

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance adding provisions to the Los Angeles Administrative Code related to the establishment and operations of the City of Los Angeles Independent Redistricting Commission.

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to submit a Charter amendment establishing an independent redistricting commission for the City of Los Angeles to the voters at the November 5, 2024 election; and

WHEREAS, if the Charter amendment is approved by the voters, this ordinance would further implement the establishment and operations of the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE,

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. A new Article 6 is added to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 6

CITY OF LOS ANGELES INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Sec. 2.60 – 2.61. [Reserved]

Sec. 2.62. Commissioner Qualifications and Restrictions.

(a) In addition to the eligibility requirements provided in the Charter, members of the Commission shall meet the requirements contained in this Section.

(b) As provided in subdivision (c) of Section 23003 of the California Elections Code, a person shall not be eligible to apply to or serve on the Commission if the person or any family member of the person has been elected or appointed to, or has been a candidate for, an elective City office in the eight years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application.

(c) As provided in subdivision (d) of Section 23003 of the California Elections Code, a person shall not be eligible to apply to or serve on the Commission if the person or the person's spouse has done any of the following in the eight years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application:

(1) Served as an officer of, employee of, or paid consultant to, a campaign committee or a candidate for elective City office.

(2) Served as an officer of, employee of, or paid consultant to, a political party or as an elected or appointed member of a political party central committee.

(3) Served as a staff member or a consultant to, or contracted with, a currently serving elected officer of the City.

(4) Been registered to lobby the City.

(5) Contributed five hundred dollars or more in a year to any candidate for an elective City office.

(d) As provided in subdivision (d) of Section 23003 of the California Elections Code, a person shall not be eligible to apply to or serve on the Commission if a family member of the person has done any of the following in the four years immediately preceding the person's submission of an application:

(1) Served as an officer of, employee of, or paid consultant to, a campaign committee or a candidate for elective City office.

(2) Served as an officer of, employee of, or paid consultant to, a political party or as an elected or appointed member of a political party central committee.

(3) Served as a staff member or a consultant to, or who has contracted with, a currently serving elected officer of the City.

(4) Been registered to lobby the City.

(5) Contributed five hundred dollars or more in a year to any candidate for an elective City office.

(e) The political contribution limits contained in subsections (c) and (d) may be adjusted every ten years by ordinance based on the cumulative change in the California Consumer Price Index, or its successor.

(f) The term "City Commission" as used in Charter Section 482 shall not mean the board of a Neighborhood Council. A person's service on the board of a Neighborhood Council shall not disqualify the person from serving on the Commission, nor shall a person's service on the Commission disqualify the person from future service on the board of a Neighborhood Council.

(g) The term "family member" shall mean parent, sibling, child, or in-law.

(h) The term “elective City office” as used in Charter Section 482 and this Section shall mean the office of Mayor, City Attorney, Controller, and Member of the City Council.

(i) At the time of selection, a member of the Commission shall file a written declaration with the City Clerk stating that the member understands and agrees to comply with the restrictions contained in Charter Section 482 and this Section.

Sec. 2.63. 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. The application and selection process shall be completed within one year so that commissioners shall be selected no later than April 1 of each year ending in the number zero.

(b) The City Ethics Commission shall develop the information to be included in the application.

(c) The City Clerk shall prepare and publicize the application to ensure wide outreach and awareness. Outreach shall include information regarding the eligibility requirements, responsibilities, and restrictions applicable to members of the Commission. Outreach shall include information regarding the public nature of the redistricting process, requirements to engage the public and comply with open meeting laws, and other elements of the public process that commissioners may encounter. Outreach is to be conducted in a manner that conforms with or exceeds the City’s Language Access Plan. Outreach is to be conducted widely, including in communities not previously well-represented in the redistricting process.

(d) Applications shall be public records under the California Public Records Act.

(e) Selection of Additional Alternate Commissioners. If there are no alternate commissioners remaining prior to the adoption of the final redistricting plan, the Commission shall conduct an expedited process to select additional alternate commissioners from the Commission Selection Pool so that there are four alternate commissioners. If there are no alternate commissioners remaining after the adoption of the final redistricting plan, additional alternate commissioners may be selected by the Commission or by the City Ethics Commission if there are insufficient commissioners to form a quorum of the Commission.

Sec. 2.64. [Reserved]

Sec. 2.65. Public Meetings, Outreach, and Accessibility.

(a) The Commission shall hold public hearings and workshops in a manner that ensures that the public has the opportunity to participate and comment. The Commission shall hold hearings and workshops in such a manner that they are geographically distributed across the City and so that a portion of the meetings are held on evenings after 6 p.m. or weekends in each phase of the redistricting process. Public hearings and workshops are intended to focus on receiving public testimony and presentation of information concerning the redistricting process.

(b) The Commission shall provide live translation of all Commission meetings and events in English and Spanish at minimum. The Commission shall arrange for the live translation of a public hearing or workshop in an applicable language, as defined by Charter Section 485(d) and as provided by ordinance, if a request is made at least 48 hours prior to a hearing or workshop, as practicable.

(c) 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 at least three days before the meeting if held within 28 days of the deadline to adopt boundaries.

(d) As part of its outreach program, the Commission shall actively engage and provide information through good government, civic engagement, and community groups or organizations that have requested to be notified concerning redistricting.

(e) The Commission shall provide outreach materials, meeting agendas, minutes, and other important documents in the 14 most spoken languages in the City, all languages required under the federal Voting Rights Act for City elections and consistent with any applicable City language access plans or County Registrar of Voters requirements, and any other language upon request, including an Indigenous language, within 72 hours of the request, as practicable. The Commission shall make reasonable efforts to provide all other Commission materials in all languages required under the federal Voting Rights Act for City elections or by the County Registrar of Voters.

(f) At least two members of the Commission shall be present at any meeting with the public, whether conducted in person or electronically, and information regarding any such meeting must be posted on the Commission website for public participation.

Sec. 2.66. 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) A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

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

(d) Commissioners and alternate commissioners shall attend and participate in Commission meetings and may be subject to removal pursuant to the procedures set forth in Charter Section 483.

(e) The Commission shall receive training regarding redistricting and shall provide redistricting training and workshops for the public including by providing grants to community organizations to conduct such training and workshops. The Commission shall follow a grant-making process that ensures transparency, compliance with public contracting procedures, and that is consistent with the ex parte communication rules applicable to the Commission. The Commission shall take into consideration the diversity of audiences that will be captured by each community organization to which a grant is awarded.

(f) The Commission shall accept full or partial draft maps from the public for consideration. A commissioner individually may prepare and present full or partial draft maps for consideration by the Commission. The Commission shall consider public testimony in their deliberations, as well as any full or partial maps provided in writing and at public hearings and meetings.

(g) The City shall provide each commissioner with an e-mail account, which shall be used for the conduct of Commission business.

Sec. 2.67. Records and Data.

(a) The Commission shall comply with the California Public Records Act and any City laws regarding public records.

(b) The Commission and all committees of the Commission shall keep minutes of all discussions and actions taken at public meetings. To the greatest extent practicable, all public meetings of the Commission and its committees shall be audio or video recorded.

(c) The Commission shall make available to the public a free electronic mapping tool, populated with relevant sociodemographic and geographic data, capable of being used by the public to create draft maps and draft partial maps of districts.

(d) The Commission shall establish an internet web page dedicated to redistricting. All Commission documents, audio files, video files, minutes, outreach materials, and other materials related to redistricting shall be posted to the web page for public access. The Commission shall maintain the web page for at least ten years after the adoption of new Council district boundaries.

Sec. 2.68. Commissioner Compensation

(a) Commissioners shall be compensated as provided by ordinance. The ordinance shall include provisions ensuring the following:

- (1) Compensation shall be publicized along with the application;
- (2) Compensation shall be adequate to enable participation by the most economically disenfranchised potential commissioners; and
- (3) In addition to compensation, stipends or reimbursements shall be made available for childcare, transportation, and other costs incurred incidental to participation in Commission activities.

Sec. 2.69 – 2.80. [Reserved]

Sec. 2. The amendments to the Los Angeles Administrative Code contained in this ordinance shall become operative only if the voters of the City of Los Angeles approve the Charter amendment establishing the City of Los Angeles Independent Redistricting Commission at the election to be held on November 5, 2024.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

Approved as to Form and Legality

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By 
HARIT U. TRIVEDI
Assistant City Attorney

Date 4/24/24

File No. 24-1100-56

[M:\GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION\ORDINANCES AND REPORTS\ORDINANCES - FINAL YELLOW\Revised Redistricting Charter Amendment -- LAAC Provisions 4.24.24.docx]

The Clerk of the City of Los Angeles hereby certifies that the foregoing ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Ordinance Passed _____

Approved _____