



**Common
Cause**

Holding Power Accountable

For the People:

**A Roadmap for Community-Centered
Independent Redistricting in Los Angeles**

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Council Size

- Council Districts should have ideal populations **no greater than 150,000 residents per District**
 - Should be adjusted per decennial census
 - Currently would create ~26 seats
 - Average number of residents per city council district in the other top 10 cities, excluding Los Angeles, is approximately 143,000 residents

Commission Purpose

- Stated purpose useful to **guide Commission's work**
- Any changes must only be made *in furtherance* of the Commission's purpose
- Protects and **safeguards Commission** for future
- Purposes include (not complete list):
 - Integrity, fairness, transparency;
 - Free from political or partisan influence;
 - Respecting voters and keeping communities whole;
 - Giving voice and power to residents.

Commission Organization

Size

- 14 is appropriate size, plus minimum of 2 alternates
- Number of Commissioners should not exactly match number of Council Districts

Term

- Commission **term should be 10-years** and end upon the appointment of the succeeding Commission

Authority

- Must **have power to adopt final maps** by supermajority vote

Time

- Selection should start in years ending in 8 and Commissioners should be seated in years ending in 9
- New redistricting **cycle should not begin upon voter approval**

Qualifications and Restrictions

- Candidates should meet some minimum requirements
 - Registered voters, resident for 4 years, voted in at least 1 City election in last 4 years. Demonstrate skills, impartiality, appreciation of City's diversity
- State Elections Code **disqualification criteria** is baseline
- Need clear **restrictions pre- and post-service**
- All **ex parte communications** between a Commissioner and any individual or organization regarding redistricting matters* outside of a public meeting must be **prohibited**

Selection and Removal

- **Ethics Commission** in charge of independent selection process
- Commissioners selected through a **two-step process**
 1. After establishing a pool of qualified applicants, create pool of 35 randomly selected candidates split into 7 sub-pools, with 5 candidates from 7 regions of the City
 - 1 Commissioner is then randomly selected from each sub-pool, totaling 7
 2. 7 randomly selected Commissioners select the remaining Commissioners considering geography, diversity, other factors
- Commissioner removal should be by supermajority vote for a specified cause, such as violating ex parte communications restrictions

Redistricting Criteria

- Compliance with U.S. Constitution and federal VRA
- Compliance with state constitution and state law
- Reasonably equal population except where deviation required
- No protection of incumbency, candidate residence, or party
- **Ranked priority of remaining criteria:**
 - Contiguity
 - Preserve communities of interest
 - Follow natural boundaries, street lines, important physical assets
 - Not split census blocks
 - Encourage geographical compactness

Public Meetings and Public Input

- Must make documents for public education and information available in variety of languages
- Must have accessible meetings
- At least 10 hearings before drawing maps, at least 15 during draft maps, and at least 3 more hearings before final map
- Must accept public comment in person and live remotely
- Hearings should also be during evenings and on weekends



Thank You + Questions?

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Full recommendations at: bit.ly/LA-IRC