



CALIFORNIA BLACK CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING HUB



ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE LOS ANGELES



ADVANCEMENT PROJECT CALIFORNIA



Sent Via Email

December 15, 2020

To: Commissioner Jean A. Franklin
Commissioner David A. Holtzman
Commissioner Daniel M. Mayeda
Commissioner Nelson Obregon
Commissioner Priscilla Orpinela-Segura
Commissioner Hailes H. Soto,
Commissioner Brian M. Stecher, PhD
Commissioner John Vento
CommServ@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: Selection of Remaining Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to bring your attention to your duty to consider the factors laid out in Section 21532 of the Elections Code when you appoint the final six commissioners for the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC or Commission). Complying with election law will ensure that the fully-seated Commission will be composed of members who have a diversity of backgrounds, identities, skills, experiences, and perspectives necessary to make the redistricting process a success in Los Angeles County.

California election law provides that the Commission “selection process is designed to produce a commission that is independent from the influence of the board and reasonably representative of the county’s diversity.” Elec. Code § 21532(b). To that end, you must appoint commissioners based on their relevant experience, analytical skills, and ability to be impartial. *Id.* § 21532(h)(2). When considering these factors, it is important to consider the skills, experiences, and perspectives that are currently represented on the commission, and whether there are any potential gaps that can be filled by the final six commissioners. By keeping in mind the current composition of the eight members of the Commission you will ensure that the fully-seated Commission “reflects the county’s diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity,” and that the political party preferences of the commissioners are as proportional as possible to Los Angeles County registered voters. *Id.*

Many of our organizations have been engaged in redistricting issues on the state and local level. Our shared goal is that the CRC consist of qualified, fair-minded individuals who represent the diversity of voices and perspectives that live in our county. Achieving this diversity means that the CRC must look like the communities it was created to serve, with representation from Los Angeles County’s many communities, including representatives from Latino, Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and native communities. A diverse, representative commission will help invite public confidence in the

Commission's work and will better prepare the Commission to carry out its responsibility of engaging community members in the redistricting process.

As you make your selections, our organizations urge you to also keep demographic and geographic diversity front of mind. Demographic diversity includes diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, language abilities, and any other background information that applicants indicated in their application materials, including information about disability and national origin. Geographic diversity goes beyond ensuring representation from all the supervisorial districts, which has already been achieved with the appointment of the current eight members. The boundaries of the districts will change, and we believe it is important for you to instead focus on representation from a variety of Los Angeles County's municipalities and regions.

We appreciate your work to select commissioners in compliance with election law and look forward to working with the fully-seated Commission to ensure an independent, fair, and inclusive redistricting process.

Best,

Julia A. Gomez
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ACLU of Southern California

Kiyana Asemanfar
Program Manager
California Common Cause

Fatima Malik
President
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