



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: BOS
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: 07/17/18
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 15 mins
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Supervisor Das Williams
Director:
Contact Info: Darcel Elliott, (805) 568-2182

SUBJECT: Placement of the “You Draw the Lines” County Ordinance to Create a County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission on the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election ballot

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a. Consider the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Section 2-10.9A to the Santa Barbara County Code to Create the County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission; and
- b. Consider the adoption of a Resolution submitting the proposed Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Section 2-10.9A to the Santa Barbara County Code to Create the County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission to the electorate for approval and requesting and ordering consolidation with the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election.
- c. Consider appointing member(s) of the Board of Supervisors to author, sign, and submit on behalf of the Board a direct argument in favor of the proposed ordinance and any possible rebuttal; and
- d. Determine that the above actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The “You Draw the Lines” Ordinance to Create the County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission was introduced at the July 3, 2018 Board hearing. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to set a hearing for July 17, 2018 to consider the second reading of the Ordinance and adoption of a Resolution submitting the proposed Ordinance to the electorate for approval and requesting and ordering consolidation with the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election.

Background:

In 2008, California voters passed Proposition 11, which created the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to determine the boundaries for the California Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts in the state after a federal census has taken place. Previously, those bodies had been responsible for their own redistricting. In 2010, the passage of Proposition 20 added the responsibility of redrawing the State’s U.S. congressional district boundaries as well.

More recently, in 2017, the legislature passed Assembly Bill 801 (Weber) and in 2016, the legislature passed Senate Bill 958 (Lara) to create the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission and the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission, respectively. Additionally, this year, SB 1018 (Allen) has been introduced and is currently being considered by the Legislature. This legislation offers several alternatives for creating redistricting commissions.

On May 15, 2018, a local organization entitled “Reason in Government,” filed a County Initiative Petition, “Initiative to Create a County of Santa Barbara Independent Redistricting Commission,” with the County Elections Office with the intention of placing the initiative on the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election ballot.

Following the submittal of the ordinance, many community organizations have expressed concerns about some provisions of the initiative. In response to these concerns and in researching what other jurisdictions are doing with redistricting commissions, the First District Supervisorial Office has developed an alternative ordinance to create the “County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission”, which can be adopted by the Board and placed on the ballot of the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election as a competing ballot initiative.

The ordinance creates a redistricting commission comprised of 11 members, including two from each Supervisorial District and one at-large member, and sets out qualifications for participation such as requiring commissioners to have voted at least once in Santa Barbara County in the last three statewide elections and sets contribution limitations for the Commissioners that extend to companies in which the Commissioner has any significant financial interest (as defined in the measure). The ordinance sets out that the first five commission members shall be selected by district and from a random drawing from the most qualified applicants and that the rest of the commission shall be appointed by the first five commission members with the requirement that the appointments include an additional commission member from each district and one at-large member and that the appointments represent the political party registration of the County as a whole along with the demographic diversity of the County. The ordinance further lays out guidelines for community engagement and participation by the commission to ensure fair and equitable access to the process throughout the County and by all County residents.

Financial Impacts:

The cost of placing this ordinance on the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election ballot is estimated to be between \$75,000-\$100,000.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

- No staffing impacts

Special Instructions:

- None

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Section 2-10.9A to the Santa Barbara County Code to Create the County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission
- Attachment B – Resolution submitting the proposed Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Section 2-10.9A to the Santa Barbara County Code to Create the County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission to the electorate for approval, and requesting and ordering consolidation with the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election.

Authored by:

Darcel Elliott, Chief of Staff, First District Supervisor Das Williams
805-568-2182

cc: