

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Matt

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 02:46 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support the adoption of a truly independent redistricting commission in Los Angeles. City Council lines should be drawn without the influence of politicians, and district boundaries should prioritize communities of interest. We deserve a fair process that puts Angelenos first. I urge you to vote for an independent redistricting commission and end gerrymandering in our city.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** A inguanzo

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 03:19 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, i am unable to attend the meeting on Nov 29 either in person or virtually bc i work. I am writing to let you know my position. I support independent redistricting in Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marjorie Beale

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 03:40 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support the adoption of a truly independent redistricting commission in Los Angeles. City Council lines should be drawn without the influence of politicians, and district boundaries should prioritize communities of interest. The State of California has already developed an effective and independent redistricting process, and there's no reason why the City of Los Angeles can't follow its lead. We deserve a fair process that puts Angelenos first. I urge you to vote for an independent redistricting commission and end gerrymandering in our city. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eric Ericson

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 03:43 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Rosenstein  
**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 03:52 PM  
**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am frustrated with the gerrymandering that goes on in our city with sitting politicians doing everything they can to remain in power. Independent redistricting commissions are used throughout California and have been proven time and again to work extraordinarily well. Bringing an independent redistricting commission to Los Angeles will ensure that district lines are drawn while prioritizing community input and with regular folks at the controls. LETS BE AN EQUITABLE MODEL FOR THE COUNTRY AND EMPOWER AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION THAT WILL HELP ENSURE FAIR ELECTIONS AND PROPERLY FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michael Chaskes

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 04:36 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** It's critical that the City adopt a truly independent redistricting commission for City Council elections. District lines must be drawn without the influence of politicians, and district boundaries should prioritize communities of interest. Democracy only exists when voters can choose their representatives, not when incumbents can choose their voters. I urge you to vote for an independent redistricting commission and end gerrymandering in Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dan Silver

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 04:41 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gwen Rinehart  
**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 04:43 PM  
**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Redistricting must be independent, fair and transparent.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** H Friedman

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 08:37 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support the adoption of a truly independent redistricting commission in Los Angeles. City Council lines should be drawn without the influence of politicians, and district boundaries should prioritize communities of interest. We deserve a fair process that puts Angelenos first. I urge you to vote for an independent redistricting commission and end gerrymandering in our city.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Susan Winsberg  
**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 09:35 PM  
**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Judith Zevin

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 11:34 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** OUR LA

**Date Submitted:** 11/27/2023 05:01 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1196-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear councilmembers, Attached is a letter on behalf of the OUR LA coalition regarding the upcoming agenda item (#27) on the City's independent redistricting commission motion introduced by the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform. Thank you for your consideration.



November 27, 2023

Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Proposed LA City Independent Redistricting Commission Motion**

Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers,

On behalf of OUR LA, we urge the Council to initiate a charter amendment through the ballot process that would establish and fully fund an independent redistricting commission that deeply engages with low-income, BIPOC, undocumented, and non-English speaking communities and the organizations that serve them. We offer six recommendations regarding the commissioner application qualifications, commissioner compensation, community engagement, CBO funding, public oversight of applications, and the commission selection process. These recommendations would better ensure the meaningful participation of our communities and the success of any IRC in engaging everyday Angelenos.

[Organize | Unite | Reform LA \(OUR LA\)](#) is a coalition of community-based organizations (CBOs) working to ensure that the governance reform process is informed by the voices, experiences, and needs of residents, particularly from low-income Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities impacted by racist systems in the City of Los Angeles. In the last year, OUR LA raised awareness and gathered feedback on governance reform from these communities by [surveying more than 2,500 Angelenos in eight languages](#) and organizing two online and 11 in-person convenings that reached more than 600 Angelenos across the city. This engagement culminated in a set of [recommendations to the Council](#).

We commend the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform for engaging with OUR LA and other stakeholders throughout the process of advancing an IRC for consideration by the full Council. We applaud steps to improve equity, diversity, and representation on any commission, such as expanding the number of geographic regions from four to eight to select Commissioners, adding civic engagement as criterion for Commissioners, and providing remote access and language access for all meetings.

We know that more can and must be done to ensure the meaningful participation of our communities and the success of any IRC in engaging everyday Angelenos. As the Council considers the proposal, we urge Councilmembers to adopt the following recommendations:

- 1) **Eliminate Barriers To Apply For The Commission**– Explicitly state that voting record, citizenship status, or English language proficiency ARE NOT required criteria for



selecting Commissioners. Los Angeles is a city of immigrants. The City can be a leader among existing IRCs in welcoming long-time, civically-engaged residents— regardless of their immigration status and English proficiency— to serve on an IRC.

- 2) **Compensate and Resource Commissioners**— Ensure that financial hardship is minimized for serving. This includes childcare, transportation, internet, and equipment reimbursements.
  
- 3) **Achieve Meaningful Community Engagement**— Set a higher equity standard for achieving meaningful community engagement by:
  - a) Requiring that the majority of public meetings and hearings (at least 80%) are held in the evenings and weekends.
  - b) Hosting a minimum of three public meetings/hearings in each region for each phase of the redistricting process.
  - c) Designing public hearings to be welcoming, engaging, and culturally relevant to the local demographic groups, by:
    - i) Partnering with local CBOs and other trusted messengers to co-host the public hearings to generate trust and greater interest to attend from the public. Community hosts can provide valuable insights and support for identifying venues, food and childcare vendors; infusing culture and music; promoting the hearings in the local community; and providing workshops, information, and/or resources to communities before the start of the public hearings.
    - ii) Providing interpretation and translation of materials that are inclusive of ANY attending community members. The current proposal falls short by not requiring translated materials in Bangla, Hindi, Punjabi, and indigenous dialects, like Zapotec and Mayan, among other languages.
    - iii) Infusing art, culture, and music to foster a sense of belonging and community-building.
    - iv) Providing food, refreshments, childcare, and access to public transportation to maximize attendance and participation.
  
- 4) **Equitably Fund and Resource CBOs**— CBOs are key to robust community outreach, training, and education campaign efforts throughout the City’s redistricting process. To maximize community engagement and participation throughout the redistricting process, this requires:
  - a) Establishing an adequate level of funding and resources for a wide distribution among CBOs and other trusted messengers across the entire city.
  - b) Prioritizing an equitable distribution of funds for CBOs and other trusted messengers directly working with and/or located in hard-to-reach communities, including CBOs that serve communities that speak languages and dialects other than English.



- c) Removing procurement, reporting, or other barriers for smaller, grassroots CBOs to apply for grants.
- 5) **Increase Public Oversight of Commissioner Applications**– We appreciate that the proposal directs the City Clerk to monitor applications in order to adjust outreach efforts and enhance submissions of underrepresented groups/regions accordingly. Demographic data on applications should be made publicly available as well. The public can play an instrumental role in responding to missing or underrepresented demographic/regional groups by leading outreach efforts to increase application submissions from these groups. Additionally, this enhances transparency and trust in the redistricting process.
- 6) **Prioritize an Inclusive and Unbiased Selection Process**– The City Ethics Commission should not reduce the candidate pool to 150, an arbitrary number. All applicants that meet the qualifying criteria should have the opportunity to be selected as a commissioner through the two-step selection process. Reducing the pool of qualified candidates by any entity creates a process vulnerable to bias, potentially disadvantaging applicants by age, profession, income, education level, English language proficiency, etc. Additionally, it sets an unfair burden on the City Ethics Commission to determine which candidates are more qualified than others.

A new vision of city governance is needed, and that vision must be rooted in and shaped by the perspectives of low-income and BIPOC Angelenos, regardless of their immigration status or English proficiency. As such, we respectfully request an integration of these recommendations before any proposal is finalized and voted on by the Council.

In community,

