next federal decennial census occurs except to settle a legal claim or in response to an order of a court.

(j) Any territory annexed to or consolidated with the City shall be added to an adjacent district or districts by the Commission. The addition shall be effective upon the completion of the annexation or consolidation proceedings.

**Sec. 488. Commission Funding.**

(a) The City Council and Mayor shall provide sufficient funds to meet the needs for the formation and operation of the Commission, including to compensate Commission staff, consultants and legal counsel, conduct outreach to solicit broad public participation in the

redistricting process, and, if necessary, defend the actions of the Commission in any legal proceeding.

(b) The City Council and Mayor shall provide funds to all City departments involved with the formation of the Commission, providing support to the Commission, and maintaining the records of the Commission.

(c) Commissioners shall be compensated as provided by ordinance.

#### **Sec. 489. Commission Recommendations.**

(a) The Commission may recommend changes to the independent redistricting process described in the City Charter and Administrative Code by submitting a report to the City Ethics Commission with findings, analysis, and data that support the Commission's recommendations.

(b) The City Ethics Commission shall review the Commission's recommendations and may transmit a report to the City Council containing recommendations for amendments to the City Charter and Administrative Code regarding redistricting. To the extent the recommendations include amendments to the Administrative Code, the Ethics Commission shall also prepare and transmit, with the assistance of the City Attorney, any proposed ordinance that would be required to effectuate the recommended amendments.

(c) Administrative Code Amendments. Within 60 days of submission of an Ethics Commission report and accompanying proposed ordinance recommending amendments to the Administrative Code regarding redistricting, the City Council shall hold a public hearing concerning the matter and act to approve, without change, or disapprove the proposed ordinance. If the Council fails to disapprove within the 60-day period, the proposed ordinance shall be presented to the Mayor for approval or veto, and to the Council for override of the Mayor's veto. If approved by the Mayor, or the Mayor fails to act, or approved by the Council on override of the Mayor's veto, the proposed ordinance shall be deemed approved.

(d) Charter Amendments. An Ethics Commission report recommending an amendment to the City Charter regarding redistricting shall be considered by the City Council in time to allow for submittal of the charter amendment to the voters at the next available election. An amendment to the City Charter requires the approval of the voters of the City.

#### **Sec. 490. City Data Bureau.**

There shall be established in the City a Data Bureau to prepare and manage demographic and geographic data for the Commission and other City departments as further provided by ordinance. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Data Bureau from being placed within a City department or office.

Sec. 2. Section 204 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed as follows:

#### **Sec. 204. Election of City Council Members; Redistricting.**

(a) ~~Redistricting by Ordinance.~~ Every ten years, the Council shall by ordinance



redraw district lines to be used for all elections of Council members, including their recall, and for filling any vacancy in the office of member of the Council, after the effective date of the redistricting ordinance. Districts so formed shall each contain, as nearly as practicable, equal portions of the total population of the City as shown by the Federal Census immediately preceding the formation of districts.

(b) **Redistricting Commission.** There shall be a Redistricting Commission to advise the Council on drawing of Council district lines. The Commission members shall be appointed in the following manner: one by each Council member except that the Council President shall appoint two members, three by the Mayor, one by the City Attorney, and one by the Controller. No City officer or employee shall be eligible to serve on the Commission. The Redistricting Commission shall appoint a director and other personnel, consistent with budgetary approval, which positions shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of the Charter.

(c) **Redistricting Process.** The Redistricting Commission shall be appointed no later than the date by which the Census Bureau is to release decennial census data. A new Commission shall be appointed to advise the Council prior to each subsequent redistricting. The Commission shall begin the redistricting process at any time after appointment, but no later than June 1, 2021, and each subsequent tenth anniversary of that date. The Commission shall seek public input throughout the redistricting process. The Commission shall present its proposal for redistricting to the Council no later than a date prescribed by ordinance.

The Council shall adopt a redistricting ordinance no later than December 31, 2021, and each subsequent tenth anniversary of that date. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Council from redistricting with greater frequency provided that districts so formed each contain, as nearly as practicable, equal portions of the total population of the City as shown by the Federal Census immediately preceding the formation of districts or based upon other population reports or estimates determined by the Council to be substantially reliable.

(d) **Criteria for Redistricting.** All districts shall be drawn in conformance with requirements of state and federal law and, to the extent feasible, shall keep neighborhoods and communities intact, utilize natural boundaries or street lines, and be geographically compact.

(e) **Effect of Redistricting on Incumbents.** No change in the boundary or location of any district by redistricting shall operate to abolish or terminate the term of office of any member of the Council prior to expiration of the term of office for which the member was elected.

(f) **Annexation or Consolidation.** Any territory annexed to or consolidated with the City shall, prior to or concurrently with completion of the proceedings therefor, be added to an adjacent district or districts by the Council by ordinance, which addition shall be effective upon completion of the annexation or consolidation proceedings notwithstanding any other provision of the Charter to the contrary.

(g) **Terms.** The terms of office for those members of the Council elected from odd-numbered districts shall commence during each fourth anniversary of the year 1997 and for the members elected from even-numbered districts shall commence during each fourth anniversary of the year 1999, except as provided in Section 205(b) and until the year 2020. Beginning in the year 2020, the terms of office for those members of the Council elected from even-numbered



~~districts shall commence during each fourth anniversary of the year 2020 and for the members elected from odd-numbered districts shall commence during each fourth anniversary of the year 2022.~~

Sec. 3. Section 205 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 205. Term of Office.**

(a) The Mayor, City Attorney, Controller and members of the Council shall hold their offices for a term of four years except as provided in subsection (b).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Charter, in order to transition to new election dates starting in 2020, members of the Council elected in 2015 shall be elected for a term expiring in December 2020 and the Mayor, City Attorney, Controller and members of the Council elected in the year 2017 shall be elected for a term expiring in December 2022.

~~(c) The term of an official elected to City office shall commence on the first day of July next following his or her election until the year 2020. Beginning in the year 2020, the~~ The terms of office for those members of the Council from even-numbered districts shall commence during each fourth anniversary of the year 2020. The terms of office for the Mayor, City Attorney, Controller and those members of the Council elected from odd-numbered districts shall commence during each fourth anniversary of the year 2022. ~~The term of an official elected to City office shall commence on the second Monday in December next following his or her election.~~

(d) Except where a vacancy in office is created pursuant to Section 207, the incumbents of the elected and appointed offices shall hold office until their successors have qualified.

Sec. 4. A new subdivision (9) is added to subsection (d) of Section 245 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles exempting actions of the Independent Redistricting Commission from City Council review, to read as follows:

(9) actions of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

Sec. 5. Subsection (h) of Section 252 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is repealed, and subsections (i), (j), and (k) are renumbered to subsections (h), (i), and (j), respectively, to read as follows:

**Sec. 252. Effective Date of Ordinances, Orders and Resolutions.**

Orders and resolutions shall take effect upon their passage unless requiring Mayoral approval, in which case they shall take effect upon Mayoral approval or override of Mayoral veto. An ordinance shall go into effect 31 days from its publication, except for urgency ordinances adopted pursuant to Section 253, and except for the following ordinances, which shall take effect upon their publication:

(a) an ordinance ordering, or otherwise relating to an election;

(b) an ordinance ordering or otherwise relating to the levying or collection of the annual City taxes;

(c) an ordinance which provides for or changes any of the following with respect to streets, boulevards, alleys, courts or other public places: name, curb lines, grade, improvement, opening, widening, straightening or extension;

(d) an ordinance relating to the construction of sewers or storm drains;

(e) an ordinance relating to the bringing or conduct of suits or actions or the levying or collection of local assessments upon private property for any of the purposes referenced in subsections (c) and (d);

(f) an ordinance relating to the condemnation of lands for parks, boulevards or playgrounds under laws or ordinances providing for the payment of the expense thereof by local assessment upon private property;

(g) an ordinance relating to creating classes of positions, setting salaries, authorizing the employment of personnel or prescribing conditions of employment;

~~(h) an ordinance establishing Council or Board of Education districts;~~

~~(i)(h)~~ an ordinance establishing pension or retirement benefits in accordance with Article XI of the Charter;

~~(j)(i)~~ an ordinance making or authorizing any contract, other than an ordinance granting any franchise, right or privilege; and

~~(k)(j)~~ any ordinance making or authorizing the sale or issuance of bonds of the City or of any district within the City.

Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of Section 272 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

(c) **Boards.** The boards of the Proprietary Departments, the Ethics Commission, the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners, the Board of Administration of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System, ~~and the Board of Administration of the Water and Power Employees' Retirement System, and the Independent Redistricting Commission~~ shall make client decisions in litigation exclusively involving the policies and funds over which the Charter gives those boards control.

Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of Section 273 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles is amended to read as follows:

(a) **Boards.** The boards of the Proprietary Departments, the Ethics Commission, the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners, the Board of Administration of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System, ~~and the Board of Administration of the Water and Power Employees' Retirement System, and the Independent Redistricting Commission~~ shall have the authority to approve or reject settlement of litigation exclusively involving the policies and funds over which the Charter gives those boards control. The settlement of all

other litigation shall be in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

Sec. 8. A new subsection (h) is added to Section 281 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles regarding the powers and duties of the City Clerk to read as follows:

(h) The City Clerk shall perform duties related to the Independent Redistricting Commission as provided in the Charter and by ordinance.

Sec. 9. Subsection (d) of Section 502 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles regarding removal of commissioners is amended to read as follows:

(d) Removal. Members of a board or commission, other than the City Ethics Commission and the Police Commission, who are appointed by the Mayor subject to approval by the Council, may be removed by the Mayor without Council confirmation. Members of the Police Commission may be removed by the Mayor, but a removed member may, within ten calendar days of the removal, appeal the action to the Council. Within ten Council meeting days of receipt of the appeal, the Council may reinstate the commissioner by a two-thirds vote of the Council. Failure of the Council to reinstate the commissioner during this time period shall constitute a denial of the appeal. Action on an appeal shall be by an action separate from the approval of the appointment of a successor to the removed member. Members of the City Ethics Commission may be removed in accordance with Section 700. Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission may be removed in accordance with Section 483.

Sec. 10. A new subdivision (8) is added to subsection (b) of Section 514 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles to exempt the Independent Redistricting Commission from the authority of the Mayor and City Council to transfer the powers, duties and functions of City departments, offices, and boards, to read as follows:

(8) Independent Redistricting Commission.

Sec. 11. A new subsection (m) is added to Section 702 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Ethics Commission to read as follows:

(m) to perform duties related to the Independent Redistricting Commission as provided in the Charter and by ordinance.

Sec. 12. If any section, clause, sentence, phrase, or portion of this Charter amendment is held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, phrases, or portions of this article shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this article are severable. In addition, the voters declare that they would have passed all sections, clauses, sentences, phrases, or portions of this Charter amendment without the section, clause, sentence, phrase or portion held unconstitutional or invalid.