

**REPORT OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

DATE: May 18, 2021
TO: Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
FROM: Fred Ali, Commission Chair 

COMMISSION BUDGET FY 2020-2021

SUMMARY

As noted in Charter Section 204(b), "There shall be a Redistricting Commission to advise the Council on drawing of Council district lines. The Commission members shall be appointed in the following manner: one by each Council member except that the Council President shall appoint two members, three by the Mayor, one by the City Attorney, and one by the Controller. No City officer or employee shall be eligible to serve on the Commission. The Redistricting Commission shall appoint a director and other personnel, consistent with budgetary approval, which positions shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of the Charter."

At a regular Commission meeting on April 13, 2021, the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission approved a budget (see Attachment A). This budget report has been prepared for transmittal to the City Council for approval.

In a report to Council on the 2020 Redistricting Process dated May 27, 2020, (C.F. #20-0668; "2020 Redistricting Report") the Chief Legislative Analyst set forth the following redistricting schedule ("2020 Redistricting Schedule") based on a June 2022 primary and the release of P.L.94-171 population file, the key Census demographic file on which Redistricting will rely, in April 2021:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2020 | Staff begin technical preparation (set up offices, etc.) |
| September 2020 | Redistricting Commissioners appointed |
| October 2020 | Commissioners begin to meet |
| June 2021 | Commissions deliver their Redistricting proposals to Council |
| October 2021 | Council adopts plans |
| December 2021 | Council adopts final district ordinances |

The Council-approved allocation for the Commission and the Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission was based on this schedule. However, largely because of the five-month delay by the Census Bureau in its release of P.L.94-171 data until late September 2021, the Commission's ability to begin designing new district maps and consequently deliver its Redistricting proposals to Council will be necessarily adjusted from the schedule anticipated

by the 2020 Redistricting Report by approximately four months. The Commission's schedule of key milestones is now as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 2020 | Commissioners begin to meet |
| October 2021 | Commissions deliver their Redistricting proposals to Council |
| November 2021 | Council adopts plans |
| December 2021 | Council adopts final district ordinances |

The extension of the Commission's work schedule by the delayed release of Census redistricting data will result in greater actual Commission expenditures than may have been contemplated by a budget development process that assumed the shorter 2020 Redistricting Schedule; in both staffing costs (e.g., salaries for the exempt Commission staff positions) and professional services costs (e.g., outreach services, mapping and language interpreter expenses).

Further complicating the Commission's ability to forecast its actual expenditures is the prospect of holding in-person public hearings throughout the City, a possibility that seemed quite distant just a few weeks ago when the attached budget was formulated. While the ability to hold in-person public hearings would significantly enhance the Commission's outreach efforts, in-person hearings would raise the Commission's overall outreach expenditures, which are a prominent element of the Commission's cost structure.

Therefore, while the attached budget includes all costs associated with the Commission during its duration to ensure timely delivery of recommendations to the City Council in time for the Council to meet the Charter-mandated deadline of December 31, 2021, the costs associated with the prolonged schedule may warrant future consideration by Council of an increase to the Commission's budget.

The Commission-approved budget provides for staffing, related costs, City department costs, office-related expenses, as well as a very extensive outreach program to solicit public input in the drafting of new Council District boundaries. The Commission anticipates holding the first round of no less than fifteen public hearings between June 2021 and early September 2021 prior to issuing a draft map. A second round of public hearings will be held in October 2021 to solicit input on draft maps. A large portion of the costs of the Commission are dedicated to these public hearings and interaction with the public.

This action includes recommended approval of the budget as adopted by the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council approve the report and adopt the recommendations of the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission and adopt the Commission's recommendations to:

1. Approve, subject to approval of the Mayor, the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission FY 2020-2021 Budget.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Commission, or designee, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to prepare Controller instructions and make any other technical

adjustments consistent with the Mayor and Council actions on this matter and instruct the Controller to implement these instructions.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds have already been appropriated in the FY 2020-2021 Budget in the Unappropriated Balance account for this purpose

ATTACHMENT A

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
COMMISSION-ADOPTED BUDGET**

| <u>Staffing Costs</u> | FY 2021-22 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Executive Director | 175,000 |
| Commission Executive Assistant | 63,000 |
| Outreach Director | 91,000 |
| Outreach Staff | 104,000 |
| Staffing Related Costs (e.g. health care, pension, benefits, etc.) | 0 |
| <u>Subtotal:</u> | <u>433,000</u> |

| <u>Other Support Staff / Professional Services</u> | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Consulting / Outreach services | 150,000 |
| Consulting / Mapping services | 50,000 |
| Consulting / Undercount analysis | 50,000 |
| Consulting / Website design | 25,000 |
| As-Needed Flyer Distribution Services | 20,000 |
| As-Needed Spoken Language Interpreter Services | 25,000 |
| As-Needed Court Reporter Services | 20,000 |
| ITA/ Council Audio | 20,000 |
| ITA I Channel 35 | 40,000 |
| City Attorney Support | 30,000 |
| <u>Subtotal:</u> | <u>430,000</u> |

| <u>Non-Personnel Expenses</u> | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Meeting Expenses (Location Fees, Snacks, Water, etc.) | 10,000 |
| Advertising | 150,000 |
| Office Supplies | 4,000 |
| Postage | 1,000 |
| Network Ready Computers/Servers | 0 |
| Phones/Data | 15,000 |
| Fax Machine | 0 |
| Network Copier/Printer/Scanner | 5,000 |
| Redistricting/Mapping Software | 40,000 |
| Furniture | 3,000 |
| Production of Outreach Materials | 20,000 |
| <u>Subtotal:</u> | <u>248,000</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Total | 1,111,000 |
| Contingency (11%) | 122,210 |
| Grand Total | 1,233,210 |