

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: September 29, 2023

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *smtso* Council File No. 22-1196-S1
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No. 22-10-0613

SUBJECT: Proposed Independent Redistricting Commission Program

SUMMARY

Motion (Krekorian, Raman – Martinez, CF 21-1472) instructed the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report with options for a measure for the November 2022 ballot to amend the City Charter to create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) for the City of Los Angeles. The Motion included an extensive list of components that would govern an independent redistricting process, and directed that best practices for these components be identified. The Motion was adopted in October 2022.

On March 20, 2023, the CLA released a report in response to Motion, addressing the wide ranging issues required to establish and operate an IRC, as well as options associated with changing the number of Council Districts in the City. The Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform (Ad Hoc Committee) then held eight meetings and hearings, including hearings in South Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley, to discuss the CLA report and to obtain input from interested organizations and the general public. The Ad Hoc Committee then instructed the CLA to consolidate the information received in these meetings into a single IRC program for consideration.

The Ad Hoc Committee then held two additional meetings to consider the Suggested Terms for the City's IRC Program. At its meeting of September 18, 2023, the Ad Hoc Committee finalized most of the Suggested Terms and instructed the CLA to provide a Proposed IRC Program. This report provides a consolidated, Proposed IRC Program for consideration (Attachment A). In addition, this report identifies the terms that require final consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Request the City Attorney and instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of other Departments as necessary, to prepare ballot measure proposals concerning the Independent Redistricting Commission Program substantially as attached to this report (Attachment A) and as amended, if necessary, to address any unresolved issues, including those described in this report;

2. Consider information and options related to increasing the number of Council Districts, as presented in previous CLA reports of March 10, 2023, August 25, 2023, and September 15, 2023; and
3. Instruct the CLA to report on redistricting for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

BACKGROUND

Attachment A provides a Proposed IRC Program for the City of Los Angeles, incorporating revisions approved by the Ad Hoc Committee at its meeting of September 18, 2023. At that meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee also instructed the CLA to adjust the IRC Program to conform with recent changes to State law. Attachment A includes the consolidated program and those revisions, as noted below. Further, the Ad Hoc Committee chose to continue consideration of three issues:

- Ex parte communication provisions to account for social media,
- Map criteria that account for economic assets, and
- Effective date for the map.

Comments are provided below on these matters.

Conformance with State Law

At the Ad Hoc Committee's instruction, the following adjustments were made to conform the City's IRC Program with requirements in State law regarding independent redistricting and charter cities.

- **D.3a:** Revised to include a provision that Commissioners would be ineligible to run for elected offices in the City for five years from their appointment to the Commission, or for a Council District for which the Commissioner participated in drawing the boundaries. These revisions would align this provision to be consistent with State law.
- **D.3b(ii):** Revised to include that a Commissioner is ineligible to be paid staff or consultant to any City elected official or any candidate for elective office.
- **D.3b(v):** Added a provision that Commissioners would be ineligible to accept appointment to any City office, as provided in State law.
- **H.10:** The effective date of the new Council District boundaries is revised as discussed below, but remains an open issue.

Unresolved Issues

The Ad Hoc Committee had not resolved three remaining issues concerning the IRC Program. The Proposed IRC Program in Attachment A provides language on each of these issues. As these are policy matters, the Ad Hoc Committee should advise on any further revisions that should be made. The following provides additional comments:

- Ex parte communication provisions to account for technological advances and social media (D.5)
 - The Ad Hoc Committee approved the Suggested Term to prohibit ex parte communications involving Commissioners and Key Staff. The Ad Hoc Committee, however, further considered concerns related to technological advances and social media that could facilitate participation and transparency, with the intent to provide the Commission and the public with as many tools as possible for this purpose. On review of the IRC Program, it should be noted that provisions give the IRC authority to address any opportunities or constraints that arise with ex parte communications. Specifically, conformance with the Brown Act (I.2) and flexibility to design outreach programs to enhance transparency and public participation (G.1-8), should allow IRC Commissioners to fully interact with the public in a fair and transparent manner. The IRC Program as presented provides the opportunity to adjust to future advancements in technology and changes to public participation expectations and laws.

- Map criteria that account for economic assets (F.2)
 - The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the importance of considering economic and cultural assets in the redistricting process. The Additional Criteria for drawing map boundaries include a priority that neighborhoods and communities that “share a common language, history, culture, and identity” should not be divided. As many of these resources are components of the cultural identity of a community or neighborhood, it is appropriate that such economic and cultural resources be included in such consideration. Attachment A provides suggested language to address this.

- Effective date for the map (H.10)
 - State law was amended on September 14, 2023, to include language that clarifies the effective date of revised district boundaries in a manner that sets the effective date with the next district election. For the City, this would mean that adoption of the State definition would result in staggered effective dates for district boundaries. As a Charter City, an alternative effective date could be selected such as the current practice that boundaries are effective immediately upon adoption.

 - The CLA report of September 15, 2023, included a description of three options for the effective date related to the transition to a higher number of Council Districts: a 6-year transition term, a 2-year transition term, and two 2-year terms for Odd numbered Council Districts only. Discussion at the August 28 Ad Hoc Committee meeting introduced the concept that the transition terms for a higher number of Council Districts be a permanent feature of the IRC Program, with substantially more discussion of these options at the September 15 meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee did not reach a conclusion specifically, but in a separate instruction directed the CLA to align the City’s IRC Program with changes to State law on independent redistricting.

- In the Proposed IRC Program, H.10 has been revised to align with State law as a placeholder pending further consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, but the Committee has several options available. These options include three solutions that align with changes in State law that require new boundaries to be effective with the next election for such districts, while two solutions are available as the City is a Charter City and such terms would be included in the City Charter.
- Five options for the effective date of the final map, without consideration of any change to the number of Council Districts, have been identified (Figure 1). The five options identified for the effective date for the regular IRC Program are:
 - Consistent with recent revisions to State Law:
 1. Follow State method for map effective date, without adjusting City Council elections (retain staggered implementation of new boundaries)
 2. All members on the same ballot each 10 years (requires a 2-year term transition every 10 years)
 3. Shift election cycle so all members are on the same ballot, no staggered elections, with a 2-year transition term every 20 years. A one-time 2-year term would be required for Odd number Council Districts to achieve alignment with Even number Districts
 - Charter City:
 4. Effective immediately, as is currently provided in the Charter
 5. All districts effective upon the next election
- In the separate discussion of the number of Council Districts, a one-time option is available that would provide 2- or 6-year transition terms (Figure 2).

Number of Council Districts (A.1, A.7, and A.8)

The September 15, 2023, CLA Report included additional information as requested by the Ad Hoc Committee concerning options to change the number of Council Districts in the City. Additional discussion and consideration of this issue remains a policy matter for the Council.

The issues to address are:

- Designate the number of Council Districts
- Select a transition plan for Council District elections (Figure 2)
- Identify potential changes to appointment authorities
- Designate the Council vote threshold for a supermajority

Figure 1
Effective Date
for New Council District Boundaries Following Redistricting

	Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4		Option 5	
	State, Current Election Cycle		2-Year Terms Every 10 Years		Shift to All Districts on One Ballot		Current Charter, Effective Immediately		ALL Districts Effective on Next Election	
	Odd	Even	Odd	Even	Odd	Even	Odd	Even	Odd	Even
2024	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2026	4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years	
2028	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2030	4 years		2 years		2 years		4 years		4 years	
2032	4 years	4 years	4 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2034	4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years	
2036	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2038	4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years	
2040	4 years	4 years	2 years	4 years	2 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2042	4 years		4 years		2 years		4 years		4 years	
2044	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2046	4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years	
2048	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2050	4 years		2 years		2 years		4 years		4 years	
2052	4 years	4 years	4 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2054	4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years		4 years	
2056	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years

Option 3: This is a modified version of New York City. Because New York's election cycle is not aligned with State elections and elections are not staggered, significant changes would be needed to align Los Angeles City Council elections to a timeline that would align with the New York model.

Option 4: New boundaries would be effective immediately upon adoption, which would likely be about 14 months prior to the next election

Option 5: New boundaries for all Districts (Odd and Even, regardless as to which appears on the ballot) would be effective with the next election.

Figure 2
Transition Terms
For an Increase in the Number of Council Districts

	6 Year Terms		2-Year Terms	
	Odd	Even	Odd	Even
2024	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2026	6 years		4 years	
2028		4 years		
2030		2 years		
2032	4 years	6 years	4 years	2 years
2034			4 years	
2036	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2038			4 years	
2040	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2042		4 years		
2044	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2046		4 years		
2048	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2050		4 years		
2052	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
2054		4 years		
2056	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Redistricting (N.1 et al in the March 10, 2023 CLA report)

The September 15, 2023, CLA Report noted that additional research was needed to evaluate options related to LAUSD Redistricting. Further, as the report was being completed, the State legislature adopted several bills that include provisions related to school board redistricting. A follow-up report will provide analysis of this legislation.

ATTACHMENT A
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

B. Commission Purpose

The purpose of the Independent Redistricting Commission (also referred to as Commission or IRC) is to strengthen governance of the City by developing Council District boundaries through a fair, transparent, and inclusive Independent Redistricting process that empowers full public participation and maximum public access to its proceedings.

C. Commission Organization

1. There shall be 17 Commissioners.
2. There shall be 8 Alternate Commissioners.
3. Commission vacancies shall be filled by the Chair of the Commission by randomly drawing the name of an Alternate Commissioner.
 - a. If the pool of Alternate Commissioners is exhausted prior to the adoption of a final map, an expedited process shall be conducted, with the Commission randomly selecting replacements from the Commission Selection Pool in E.6 below. After adoption of a final map, either an expedited application process can be conducted as above or the quorum requirement may be revised if the pool of Alternate Commissioners is exhausted.
4. Alternate Commissioners shall be able to participate in Commission hearings, meetings, training, and discussions, but shall not have a vote.
5. Alternate Commissioners shall attend Commission meetings. Alternate Commissioners who do not attend Commission meetings shall be subject to removal.
6. Each new IRC Commission begins upon appointment of the first Commissioner and serves a term of approximately 10 years, until appointment of the first Commissioner of the next IRC.
7. An application process to identify prospective Commissioners shall commence by April 1 in a year ending in the number 9.
8. The Commissioner application process shall include an outreach and education program to ensure that there is wide awareness that the Commission application process is open, with efforts to reach underserved communities and with efforts conducted in multiple languages. Outreach will include information concerning qualifications, disqualification criteria, responsibilities, and restrictions. Outreach

will address the public nature of the process, requirements to engage the public and comply with the Brown Act, and other elements of the public process that may be encountered.

9. The application process shall be completed within one year and Commissioners shall be appointed to commence their term and begin their work no later than April 1 of a year ending in 0. Commissioners shall be sworn into service by the City Clerk.
10. Commissioners shall receive training with regard to redistricting.

D. Commissioner Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Restrictions

1. Candidates to become a Commissioner on the Independent Redistricting Commission shall submit an application. All applications are public records available for public review. Qualified applicants:
 - a. Shall be a resident of the City for at least three years prior to submission of an application.
 - b. Shall be at least 18 years old.
 - c. Shall not be eligible to serve on or be appointed to the Commission if any of the criteria in State Elections Code Section 23003(d) apply.
 - d. Shall not have been a City Commissioner (excluding Neighborhood Council board members) within the previous 4 years
 - e. Shall not have been a City employee or an individual who has been employed by the City within the previous 4 years
 - f. Shall not serve concurrently on a redistricting commission of any other governmental body.
2. During service, a Commissioner shall not endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a campaign contribution to any City elected official or candidate for elective office of the City.
3. A Commissioner shall be ineligible:
 - a. To be a candidate for:
 - i. Any City elective office unless more than five years have elapsed from their date of appointment;
 - ii. Any Council District for which they were involved in drawing the District boundaries.
 - b. For a period of 4 years beginning from the date of their appointment:
 - i. to be appointed to another City commission,
 - ii. to serve as paid staff for or as a paid consultant to any City elected official or candidate for elective office in the City,
 - iii. to receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City,
 - iv. to act as a City lobbyist, or
 - v. to accept appointment to a City office.

4. At the time of their appointment, a Commissioner shall file a written declaration with the City Clerk stating their understanding of the restrictions in D.3.
5. After a minimum period of 4 years from their original appointment, a Commissioner who accepts an appointment or position identified in D.3.b shall resign from the Commission.
6. Commissioner duties shall include:
 - a. Conduct themselves in a manner to ensure integrity and fairness of the process, including ex parte communication restrictions.
 - b. Attend and participate in commission meetings and hearings.
 - c. Train on redistricting and ethics.
 - d. File appropriate statements, such as Form 700.
 - e. Use an assigned e-mail for commission business.
 - f. Conduct self and business in an impartial manner.
 - g. Additional duties may be assigned.
7. All ex parte communications between Commission members and any other person concerning development of the map are prohibited. This does not restrict communication among Commissioners and their staff, consultants, or legal counsel, or communication with City staff regarding administrative matters. This does not restrict educational presentations to the public. At least two Commissioners must be present at any public meeting that is not an official Commission hearing or meeting and such a meeting must be posted on the Commission website for general public participation. This shall include in person and virtual meetings.
8. All ex parte communications between Key Commission staff (the IRC Executive Officer, mapping consultant, and other designated positions) and any elected City official, candidate for City elected office, or their staff concerning development of the map shall be prohibited.
9. The IRC may adopt other rules on communications so long as they comply with the Brown Act and open meeting laws; do not conflict with the ban on ex parte communications contained herein; and are considered and adopted in public meetings of the Commission.

E. Commission Selection Process

1. The City Clerk shall manage the Commission application process, with the City Ethics Commission providing oversight. The City Clerk and Ethics Commission may delegate these efforts to their staff or consultants. The Ethics Commission shall develop the criteria to be included on the application (objective and subjective).

2. The City Clerk shall prepare the application for Commissioner and ensure wide publication and outreach to ensure that the public is aware of the application process. City Clerk shall monitor application submissions and enhance outreach if any deficiencies in diversity and geography are identified.
3. The City Clerk shall establish a Pool of Applicants:
 - a. People interested in becoming a Commissioner apply for the position, submitting the application to the City Clerk.
 - b. City Clerk shall review applications and enter any applicant that satisfies the applicant criteria (objective) in D.1, into the Pool of Applicants for Commissioner.
4. Once the Pool of Applicants has been established, the City Clerk shall randomly select 150 names from the pool to become candidates for Commissioner.
 - a. The names and applications of the candidates shall be posted for public review.
 - b. The public may register with the City Clerk a concern with any candidate posted for public review and seek dismissal of that candidate from the Pool of Applicants.
 - c. Any names submitted for exclusion shall be evaluated by the Ethics Commission, who shall make a determination concerning exclusion.
 - d. Following the public review period, the City Ethics Commission shall evaluate the applications of remaining candidates and identify 75 candidates who will be included in the Commission Selection Pool. The names of those included in the Commission Selection Pool shall be posted for public review.
5. Commissioners shall be selected in two steps:
 - a. Step One: Geography Selection
 - i. The City Clerk and Ethics Commission, with assistance from the City Data Bureau, shall develop four regional geographic areas with generally equal population through a public review process.
 - ii. The Commission Selection Pool candidates shall be divided by these four geographic areas to create four subpools.
 - iii. The City Clerk shall randomly select two names from each subpool in a public process. The second name selected in each subpool shall be geographically separated from the first name selected (i.e., different zip codes or dynamic selection based on population or distance).
 - iv. The result of this selection process shall be eight (8) IRC Commissioners, two selected from each geographic area.
 - b. Step Two: Diversity Selection
 - i. The names of the remaining candidates in the geographic sub-pools shall be recombined to reconstitute a single Commission

Selection Pool. Commissioners selected in Step One: Geography Selection shall review the applications of all remaining applicants to select an additional nine (9) Commissioners in a public process.

- ii. Selection shall be made in a manner to balance the diversity of the Commission based on:
 1. Race and ethnicity
 2. Sex and Gender
 3. Sexual orientation
 4. Age (Youth and Seniors)
 5. Income and Profession
 6. Geography
 7. The Commission may consider other factors as appropriate, subordinate to the primary factors listed above.

6. Alternate Commissioner Selection

- a. Once the full Commission of 17 members has been established, the remaining Commission Selection Pool candidates shall be divided by the four geographic areas created under Section D.5.a.i to create four subpools.
- b. The IRC shall randomly select two names from each subpool. The second name selected in each subpool shall be geographically separated from the first name selected (i.e., different zip codes or dynamic selection based on population or distance).
- c. The result of this selection process shall be eight (8) Alternate IRC Commissioners, two selected from each geographic area.

7. Commissioners may be removed by a supermajority (two-thirds) vote following a pre-removal process.

- a. The pre-removal process shall include:
 - i. Notice of public hearing
 - ii. An opportunity to respond in writing
 - iii. An opportunity to respond at the noticed Public Hearing
- b. Commissioners may be removed for the following reasons:
 - i. Substantial neglect of duty
 - ii. Gross misconduct in office
 - iii. Inability to discharge duties of office
 - iv. Failure to meet commissioner qualifications
 - v. Unexcused absences as determined by the IRC
 - vi. Working or volunteering for, contributing to, or endorsing a candidate for an elective office in the City or LAUSD
 - vii. Transparency violation
 - viii. Moving out of the City

8. Commissioners may be removed immediately by a supermajority vote of the Commission for the following reason:
 - a. Charge of a serious crime or felony
9. Commissioners removed by a vote of the IRC may appeal their removal to the Ethics Commission.
10. The position of a Commissioner who pleads guilty or no contest to or is convicted of a felony shall immediately be vacated.

F. Redistricting Criteria

1. Primary criteria:
 1. Compliance with the U.S. Constitution
 2. Compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act
 3. Compliance with the State Constitution
 4. Each district shall have a reasonably equal population with other districts, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) or as allowable by law.
2. Additional Criteria shall include those criteria required by the California Elections Code (Sections 21130 and 21621). Other additional criteria may be considered when drawing 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. Consideration of Additional Criteria should be considered in compliance with and subordinate to the requirements of federal or State law.

G. Public Meetings and Public Comment

1. The commission shall take steps to encourage residents to participate in the redistricting process, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities.
2. The commission shall actively engage and provide information through good government, civic engagement or community groups or organizations that have requested to be notified concerning redistricting.
3. The Commission shall arrange for the live translation of a public hearing or workshop in an applicable language if a request is made at least 72 hours prior to a hearing or workshop.
4. The Commission shall make public the date, time, and location for any public hearing or workshop on the internet at least five business days before the meeting, or three days if within 28 days of the deadline to adopt boundaries.

5. The Commission should consider public testimony in their deliberations, as well as any full or partial maps provided in writing and at public hearings and meetings.
6. The Commission shall provide materials in the languages required by federal and State law. In addition, outreach materials and meeting agendas shall be provided in the greater of:
 - a. the ten (10) most spoken languages in the City or
 - b. all languages required under the federal Voting Rights Act for elections (English, Spanish, and 11 others).
7. Best efforts shall be made to provide all other Commission materials in all languages required under the federal Voting Rights Act for elections (English, Spanish, and 11 others)
8. 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. This plan shall be developed prior to the initiation of public hearings.
9. The Commission shall allow elected officials to provide public comment.
10. The Commission shall hold public hearings that ensure the public has the opportunity to participate and comment, that are held in a manner that is geographically distributed across the City, with a portion of the meetings held evenings after 6 p.m. or weekends, in each phase of the redistricting process. Public hearings are intended to focus on receiving public testimony and presentation of information concerning the redistricting process, while public meetings are designed to conduct the business of the Commission.

H. Commission Process

1. The final map shall be adopted no later than September 30 of a year ending in 1.
2. Quorum of the Commission shall be a simple majority. Commission votes shall be approved by a simple majority vote, except the following which shall be approved by a supermajority:
 - a. a vote for the final map
 - b. a vote to remove a Commissioner, as described in C.5, E.7, and E.8
 - c. a vote for Commissioners selected in Step Two: Diversity Balance, as described in E.5b
 - d. a vote for key staff and consultants, including the Executive Director, map maker, and other key staff as designated by the Commission
 - e. a vote to authorize delegation of authority for hiring and contracting

3. The Commission shall accept full or partial draft maps from the public for consideration. Commissioners shall individually be allowed to prepare and present full or partial draft maps for consideration by the Commission.
4. Consideration of principles for the selection of boundaries for draft and final maps shall be made in a public meeting or hearing and approved by vote of the Commission.
5. Map principles, draft maps, and final maps shall be posted for public consideration for a minimum of seven (7) days before consideration at a Commission hearing or meeting.
6. If the IRC does not adopt a final map by the deadline, the City Attorney must immediately petition the superior court for an order prescribing new Council District boundaries, and those boundaries will apply to elections until the IRC is able to adopt a map.
7. Upon approval of a final map, the Commission shall submit the map, final report, and any other accompanying materials to the City Clerk and publish this material on the redistricting website.
8. The City Clerk shall post to the public record.
9. The map will be effective upon commencement of the Councilmember term resulting from the next Council District election following approval of a new map.

I. Records and Data

1. The Commission shall comply with the California Public Records Act, commencing with section 6250 of the California Government Code, or its successor, and any City laws regarding public records, to the degree they require greater disclosure and retention of Commission records than is provided in this article.
2. The Commission shall comply with the Brown Act and other open meeting laws.
3. The Commission and its subcommittees shall keep minutes of all discussions and actions taken at public meetings. The minutes should be adopted at the next public meeting of that body. To the greatest extent practicable, all public meetings of the Commission and its subcommittees shall be audio or video recorded.
4. The Commission shall make available to the public a free electronic mapping tool, populated with relevant sociodemographic and geographic data, which tool can be used to create draft maps and draft partial maps.
5. The Commission shall provide redistricting training and workshops for the public, including by providing grants to community organizations to conduct such training and workshops.

6. The Commission shall establish an internet web page dedicated to redistricting. The commission shall maintain the website for at least 10 years after the adoption of new Council District boundaries.

J. Funding

1. The City Council and Mayor shall provide sufficient funds to meet the operational needs for the formation and operation of the Commission, conduct any outreach program to solicit broad public participation in the redistricting process, and, if necessary, defend the Commission in any legal proceeding.
2. The City Council and Mayor shall provide funds to all City departments involved with the formation of a Commission, providing support to the Commission, and maintaining records as required by law.

K. Administrative and Operational Issues

1. The Commission shall hire an executive director and redistricting, technology, or outreach staff, whose positions shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of the Charter.
2. The Commission shall have the authority to hire consultants through a competitive bidding process consistent with City contracting provisions.
3. The City Clerk shall be designated to provide support to the Commission in accessing City resources as needed.
4. Each member of the Commission shall be a designated employee in the conflict of interest code for the Commission pursuant to State law.
5. The Commission may recommend revisions to the Independent Redistricting process in the Charter or Administrative Code by submitting a report to the City Ethics Commission with findings, analysis, and data that support the proposed revisions. The Ethics Commission may adopt, amend, or disapprove the Redistricting Commission proposals, subject to Council approval.
6. Within 60 days of submission of an Ethics Commission report with recommendations, the Council shall hold a public hearing concerning the matter and act to approve or disapprove the Ethics Commission report. If the Council fails to disapprove within the 60 day period, the rule or regulation 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 rule or regulation shall have the force of law.
7. Charter changes require approval by the voters.

8. Provide the Commission with the authority to choose their legal counsel, including the City Attorney.
9. Commissioners shall be compensated in a manner described in the Administrative Code.
10. Inter-Census Redistricting is allowed only by order of a Court, and must be conducted consistent with the Independent Redistricting requirements of the Charter.
11. Require that the Commission Office be located outside City Hall.

L. Legal Matters

1. The certified map shall be subject to referendum in the same manner that a statute is subject to referendum.

M. City Data Bureau

1. There shall be a City Data Bureau to prepare and manage demographic and geographic data for the City, including:
 - a. data required to support the City and LAUSD Independent Redistricting Commissions;
 - b. programs and projects necessary to respond to the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial population count
2. City departments to be instructed to support the City Data Bureau in the performance of its duties.