

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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DATE: June 21, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 20-0668-S2  
Assignment No. 21-06-0490

### **Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission Budget FY 2020-2021**

#### **SUMMARY**

In a report dated May 18, 2021, the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) is seeking Council approval of its budget in the amount of \$1,233,210 from funds allocated in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 City Budget (C.F. 20-0668-S2). The Council allocated \$2 million in the FY 2020-2021 City Budget to support the work of the both the LACCRC and Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission (LAUSDRC). As indicated in a report from the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to Council dated May 27, 2020, upon hiring an executive director, each Commission should prepare a budget for their work program, to be submitted to the City Council for review and approval (C.F. 20-0668). On April 13, 2021, the LACCRC approved the budget prepared by their Executive Director and contained in their report to Council.

On October 1, 2020, the Council approved an appropriation of \$150,000 from the "Census 2020 / Redistricting Commissions" line item from the FY 2020-2021 City Budget to cover the cost of start-up support for the Redistricting Commissions, including the cost of needed equipment and services associated with redistricting (C.F. 20-0668). The Council action reduced the amount available to the Redistricting Commissions to \$1.85 million of which two-thirds (2/3) or \$1,233,333.33 is available to the LACCRC and one-third (1/3) or \$616,666.66 is available to the LAUSDRC. The LAUSD will supplement the cost of LAUSDRC's work by matching the Council approved funds dollar-for-dollar which would provide the LAUSDRC an amount available equal to the LACCRC as indicated in a CLA report approved by Council on June 15, 2021 (C.F. 20-0668-S3).

On December 8, 2020, Council took action on the FY 2020-21 Second Financial Status Report that authorizes the Controller to transfer funds up to \$1,850,000 as needed pursuant to a schedule provided by the CLA from the "Census 2020 / Redistricting Commissions" line item in the Unappropriated Balance Fund No. 100-58, Account 580317 to the City Clerk, 100-14, and authorizes the Controller to establish any accounts in the appropriate amounts to fund salary, contractual services, and administrative expenses of the LACCRC and LAUSDRC (C.F. 20-0600-S84).

The CLA has reviewed the proposed LACCRC budget of \$1,233,210 and found that the amount requested is in accordance with funds available in the "Census 2020 / Redistricting Commissions" line item of the FY 2020-2021 City Budget and includes costs associated with redistricting. Council action is needed to approve LACCRC's FY 2020-2021 Budget.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Approve the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget in the amount of \$1,233,210, as attached to the Council File; and

2. Authorize the Chair of the LACCRC, or designee, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to prepare Controller instructions and make any technical corrections necessary consistent with the Council and Mayor actions on this matter and authorize the Controller to implement these instructions.

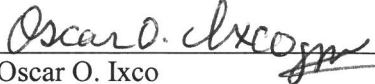
### **BACKGROUND**

Every ten years following the decennial U.S. Census, the Los Angeles City Charter requires that district boundaries for the City Council and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. As part of this process, the twenty-one member LACCRC and the fifteen member LAUSDRC are formed with members from the public. Each commission has the authority to make recommendations to the City Council on redistricting plans that set boundaries for the City Council and LAUSD districts until the next decennial Census. Redistricting is primarily done using U.S. Census data, which would have traditionally been released around March 31, 2021, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the data release is expected to be delayed until August or September 2021. Per the City Charter, the redistricting process for the City of Los Angeles must be completed by December 31, 2021.

The delay in the release of the U.S. Census data will extend the work of the Redistricting Commissions by approximately four months. The LACCRC report provides a revised schedule that projects their work to be completed by October 2021 rather than originally anticipated in June 2021. Although the Commission has submitted a budget that is expected to complete their work within the funding available, staffing and professional services costs related to redistricting may be greater than the current budget originally anticipates. Should additional funds be needed, the LACCRC will inform Council of any increases to the proposed LACCRC budget that may be needed.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be no impact on the General Fund, as funds have already been allocated in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City Budget in the Unappropriated Balance account for this purpose.

  
Oscar O. Ixco  
Analyst