



CLA Rlausd <redistricting.lausd@lacity.org>

Redistricting vote

1 message

Alice DuBois <aliced@gmail.com>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 9:38 PM

To: redistricting.lausd@lacity.org

Dear Honorable Commission,

I am writing 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."

Los Angeles City cannot afford to repeat the mistakes which undermined trust in our last redistricting cycle. The League of Women Voters LA joined over 30 other local state and national organizations in asking City Council to adopt a better process. That letter included a number of proposals and near the top of the list was requiring independent staffing. The LA Times Editorial Board echoed the need for these "common-sense changes."

In order to improve the City of Los Angeles redistricting process and make it more accessible, transparent and fair, LACC President Martinez introduced a motion which included a request for redistricting commissions to "to avoid hiring current or former city staff that has been out of city service for under a year." **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.

Thank you,
Alice DuBois



CLA Rlausd <redistricting.lausd@lacity.org>

I oppose Item #2

1 message

shaz wunder <mrsnimst@gmail.com>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 5:29 PM

To: redistricting.lausd@lacity.org

I'm writing in opposition to Item #2, amending the Executive Director's contract to include line drawing services for the LAUSD Redistricting Commission. Last year, 30 local, state, and national organizations in demanded a fair, transparent, and independent process.

One of the demands in that letter was for current/recent staff to be disqualified from serving on the Redistricting commission's staff.

Staff for the commission should be screened for conflicts of interest before hiring – any ongoing work or recent work on behalf of a political party, incumbent City Councilmember, or City-level political candidate should be disqualifying. Just as city officers and employees are prohibited from serving on the redistricting commission, current/recent city officers and employees should be prohibited from serving as Director or support staff.

But the LAUSD Redistricting Commission ignored common practice and hired a city hall insider as its current Executive Director. Now it wants to compound the damage and hire the very same conflicted person -- who recently served as a senior aide to the former council president -- to serve dual roles as Executive Director and line drawer.

Offering what amounts to a no bid

contract to a city hall insider undermines the integrity of this process. I urge The Commission to reject Item #2 and issue an amended RFP for map drawing services. There is just too much corruption in City Hall!!! I am tired of hearing about bribes and "campaign contributions" deciding what happens in my city while the needs of the voters are ignored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Sharon Tomlin



CLA Rlausd <redistricting.lausd@lacity.org>

Public Comment - Oppose Item #2

1 message

Cyndi Otteson <cyndi.otteson@gmail.com>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 3:38 PM

To: redistricting.lausd@lacity.org

Hello,

I'm writing in as a concerned LA resident, homeowner and LAUSD parent to two children. I ask the Commission to reject Item #2 and issue an amended RFP for map drawing services.

Last year 30 local, state, and national organizations asked for a more fair, independent, and transparent process. The LA Times joined that call to action, calling the last redistricting process "a sham" that we could not repeat.

The City Council/mayor requested the commissions avoid hiring recent staff.

Unlike the LA City Council Redistricting Commission, LAUSD's completely ignored that request when hiring it's Executive Director.

Instead of hiring a neutral party, the commission now plans on giving the Executive Director the additional role of line drawer. The Executive Director serving as line drawer presents a number of issues:

The Executive Director has about 2 decades of experience in LA City Hall, including serving as the former council president's senior aide. It undermines faith in the process to give this person even more power in the process.

1) Placing a city hall insider in the role of line drawer offers a prime vehicle for elected officials and staff to communicate with a key player while avoiding the reach of ex parte disclosure requirements.

2) Census delays present the commission with an enormous amount of work to accomplish during a short period of time.

Placing this additional role w/ the ED limits how quickly and efficiently the commission can complete its work.

The RFP proposed at this committee's last meeting should be amended to reflect the conflict of interest disclosure requirements the LA City Council Commission adopted. Based upon the state redistricting commission's conflict of interest disclosure. Ensures disclosure before and during the course of the contract.

The Executive Director has thus far refused to publicly state who his other clients are, or whether any of them might present a conflict of interest which is alarming and puts further doubt in my mind that this will be a fair process.

I'm writing in opposition to Item #2, amending the Executive Director's contract to include line drawing services for the LAUSD Redistricting Commission. Last year, 30 local, state, and national organizations demanded a fair, transparent, and independent process. One of the demands in that letter was for current/recent staff to be disqualified from serving on the Redistricting commission's staff.

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Staff for the commission should be screened for conflicts of interest before hiring – any ongoing work or recent work on behalf of a political party, incumbent City Councilmember, or City-level political candidate should be disqualifying. Just as city officers and employees are prohibited from serving on the redistricting commission, current/recent city officers and employees should be prohibited from serving as Director or support staff.

But the LAUSD Redistricting Commission ignored common practice and hired a city hall insider as its current Executive Director. Now it wants to compound the damage and hire the very same conflicted person -- who recently served as a senior aide to the former council president -- to serve dual roles as Executive Director and line drawer. Offering what amounts to a no bid contract to a city hall insider undermines the integrity of this process. I urge The Commission to reject Item #2 and issue an amended RFP for map drawing services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cyndi Otteson
District 5 - LA Resident, Parent of 2 LAUSD Students



Progress in Action. Click [HERE](#) for actions you can take today.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which I live and work, the Tongva and their elders past and present.