



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES

March 23, 2021

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWVLA) writes in opposition to item 2 on the March 26th agenda, confirmation of the Executive Director of the LAUSD Redistricting Commission. The commission's own job description for this position acknowledges that hiring recent city officials presents the "appearance of conflict of interest."¹

Los Angeles City cannot afford to repeat the mistakes which undermined trust in our last redistricting cycle.² LWVLA joined the 30+ local, state, and national organizations in asking City Council to adopt a better process.³ That letter included a number of proposals and near the top the list was requiring independent staffing. The LA Times Editorial Board echoed the need for these "common-sense changes."⁴ "In order to improve the City of Los Angeles' redistricting process and make it more accessible, transparent, and fair" LA City Council President Martinez introduced a motion which included a request for the redistricting commissions "to avoid hiring current or former city staff that has been out of city service for under a year."⁵ The motion received the unanimous support of city council and the mayor.

The LAUSD Redistricting Commission should follow the example set by LA City Council's Redistricting Commission and bar "current City employees and former City employees who have left City service within 12 months" from serving as Executive Director.⁶

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mona Field, President
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

CC: LAUSD Board Members

¹ 2021 LAUSDRC - Executive Director Job Description (Final)
https://ens.lacity.org/cla/sdlausdrc/clasdlausdrc3204146141_12112020.pdf

² *LA City Council redistricting discussions turn nasty* - LA Times - February 15, 2012:
<https://www.latimes.com/local/la-xpm-2012-feb-15-la-me-redistricting-theater-20120215-story.html>

³ Coalition Letter - Final list of signatories: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0668-S1_PC_AB_09-24-2020.pdf

⁴ *L.A.'s last redistricting was a sham. City leaders have to do better this time* - LA Times Oct 2, 2020:
<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-10-02/los-angeles-redistricting-commission-reforms>

⁵ Martinez/Buscaino Amending Motion:
https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0668_misc_amend_martinez_8-11-2020.pdf

⁶ 2021 LACCRC - Executive Director Job Description (Final)
https://ens.lacity.org/cla/sdrc/clasdrc3199146870_01142021.pdf