



County of Santa Barbara

# Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

## Post Action Report on the Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission Process

Presented by:  
County Executive Office

# Today's Presentation

- Overview of CIRC 2020 process
- Review Commission recommendations for next cycle
  - Require Voter Approval
  - To Be Determined
  - Process/Procedure Change Only
- 2020 Redistricting Costs
- Next Steps
- Board action or further direction

# Overview

- In 2018, county voters approved Measure G2018 to establish an 11-person Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission (CIRC)
- The CIRC was comprised of county residents who were not elected officials, lobbyists, candidates, campaign donors, or close family members to those who are
- After applications closed in August 2020, the Elections Official selected a pool of the top 45 qualified applicants
  - The District Attorney randomly drew the initial five commissioners on October 13, 2020 and those five interviewed and selected the remaining six positions prior to December 31, 2020.

# Overview Continued

- The Commission held several meetings to facilitate the process:
  - thirty-six (36) public hearings; and
  - three (3) public workshops
- On December 13, 2021, the Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission adopted its final preferred supervisorial district map that went into effect on January 13, 2022.
- CIRC held final public meeting on May 23, 2022 to receive feedback on the Redistricting process.
- CIRC provided recommendations to the County (Attachment A) related to:
  - 1) Formation of the commission
  - 2) Commission operations and support
  - 3) Completing the work of the commission

# Commission Recommendations

## Require Voter Approval

CIRC Identified Challenges during the 2021 Redistricting Process and Suggested Responses	Staff Comments
<p><b>1.2 - Consider making the pool larger, increasing the likelihood that the desired level of diversity could be achieved.</b></p>	<p>Section 2-10.9A(4)(e)(1) limits the pool to the forty-five most qualified applicants. Other alternatives, such as partisan “pools” for each district similar to the State redistricting commission process could be considered.</p>
<p><b>1.3 - Develop objective scoring/review criteria to guide the work of the Elections Official.</b></p>	<p>Section 2-10.9A(4)(e) specifies criteria for the election official to take into account. To modify or expand the criteria would require voter approval. The election official does have discretion on ranking the type of experience that qualifies the applicants that could be further considered.</p>
<p><b>1.4 - Consider changing the two-stage selection process and instead select all commissioners by random draw (rather than just initial 5) - or by an impartial panel that can ensure that the demographics balance as much as is possible.</b></p>	<p>Section 2-10.9A(4) would need to be modified.</p>

# Commission Recommendations

## Requiring Voter Approval

CIRC Identified Challenges during the 2021 Redistricting Process and Suggested Responses	Staff Comments
<p><b>1.7 - Clarify the Ordinance’s language dealing with the expectation that appointments (initial and replacements) be balanced in terms of demographic diversity and proportional partisan representation. The ordinance should clarify which of these criteria have priority when they cannot both be satisfied due to the characteristics of available candidates.</b></p>	<p>Section 2-10.9A(4)(h)(3) would need to be modified.</p>
<p><b>1.8 - Change the term of the commissioners’ appointments to eliminate the need for individual commissioners to file personal financial disclosures for ten years following completion of their work.</b></p>	<p>Section 2-10.9A(5)(b) would need to be modified.</p>
<p><b>2.1 - Change the Ordinance’s specified selection criteria which apply to businesses contracted to provide services to the Commission (e.g. legal, demography, administrative, marketing/outreach) to not be the same as those used to qualify commissioners.</b></p>	<p>Sections 2-10.9A(5)(d)(1&amp;2) would need to be modified.</p>

# Commission Recommendations

## To Be Determined

CIRC Identified Challenges during the 2021 Redistricting Process and Suggested Responses	Staff Comments
<b>1.5 - Consider selecting an “alternate” for each commissioner who could shadow, assist with outreach, and be prepared to step in as a commissioner if needed.</b>	Non-voting alternates might be a potential on a volunteer basis from pool applicants, however, the appointment of Commissioners requires a majority vote of the existing Commission members.
<b>1.6 - Determine whether individuals who withdraw (either from the pool or from the Commission itself) are eligible for future consideration as a replacement.</b>	The Code does not address this, so staff could consider whether to amend the Code for clarification or determine if it can be addressed in the CIRC By-Laws.
<b>2.2 - In order to ensure transparency of the political preferences of the consultants, consider requiring disclosure of partisan candidate contributions over \$500.00 statewide, in addition to any prohibitions on contributions to candidates or Committees in Santa Barbara</b>	Commissioners could consider whether to add this requirement as part of the vendor selection process or it could be added to the ordinance to ensure consistency of the process and clear requirements up front.

# Commission Recommendations

## Process/Procedure Change

CIRC Identified Challenges during the 2021 Redistricting Process and Suggested Responses	Staff Comments
<p><b>1.1 - Consider making the appointments of each new Commission sooner than the required deadline. This would allow additional time for training, outreach, participation in vendor/contractor selection, etc.</b></p>	<p>County staff could initiate the application process sooner in the next cycle. Applications were due in August and the initial five appointments were made October 13, 2020. However, if too far in advance, the time commitment for commissioners of over a year could be a challenge for some.</p>
<p><b>1.9 - Ensure marketing campaign to recruit candidates is broad based and targets citizens from all sectors of the County. Ensure that candidates are well informed of the requirements of the role, including time, outreach expectations, potential disqualifying conflicts, etc.</b></p>	<p>CEO staff can enhance outreach efforts earlier and broader in the next cycle.</p>
<p><b>2.3 - Consider requiring (or indicating a preference) that the Outreach/Marketing contractor have a regular Santa Barbara County presence, increasing the potential that they have the relationships to maximize the effectiveness of outreach efforts.</b></p>	<p>Commissioners could consider whether to add this requirement as part of the vendor selection process.</p>



# Commission Recommendations

## Process/Procedure Change

CIRC Identified Challenges during the 2021 Redistricting Process and Suggested Responses	Staff Comments
<p><b>3.1 - Post public comments as received, or earlier than the required timeline for the meeting agendas.</b></p>	<p>CEO staff will work meet this objective in the next redistricting cycle.</p>
<p><b>3.2 - Consider allowing a per diem, for commissioners' mileage expenses, recognizing their investment of time and energy in meeting with the public and performing their public duties.</b></p>	<p>The current CIRC By-Laws allow for mileage reimbursement. Commissioners are required to track mileage and submit forms to the CEO if seeking reimbursement.</p>
<p><b>3.3 - Ensure the Commission has a role in selecting the mapping tools to be used by the public and the Commission. There was a strong feeling that the tools should be selected and introduced much earlier in the process.</b></p>	<p>The Commission can request this of their demographer as part of the vendor selection process.</p>
<p><b>3.4 - Begin training/public use of the mapping tools earlier in the process/timeline.</b></p>	<p>The Commission can request this of their demographer as part of the vendor selection process.</p>

# Commission Recommendations

## Process/Procedure Change

CIRC Identified Challenges during the 2021 Redistricting Process and Suggested Responses	Staff Comments
<b>3.5 - Expand use of the Commission’s website, including ensuring that redistricting rules and VRA requirements are posted and explained in easily understood language.</b>	Applicable rules and regulations are posted on the Redistricting website. The Commission can direct their assigned staff to make changes to the website as desired.
<b>3.6 - Encourage the use of non-Commissioners (including remaining pool members) on ad hoc committees and outreach efforts.</b>	The Commission could solicit members of the public and pool applicants to participate on a volunteer basis.

# 2020 Redistricting Costs

Description	Amount
Advertising/Marketing/Outreach	\$93,769
Meeting Interpretation	24,124
Legal Counsel	324,342
Demography Services	32,500
Administration (including clerking of meetings)	94,438
Mapping Tool	30,000
County Surveyor Review	30,089
<b>Total Redistricting Costs</b>	<b>\$629,262</b>
<b>Budget Estimate</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

# Next Steps

- County Counsel and CEO to identify and process ordinance changes related to 2010 redistricting process that are obsolete.
- Research and provide further analysis or options on potential changes to the ordinance requiring voter approval as the Board directs.

# Board Recommended Action:

- a) Receive and file the SBC Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission: 2021 Cycle Challenges and Suggested Responses approved by the Commission on May 23, 2022 (Attachment A);
- b) Receive and file a post action staff report on the Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission process;
- c) Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- d) Determine that the above actions do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since they are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.