

ATTACHMENT C

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BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

Initiative to Create a County of Santa Barbara Independent Redistricting Commission

The proposed Initiative seeks to amend the Santa Barbara County Code to create a County of Santa Barbara Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission). If voters approve the proposed Initiative, the Commission would act independently of the Board of Supervisors (Board) in creating the boundaries of supervisorial districts.

Under the proposal, the Commission would be created no later than December 31, 2020 and in each year ending in the number zero thereafter. The Commission would be comprised of 5 members, plus 5 alternates, each meeting specified qualifications.

Among other criteria, the Commission would not include more than 2 members who are registered to vote with the same political party, as shown on the member's most recent affidavit of registration. In addition, the Commission would include a member residing in each of the 5 existing supervisorial districts, and have an alternate from each of the districts, the alternate being of the same political affiliation of the member from said district.

Under the proposal, following advertising by the Clerk of the Board (Clerk), applicants may submit their names to the Clerk to be included in a random drawing to select members and alternates at a meeting of the Board.

The proposal contains the following provisions, among others:

- (1) The Commission shall adjust the supervisorial district boundaries after each decennial federal census and shall use federal census tracts and blocks in establishing the boundaries of supervisorial districts.
- (2) The Commission shall adjust the boundaries of the supervisorial districts of the local jurisdiction so that the districts are equal, or nearly equal in population.
- (3) The resulting supervisorial districts shall comply with any applicable provisions of Section 10301 of Title 52 of the United States Code, as amended.
- (4) The resulting supervisorial districts shall be geographically contiguous and compact.
- (5) In addition to the requirements in (1) through (4), the Commission shall consider the following criteria when establishing the boundaries of the supervisorial districts:
 - (A) Topography, water sheds, natural and artificial barriers;
 - (B) Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of population centers;

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- (C) Existing neighborhoods, city limits and community boundaries; and
- (D) Communities of interests. A community of interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

- (6) The Commission shall not draw districts for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political party or political candidate.

The proposal specifies that the Board shall provide for reasonable staffing and logistical support for the Commission.

The proposal contains procedures for the Commission to follow before adopting new boundaries, including the requirement to hold at least 5 public hearings, with at least 1 in each of the existing supervisorial districts, preceding the hearing at which the new boundaries are adopted.