LOS ANGELES COUNTY REDISTRICTING 2021

Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC)

Commissioner Selection Process

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County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC): Commissioner Selection Process

This document outlines the process for selecting the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) Commissioners. The CRC did not become an official commission until all 14 Commissioners were selected by the State's required deadline of December 31, 2020.

Overview

The CRC was established by State legislation (Senate Bill (SB) 958), effective January 1, 2017.[1,2] CRC's role is to redraw Supervisorial District boundaries following the Federal census.

The Commission is required to reflect the County's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity. The applicants are required to demonstrate they possess the following experience:

- Analytical skills relevant to the redistricting process and voting rights
- An ability to comprehend and apply the applicable State and Federal legal requirements
- Ability to be impartial
- An appreciation for the diverse demographics and geography of Los Angeles County

The political party preferences of the CRC Commissioners are not required to be exactly the same as the proportion of political party preferences among the registered voters of Los Angeles County; however, they must be as proportionate as possible.

Selection Process

The selection process involved three phases, involving different review groups to reinforce the CRC's independence from the Board of Supervisors:

- Phase 1 – Screening of applications by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) to identify the pool of 60 most qualified applicants

[1] SB 958, Lara; Stats. 2016, Ch. 781
[2] The law governing the CRC and the once-a-decade selection of its members is codified in Division 21, Chapter 6.3 (commencing with Section 21530) of the State Elections Code.

- Phase 2 – Random selection of eight Commissioners from the RR/CC's pool of 60 most qualified applicants by the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller
- Phase 3 – Selection of the final six Commissioners from the remaining 52 most qualified applicants by the eight randomly selected Commissioners

Phase 1 – Applications and Development of the 60 Most Qualified Applicant Pool

RR/CC received 741 applications by September 8, 2020. The RR/CC reviewed the applications and narrowed the applicant pool to 533 qualified applicants, based on specific requirements of Los Angeles County residency, voter registration, and election participation. The RR/CC separated demographic information from the review of subjective questions to eliminate potential bias. The RR/CC then assigned RR/CC staff to independently review the applications.

RR/CC identified the pool of 60 most qualified applicants, averaging 12 applicants per Supervisorial District. The purpose of the 30-day review period was to allow the public to identify any applicants who might not be qualified, based on the Election Code qualification requirements. The RR/CC submitted these names to the Auditor-Controller after the 30-day public review period.

The Attachment lists the RR/CC's 60 most qualified applicants. Copies of their applications are available online at: https://lavote.net/2020-citizens-redistricting-commission.

Phase 2 – Random Selection of Eight CRC Commissioners

The Auditor-Controller conducted random drawings during the Board of Supervisors' meeting on November 24, 2020, selecting 1 Commissioner from each of the 5 existing Supervisorial Districts and 3 Commissioners randomly drawn from RR/CC's remaining 55 most qualified applicants.

Here is the link to view the live random drawing from a bingo-style drum:
https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=185484406501211

Phase 3 – Selection of Six Additional CRC Commissioners

In accordance with Elections Code section 21550(g), the 8 randomly selected Commissioners reviewed the RR/CC's remaining 52 applicants with the goal of selecting 6 additional Commissioners. To accomplish this goal, the Commissioners met during four public special meetings between December 14, 2020, and December 28, 2020. Recordings of each of these CRC meetings can viewed at:

- December 14, 2020, meeting: https://youtu.be/IpwG3X1ad8U
- December 21, 2020, meeting: https://youtu.be/Nc3K_2g8y6k
- December 26, 2020, meeting: https://youtu.be/DVFWpSkyUME
- December 28, 2020, meeting: https://youtu.be/glSNsypnVMY

At each public special meeting, the Commissioners received public comments regarding the process, RR/CC's list of most qualified applicants, and future considerations.

December 14, 2020, Special Meeting

The Commissioners considered five options for evaluating the remaining 52 applicants. They opted to use a holistic approach in which they read applications and rated applicants in terms of the applicants' overall analytical skills relevant to redistricting/voting rights, State and Federal legal requirements, impartiality, and appreciation of LA County's diverse demographics and geography. They agreed to:

- Ensure applicants had at least two Commissioners review their applications; each Commissioner reviewed 12 to 13 applications randomly assigned to him/her/them.
- Provide latitude to Commissioners to evaluate more of the RR/CC's most qualified applicants if they wanted to

The Commissioners agreed to apply a 10-point scale, displayed in Table 1, that distinguished gradations of the holistic criterion among the remaining 52 applicants.

Table 1: 10-Point Rating Scale for First Round of Commissioners' Evaluations

Scale	Evaluation Groupings
10	Exceptional applicant, stands out from all of the rest
9	Top 30% of the applicant applications reviewed
8	
7	
6	Middle 30% of the applicant applications reviewed
5	
4	
3	Bottom 30% of the applicant applications reviewed
2	
1	

December 21, 2020, Special Meeting

The Commissioners acknowledged the valued experiences of the remaining 52 applicants. On average, the Commissioners each reviewed 27 applications for a total of 215 application reviews. Applications had an average of 4 Commissioner reviews.

Overall, 12 applicants (23% of the subpool) scored ratings of 8.0 or above; another 11 applicants (21% of the subpool) were in the 7.0 to 7.9 ratings range, as displayed in Table 2.

Table 2: Distributing of Commissioners' Ratings

Commissioners' Ratings	Remaining 52 Applicants	
	Number	Percent
8.0 or above	12	23%
7.0-7.9	11	21%
6.0-6.9	15	29%
5.0-5.9	5	10%
4.0 or below	9	17%
Total	**52**	**100%**

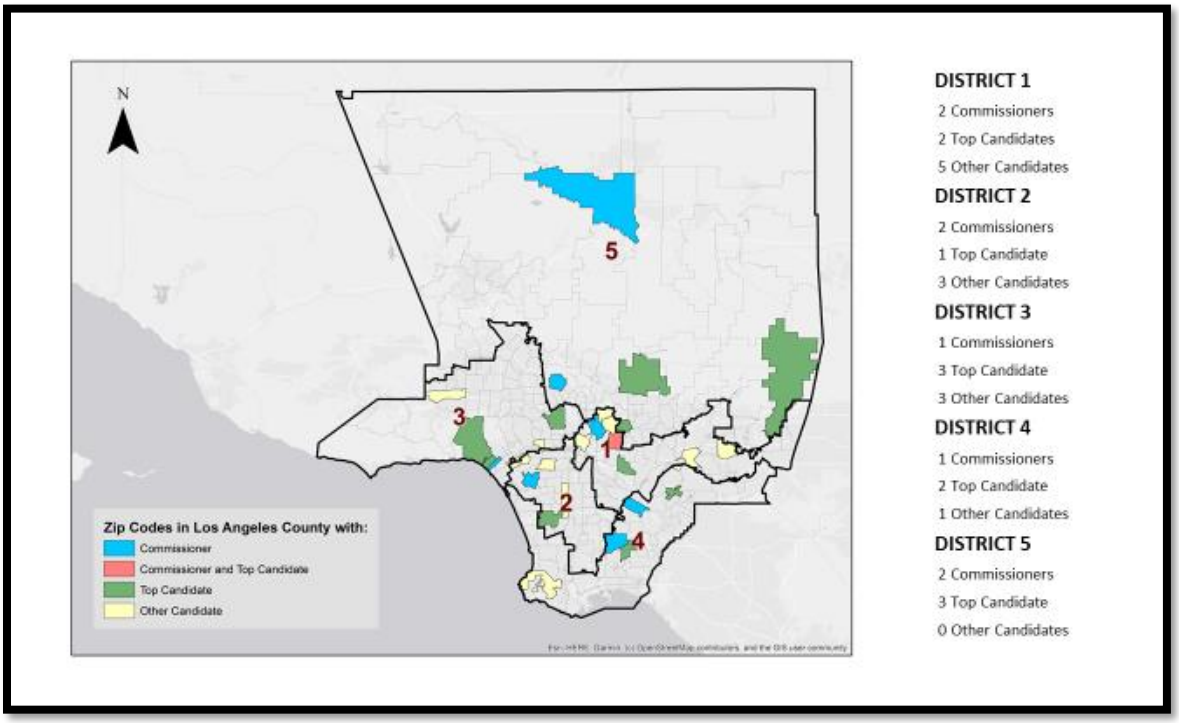
The Commissioners initially focused on the applicants rated 7.0 and above on the 10-point rating scale to see if they could meet the other criteria within this group.

The CRC application that each applicant submitted to RR/CC has a privacy waiver that allows the County to disclose the applicant's city and supervisorial district but does not permit release of their physical or mailing addresses. As a result, the CRC Executive Director was able to obtain city or unincorporated area information for the 60 most qualified applicants for the December 21, 2020, meeting. The Attachment lists the location of the RR/CC's most qualified applicants (**cities or unincorporated areas are in green**).

Once the Commissioners reviewed these new data points, the Commissioners agreed to expand their discussions and deliberations of the remaining 52 qualified applicants to ensure the Los Angeles County political party affiliation and geographic and demographic diversity requirements were met. For example, some of the remaining 52 applicants rated 7.0 or higher resided in neighborhoods that were the same as or adjacent to the 8 Commissioners.

December 26, 2020, Special Meeting

The Commissioners analyzed a series of maps that CRC staff developed that indicated the geographic location of the eight Commissioners and most qualified applicants under consideration.



This discussion led to the Commissioners refining their list of applicants and agreeing to each develop their own individual "Slate of 6" to share at the next meeting.

December 28, 2020, Special Meeting

The Commissioners shared their rationales for their Slates of 6. After further deliberations, a Commissioner made a motion for a proposed Slate of 6, which was seconded and approved by a vote of seven to one among the Commissioners.

Table 3 lists the official CRC 14 Commissioners, listed alphabetically by last name.

Table 3: CRC Commissioners

Commissioner Jean A. Franklin
Commissioner David Adam Holtzman
Commissioner Daniel Mark Mayeda
Commissioner Mark Mendoza
Commissioner Apolonio Morales
Commissioner Nelson Obregon
Commissioner Priscilla Orpinela-Segura
Commissioner Hailes Horacio Soto
Commissioner Saira Soto
Commissioner Priya Sridharan
Commissioner Brian Mark Stecher, PhD
Commissioner John Patrick Kevin Vento
Commissioner Carolyn Williams
Commissioner Doreena Wong

Selected Commissioners' Demographics

The Attachment presents additional information, including the Commissioners' political party affiliations, demographics, and geographic distribution.

Political Party Preference

The California Election Code requires that:

> *"The commission shall consist of 14 members. The political party preferences of the commission members, as shown on the members' most recent affidavits of registration, shall be as proportional as possible to the total number of voters who are registered with each political party in the County of Los Angeles or who decline to state or do not indicate a party preference, as determined by registration at the most recent statewide election. However, the political party or no party preferences of the commission members are not required to be exactly the same as the proportion of political party and no party preferences among the registered voters of the county."*[3]

[3] Elections Code § 21532(c).

As of January 5, 2021, RR/CC reports that Los Angeles County has 5.8-million registered voters.[4] Table 4 displays the political party affiliations of registered voters in Los Angeles County.

Table 4: Number of Registered Voters by Political Party Affiliation in Los Angeles County[5]

Political Party Affiliation	Registered Voters		
	Number	Percent	Rounded Percent
Democratic	3,048,960	52.449%	52%
No Party Preference	1,450,170	24.946%	25%
Republican	996,999	17.151%	17%
American Independent	143,054	2.461%	2%
Libertarian	41,081	0.707%	<1%
Peace and Freedom	35,228	0.606%	<1%
Green	22,483	0.387%	<0%
Unknown/Other	75,192	1.293%	1%
	5,813,167	100.000%	Approx. 100%

The Attachment lists the political party preferences (**in purple**) of the RR/CC's 60 most qualified applicants. Among the remaining 52 applicants, there was one Green Party member and none from the American Independent, Libertarian, or Peace & Freedom Parties.

The Commissioners discussed whether it would be unfair or unconstitutional to eliminate qualified applicants at this phase simply for being in a small party preference group. They then decided to follow the lead of the California Citizen Redistricting Commission and consider Not Democrat/Not Republican party preference voters as a single group.[6] This "NDR" category includes all registered voters who are not registered as preferring either the Democratic or the Republican parties.

Table 5 displays the calculations the Commissioners used for considering political party affiliation makeup of the CRC, considering three groups: Democrat, Republican, and NDR.

[4] Overall, 73% of the Los Angeles County population is over age 18 (n=7.3 million); thus, 79% of the eligible population are registered voters.

[5] Registrar-Recorder Voter Registration specific report, October 19, 2020: https://lavote.net/docs/RR/CC/election-info/LA_ROR_County_Summary_10192020.pdf

[6] See California Constitution, Article XXI, Sec. 2(c)(2).

Table 5: Number of Registered Voters by Democratic, NDR, and Republican Political Party Affiliation in Los Angeles County

Political Party Affiliation	Registered Voters		
	Number	Percent	Rounded Percent
Democratic	3,048,960	52.449%	52.4%
NDR	1,767,208	30.400%	30.4%
Republican	996,999	17.151%	17.2%
Totals	5,813,167	100.000%	100.0%

The Commissioners then focused on balancing the CRC's political party affiliation, based on this new breakdown and displayed in Table 6.

Table 6: Los Angeles County Political Party Affiliations vis-à-vis 14 Commissioners

Political Party Affiliation	Percent of Registered Voters	Percentages Applied to 14	Commissioners Selected	
			Number	Percent
Democratic	52.449%	7.343	8	57%
NDR	30.400%	4.256	4	29%
Republican	17.151%	2.401	2	14%
Totals	100.000%	14.000	14	100%

Reflection of LA County Diversity and Demographics

The law governing the Commission states that the Commission member:

> *"…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."*[7]

It requires that the first eight Commissioners appoint the final six Commissioners:

> *"…based on relevant experience, analytical skills, and ability to be impartial, and to ensure that the commission reflects the county's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity,"* without applying *"formulas or specific ratios."*[8]

[7] Elections Code § 21523(b)
[8] Elections Code § 21532(h)(2)

To comply with the law, the eight Commissioners did not use such statistics to generate specific ratios or to develop or apply formulas. Commission staff prepared the next summary tables (Table 7 Through Table 10) after the final selection of Commission members.

Los Angeles County population demographics used for assessing this reflection in this report are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent estimates: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia# (July 1, 2019).

The Attachment lists the demographic information (**in blue**).

Age Ranges

The Commissioners range in age from 31 to 73 years. In Los Angeles County, approximately 27% of the population is under age 18 and, therefore, not eligible to register to vote. Another 59% of the Los Angeles County population is between ages 18 and 64; 14% are age 65 or older.

Approximately 71% of the Commissioners are between age 30 and 64; 29% of the Commissioners are age 65 or older, as displayed in Table 7.

Table 7: Comparison of Commissioner and Los Angeles County Age Ranges

Age Ranges	# CRC Commissioners	% CRC	% CRC	% of LA County
Under 18	NA	NA	NA	27%
Under 30	0	0%		
30 – 39	2	14%		
40 – 49	3	21%	71%	59%
50 – 59	2	21%		
60 – 64	2	14%		
65 - and Over	5	29%	29%	14%
	14	100%	100%	100%

Race/Ethnicity Representation

The graph displays the race/ethnicity makeup of Los Angeles County in the larger pie chart. The smaller pie chart provides a further break-down that differentiates between Hispanic/Latino versus White Alone.

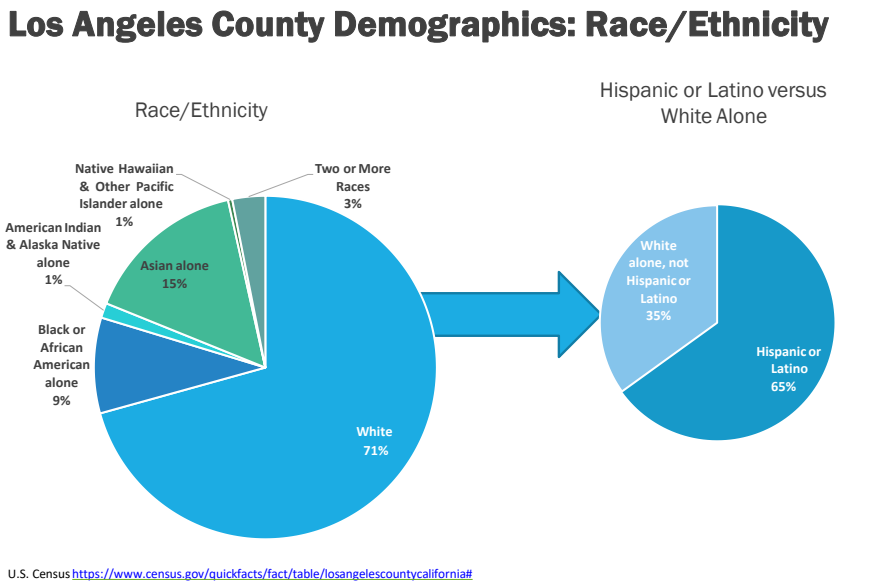


Table 8 displays the Commissioners' racial/ethnic makeup compared to Los Angeles County.

Table 8: Comparison of Commissioner and Los Angeles County Racial/Ethnicity Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	# CRC Commissioners	% CRC (rounded)	% of LA County
Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx	6	43%	46%
Asian (incl. Pacific Islander)	3	21%	15%
White (Not of Hispanic Origin)	3	21%	25%
Black/African American	2	14%	9%
Other (incl. American Indian/Alaskan Native)		0%	5%

Gender Representation

The Phase 2 random selection of the eight Commissioners resulted in an outcome of six male and two female Commissioners. Table 9 displays the final Commissioner gender comparisons.

Table 9: Comparison of Commissioner and Los Angeles County Gender Demographics

Gender	# CRC Commissioners	% CRC	% of LA County
Female	6	43%	50%
Male	8	57%	50%
Non-Binary	0		

Supervisorial District Representation

Approximately 10 million individuals reside in Los Angeles County. Each Supervisorial District serves approximately 2 million residents. If the 14 Commissioners' were divided evenly, each Supervisorial District would have between 2 and 3 Commissioners. Subdivision (c) states:

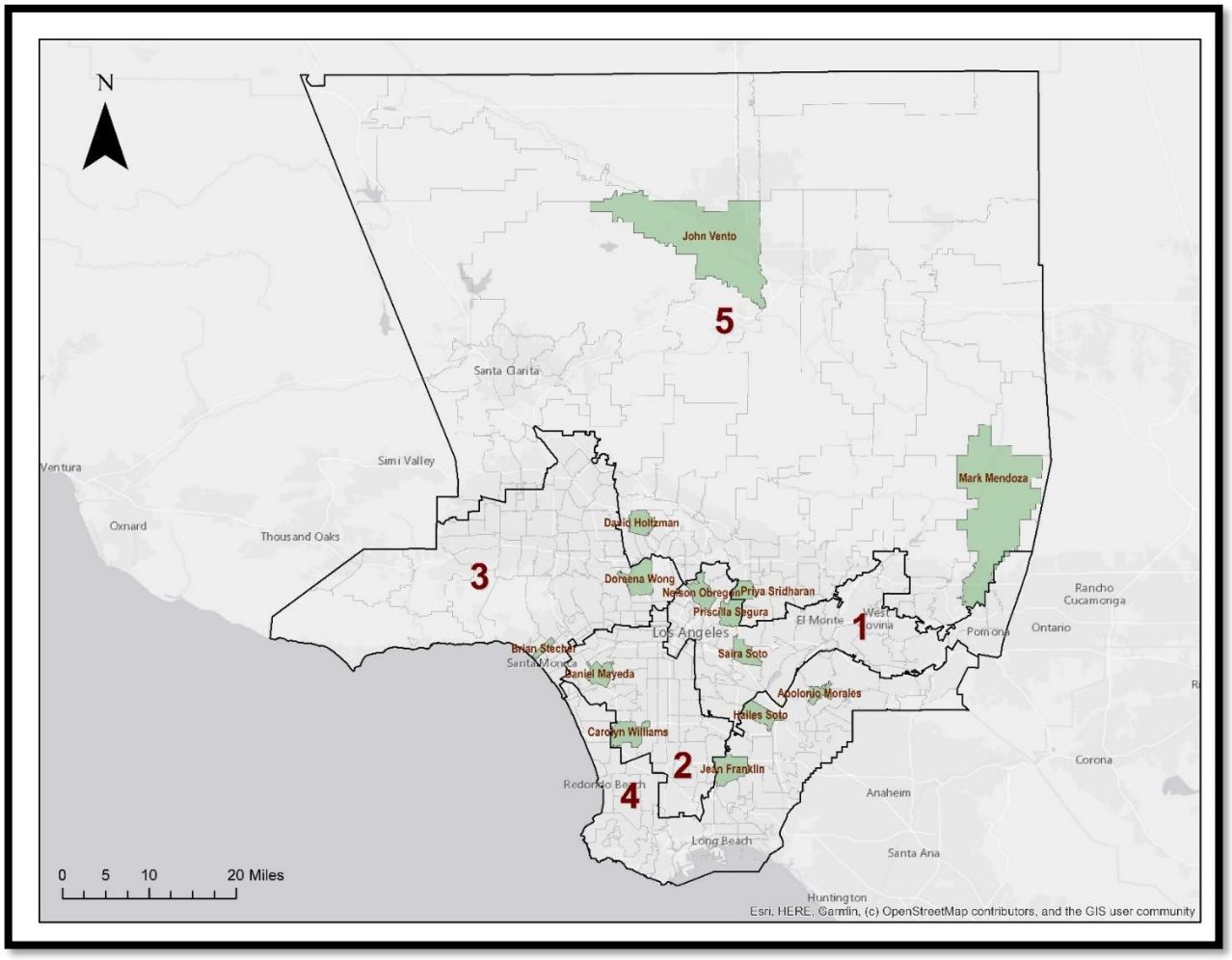
> *At least one commission member shall reside in each of the five existing supervisorial districts of the board.*

At least one of the 14 Commissioners resides in each of the five Supervisorial Districts, as displayed in Table 10.

Table 10: Commissioners Residency, by Los Angeles County Supervisorial District

Districts	# CRC Commissioners	% CRC	% of LA County
District 1	3	21%	20%
District 2	3	21%	20%
District 3	2	14%	20%
District 4	2	14%	20%
District 5	4	29%	20%

The map displays the geographic representation of the Commissioners, by current Supervisorial Districts:


N
John Vento
5
Santa Clarita
Simi Valley
Ventura
Oxnard
Thousand Oaks
Mark Mendoza
David Holtzman
3
Doraena Wong
Nesson Obregon
Priya Sridharan
Priscilla Segura
El Monte
West Covina
1
Pomona
Rancho Cucamonga
Ontario
Los Angeles
Brian Stecher
Santa Monica
Saira Soto
Daniel Mayeda
Acolonio Morales
Hailes Soto
Carolyn Williams
2
Jean Franklin
Redondo Beach
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Corona
Anaheim
Long Beach
Santa Ana
Huntington
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Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

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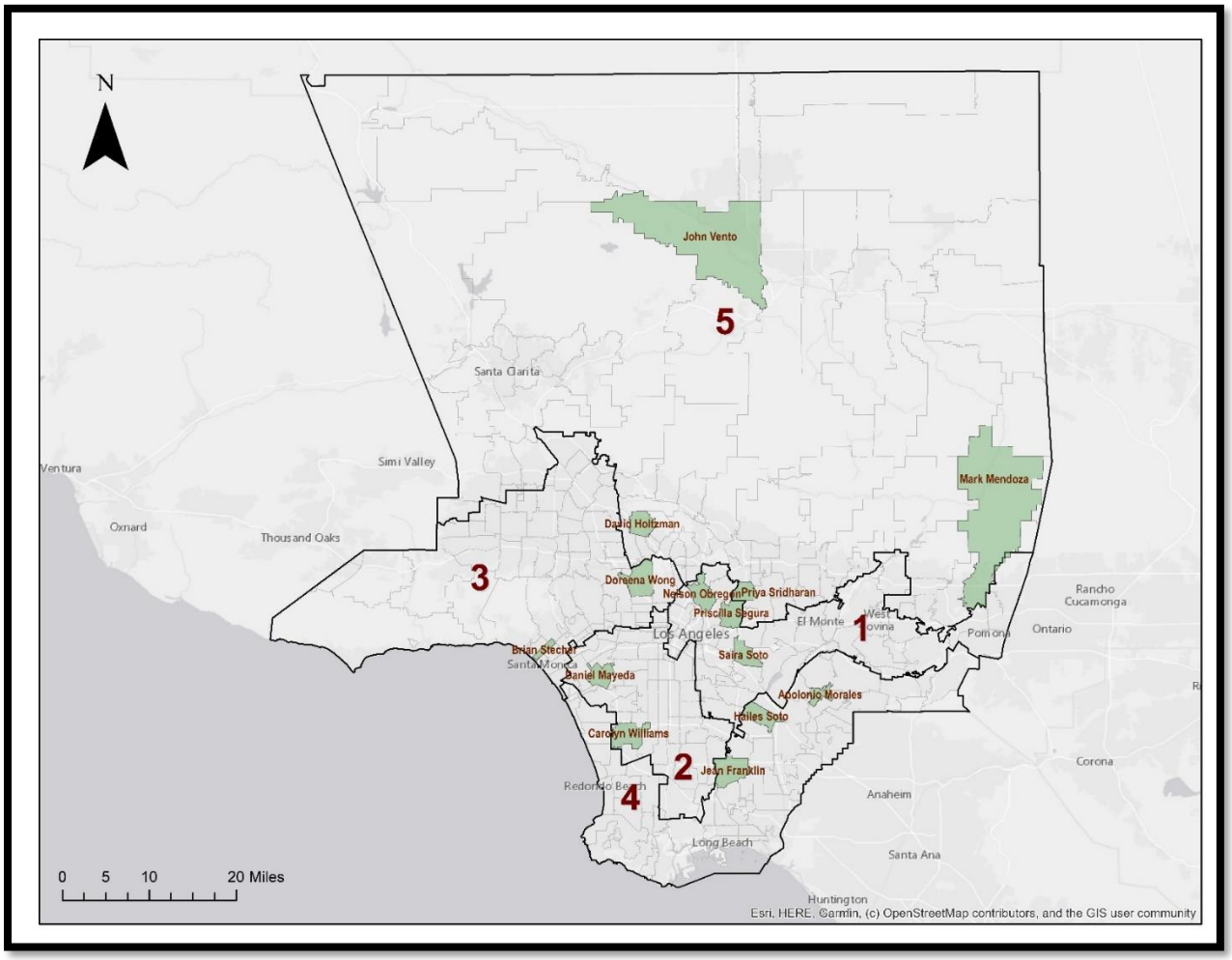
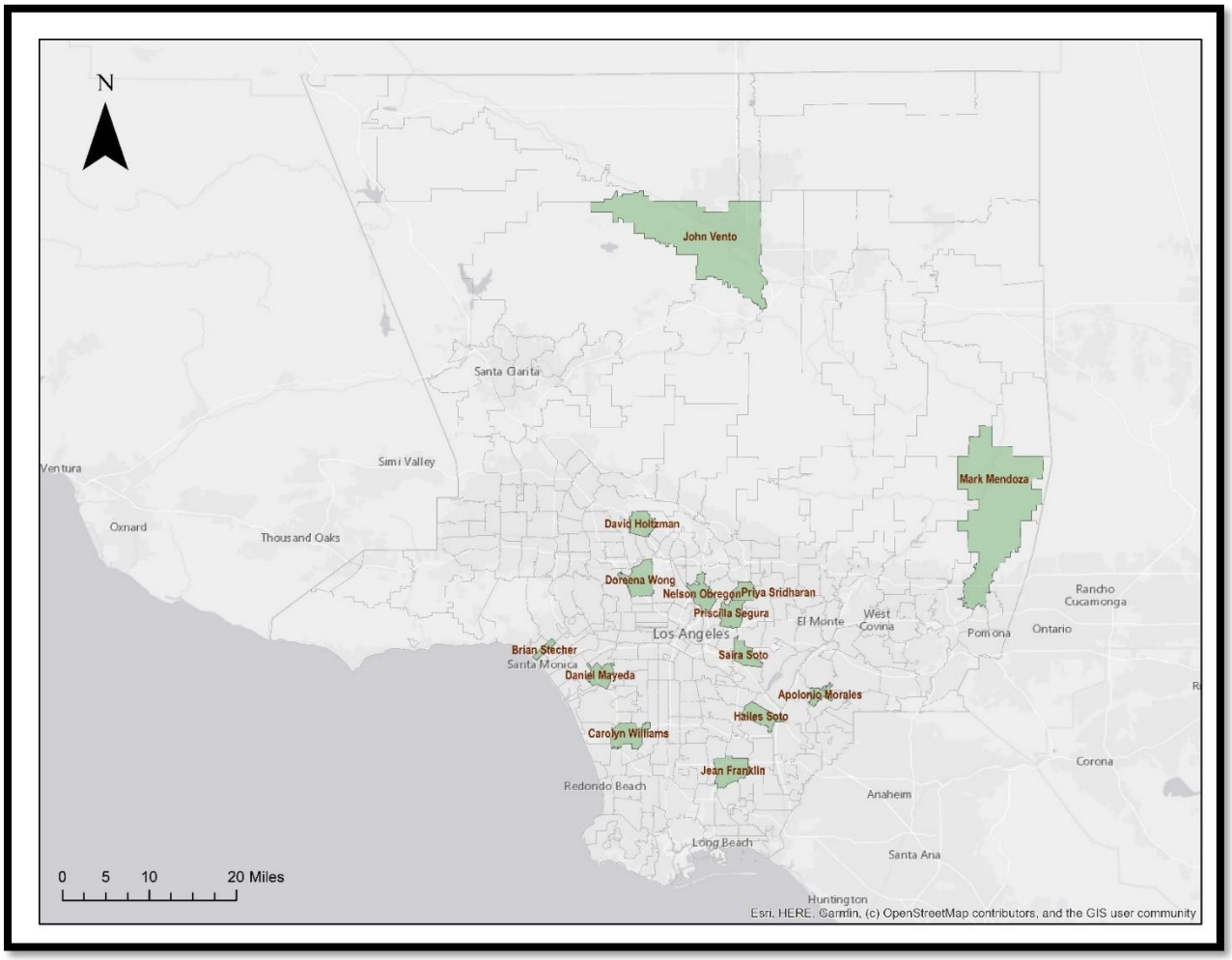


Geographic Representation

The Commissioners were interested in understanding geographic distribution, regardless of existing supervisorial districts. Los Angeles County consists of 88 incorporated cities and more than 100 unincorporated areas. The next map displays the geographic representation of the Commissioners without regard to current supervisorial districts:


N
John Vento
Santa Clarita
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Ventura
Oxnard
Thousand Oaks
Mark Mendoza
David Holtzman
Doreena Wong
Nelson Obregon
Priya Sridharan
Priscilla Segura
El Monte
West Covina
Pomona
Ontario
Rancho Cucamonga
Los Angeles
Brian Stecher
Santa Monica
Daniel Mayeda
Saira Soto
Apolonio Morales
Hailes Soto
Carolyn Williams
Jean Franklin
Redondo Beach
Anaheim
Corona
Long Beach
Santa Ana
Huntington
0 5 10 20 Miles
Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Attachment

Name	Political Party Affiliation	Demographics			Geographic Distribution	
		Gender	Age (yrs.)	Race / Ethnicity	SD#	City or Unincorporated Area
8 Commissioners Randomly Selected by Auditor-Controller						
Brian Stecher	D	M	73	White	3	Santa Monica
Daniel Mayeda	D	M	62	Japanese	2	Culver City
David Holtzman	NDR	M	60	White	5	Burbank
Hailes Soto	NDR	M	39	Mexican/Mexican American	4	Downey
Jean Franklin	D	F	72	Black	2	Long Beach
John Vento	NDR	M	51	White	5	Palmdale
Nelson Obregon	R	M	59	Cuban	1	Los Angeles
Priscilla Segura	D	F	31	Mexican/Mexican American	1	Los Angeles
6 Commissioners Selected by the 8 Commissioners						
Apolonio Morales	D	M	43	Mexican/Mexican American	4	Whittier
Carolyn Williams	D	F	67	Black/African American	2	Hawthorne
Doreena Wong	D	F	68	Chinese	3	Los Angeles
Mark Mendoza	R	M	58	Mexican/Mexican American	5	La Verne
Priya Sridharan	D	F	45	Asian Indian	5	South Pasadena
Saira Soto	NDR	F	40	Mexican/Mexican American	1	Los Angeles
Remaining 46 CRC Applicants						
Adela Barajas	D	F	54	White, Mexican/Mexican American	1	South Gate
Alan Ehrlich	NDR	M	57	White	5	South Pasadena
Arturo Adame	NDR	M	72	Mexican/Mexican American	4	Redondo Beach
Avo Babian	D	M	41	Armenian	3	Sherman Oaks
Carmen Gonzalez	D	F	57	Mexican/Mexican American, White, Other Latinx	5	Glendale
Charles Lindenblatt	D	M	53	White	3	Los Angeles
Charlotte Williams	D	F	53	Black, Latinx	2	Inglewood
Christine Walker	NDR	F	36	Black/African American	2	Westchester

Name	Political Party Affiliation	Demographics			Geographic Distribution	
		Gender	Age (yrs.)	Race / Ethnicity	SD#	City or Unincorporated Area
Christopher Castaneda	NDR	M	46	Mexican/Mexican American	1	Los Angeles
Constance Boukidis	D	F	62	White	3	Los Angeles
Dan Woods	R	M	67	White	3	Santa Monica
David Coher	R	M	43	Hispanic/Latinx	5	Pasadena
Elizabeth Johnson	D	F	77	Black/African American	2	Los Angeles
Gloria Medel	D	F	50	Mexican/Mexican American	5	Pasadena
James Toma	D	M	49	Japanese	1	West Covina
Jia Lin Sayers	R	F	41	Chinese, Other Hispanic/Latinx	4	San Pedro
John Merguerian	R	M	46	White	5	Glendale
Jose Avila	NDR	M	33	Mexican/Mexican American	3	North Hollywood
Jose Luis Benavides	NDR	M	59	Mexican/Mexican American	5	Glendale
Joseph Roth	D	M	53	White	3	Los Angeles
Lawrence Harris	NDR	M	64	White	2	Los Angeles
Linda Timmons	D	F	70	Black	4	Paramount
Louise Chao	D	F	66	Chinese	4	Rancho Palos Verdes
Luis Claro	D	M	29	Mexican/Mexican American	3	Pacoima
Manuel Gonez	D	M	55	Mexican/Mexican American	1	Pomona
Margaret Milligan	D	F	65	White	3	Pacific Palisades
Maria Williams-Slaughter	NDR	F	52	Black	4	Lakewood
Marisa DiDomenico	G	F	51	White	5	Burbank
Mary Kenney	R	F	70	White/Lithuanian American	4	Palos Verdes Estates
Molly Greene	D	F	35	White	1	Los Angeles
Mona Field	D	F	67	White	1	Los Angeles
Nancy Diaz	NDR	F	41	Latinx	1	Pomona
Nyanza Shaw	D	F	50	Black/African American	2	Los Angeles
Patricia Don	NDR	F	66	Black	2	Los Angeles

Name	Political Party Affiliation	Demographics			Geographic Distribution	
		Gender	Age (yrs.)	Race / Ethnicity	SD#	City or Unincorporated Area
Ricardo Mireles	D	M	55	Mexican/Mexican American	1	Los Angeles
Rosalinda Lugo	D	F	60	Mexican/Mexican American	1	La Puente
Sara Eastwood	D	F	27	White	1	Los Angeles
Stevan Colin	D	M	63	Native American-Blackfeet Tribe and Mexican/Mexican American	4	Redondo Beach
Teresa Wheatley-Humphrey	D	F	53	Black/African American	2	Los Angeles
Theresa Fuentes	D	F	51	Mexican/Mexican American	5	Altadena
Thomas Baxter	NDR	M	65	White	5	Pasadena
Tim Forest	R	M	60	White	3	Woodland Hills
Todd Hays	R	M	58	White	4	Torrance
Verda Bradley	D	F	79	Black/African American	2	Los Angeles
Victor Manalo	D	M	57	Filipino	4	Artesia
Vinod Kashyap	R	M	78	Asian Indian	4	Diamond Bar