

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: August 4, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 20-0668
Assignment No. 21-07-0581

Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Deadlines 2021

SUMMARY

On April 7, 2021, the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) reported on the possible impacts of the delay in the release of the 2020 U.S. Census data on the work of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) and Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission (LAUSDRC) (C.F. 20-0668). Article II, Section 204, of the Los Angeles City Charter requires that redistricting be completed by December 31, 2021. Furthermore, Article 4, Section 2.21, of the Los Angeles Administrative Code requires that the LACCRC and LAUSDRC present their proposals to the City Council for changing the City Council and the Board of Education district boundaries, respectively, by August 31, 2021. The delay by the U.S. Census Bureau puts the commissions in jeopardy of not meeting the City's deadlines.

As the CLA report indicated, the U.S. Census Bureau announced on February 12, 2021, that the PL-94 data files which serve to guide the redistricting process will not be released until as late as September 30, 2021. Typically, this data would have been released in March 2021 based on the U.S. Census Bureau's historical practice. This new date, six months later than had been anticipated, causes a significant impact on the schedule to complete the City's redistricting process.

Recent information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau now indicates that the PL-94 data files are expected to be released in mid-August 2021, approximately 45 days earlier than originally projected. Nonetheless, this does not provide the LACCRC and LAUSDRC with sufficient time to complete their work by the deadline of August 31, 2021. Both the LACCRC and LAUSDRC have carefully evaluated the amount of time needed to complete their work and have determined that their proposals to the City Council would be completed by Friday, October 29, 2021. Attached to this report are the proposed schedules of both redistricting commissions. This proposed date should provide the City Council with sufficient time to carry out its approval process before its deadline of December 31, 2021.

Council action is needed to request that the City Attorney prepare and present to Council an Ordinance to amend Section 2.21 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to extend the completion deadlines of the LACCRC and LAUSDRC from August 31, 2021, to October 29, 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to amend Article 4, Section 2.21 (a) and (b) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to establish a new deadline of Friday, October 29, 2021, for the presentation of redistricting plans by the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission and Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the recommendation in this report will not have an impact on the General. The extent of any future impact on the General Fund is unknown at this time.

BACKGROUND

Every ten years following the decennial U.S. Census, the Los Angeles City Charter requires that district boundaries for the City Council and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. As part of this process, a twenty-one member Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) and a fifteen member LAUSD Redistricting Commission (LAUSDRC) is formed with members from the public to make recommendations to revise boundaries for the City Council and LAUSD Board districts. Redistricting is primarily done using U.S. Census data, which would have traditionally been released around March 31, 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the data release is now expected to be delayed until mid-August 2021. As previously stated, Article II, Section 204, of the Los Angeles City Charter requires that redistricting be completed by December 31, 2021. Article 4, Section 2.21, of the Los Angeles Administrative Code currently requires that the LACCRC and LAUSDRC present their proposals to the City Council for redistricting the City Council and the Board of Education, respectively, by August 31, 2021.

The delay in the release of the U.S. Census data will extend the work of the LACCRC and LAUSDRC by approximately two months. The LACCRC and LAUSDRC have provided revised schedules that project their work to be completed by the end of October 2021. As such, staffing costs and professional services costs related to redistricting may be greater than the current budget originally anticipated. Council action will be necessary to approve any increases to the proposed LACCRC budget if requested in the future.

These revised schedules would provide the City Council with approximately two months to complete the redistricting process, by December 31, 2021, as required by the City Charter. Staff is working with the City Attorney's office to determine the Council calendar to complete redistricting and will provide those details at a later date.



Oscar O. Ixco
Analyst

Attachments: A - LACCRC Redistricting Schedule
B - LAUSDRC Redistricting Schedule

Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission 2021

Schedule of Draft and Final Map Development (as of 8/2/21)

Commission Meeting to Receive Presentation on Census Data Findings	August 19
Ad Hoc Group sessions to Review Census Data and Public Testimony	August 23-September 10
Commission Meeting to Draw District Lines	September 14
Commission Meeting to Draw District Lines	September 16
Commission Meeting to Adopt Draft Map	September 28
Public Hearing #1 on Draft Map	October 6
Public Hearing #2 on Draft Map	October 9
Public Hearing #3 on Draft Map	October 13
Public Hearing #4 on Draft Map	October 16
Commission Meeting to Adopt Final Map	October 21
Submission of Final Map and Final Report to the City Council	October 29

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2021 WORKING TIMELINE

Pre-Draft Map Public Hearings	August-September 2021
Group Map Presentations to Commission	September 15, 2021
Presentation and Adoption of Draft School Board Member (Board of Education) District Boundaries Map	September 29, 2021
Pre-Final Map Public Hearings	October 2-9, 2021
Presentation and Adoption of Final School Board Member (Board of Education) District Boundaries Map	October 20, 2021
Presentation and Adoption of Final Commission Report	October 27, 2021
Final Commission Report Submitted to City Council	October 29, 2021
Closing of Commission Office	November 9, 2021