



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY REDISTRICTING 2021

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (LA County CRC)

### Request for Proposal (RFP) for Voter Polarization Analysis

Proposals Due: May 3, 2021, 5:00 pm

#### Questions Received from Bidders

1. Since there may be a separate contractor building maps from our analysis, will the consultant work with this other contractor?

**Answer:** As directed by the LA County CRC, the consultant may be requested to work with other staff and contractors during the mapping process.

2. Will the contractor provide analysis and reports, primarily, to complete the tasks? Or, does the CRC also want to have CSV (or Excel) files that provide census block or tract level information for the purpose of mapping analysis?

**Answer:** The contractor will provide the analysis and reports, outlined in the RFP. The LA County CRC will want the data backup for the analysis, particularly if the consultant uses data different than what we get from the Census.

The final redistricting map plans (CSV files of census blocks or tract-level information) will be performed by the LA County CRC's selected Demographer and Mapping Consultant. If there is a need to integrate the two efforts at a later date, that would result in a contract amendment.

3. When will the data be available to review? Currently, it does not seem to be available at the link provided in the RFP (please advise).

**Answer:** U.S. Census legacy data are to be released in mid-August to early-September. Official 2020 Census data will be available on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

As indicated in the RFP, Los Angeles County is currently preparing all available election data for 2011 through the most current election. Election data will be made available to the consultant selected to perform the Voter Polarization Analysis. In terms of prior decade election data:

- a. 2001-2011 election data are posted at: <https://redistricting2011.lacounty.gov/> As indicated in the RFP, it includes:





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- 2010 General (11/2/2010)
- 2010 Primary (6/8/2010)
- 2008 General (11/4/2008)
- 2008 Primary (6/3/2008)
- 2008 Presidential Primary (2/5/2008)
- 2006 General (11/7/2006)
- 2006 General-Other Statewide
- 2006 Primary (6/6/2006)
- 2006 Primary-Other Statewide
- 2004 General (11/2/2004)
- 2004 Primary (3/2/2004)
- 2002 General (11/5/2002)
- 2002 Primary (3/5/2002)

b. Los Angeles County may have additional prior decades of election data available if needed.

4. How many prior elections will be included in the analysis?

**Answer:** See response to Question 3. The County is adding the last 10 years of election data. Earlier election data are available if needed. The RFP does not specify how many years should be analyzed. The LA County CRC will want the selected consultant to recommend how many years of election data to analyze.

5. Does the data have multiple voting issues to analyze; and, if so, approximately how many variables per election?

**Answer:** Multiple contests will be available for each election. The selection of contests to be analyzed will be determined by Consultant in consultation with the Commissioners and LA County CRC's Independent Legal Counsel..

6. Does the database have the race of the voter included as a variable s/he selected?

**Answer:** The County's voter registration database maintained by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk does not include an exhaustive list of voters' race/ethnicity information because it is optional to include when registering to vote. Surname matched ethnicity combined with Citizen Voting Age estimates, however, will be provided at the precinct level.

7. If the answer to Question 6 is "No," does the County expect the contractor to input race based on Census data for current districts?





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**Answer:** See response to Question #6.

8. What are the communities of interest by the commission; and, do they vary countywide?

**Answer:** The LA County CRC will be conducting public hearings, starting in June, which will help to identify communities of interest. Currently, the larger communities consist of more than 100 unincorporated areas and 88 cities, including the City of Los Angeles (which is divided into 35 planning areas and more than 90 neighborhood councils). These communities are posted on the LA County CRC website: <https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/#> under "Making a Redistricting Map."

9. Does the County have their own definition of racially polarized voting? If so, how does the County define racially polarized voting?

**Answer:** Racially Polarized Voting relevant to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is determined by the United State Supreme Court in Thornburg v. Gingles (1986) 478 U.S. 30. Prong 2 (relating to cohesion) and Prong 3 (relating to opposition) of the Gingles pre-conditions are a threshold to evaluating racially polarized voting. Specifically:

- First, the minority group must be "...sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district."
- Second, the minority group must be "politically cohesive."
- Third, the white majority must vote "...sufficiently as a bloc to enable it ...usually to defeat the minority's preferred candidate."

Cohesion plus opposition equals racially polarized voting.

Consultant will provide opinions in consultation with the LA County CRC's Independent Legal Counsel.

10. What race does the County ascribe to Hispanic/LatinX voters?

**Answer:** They are classified as their own ethnicity regardless of Race.

## Reminder: Due Dates

Submission Steps and Milestones	Due Dates
Submit proposals	May 3, 2021, 5:00 pm
Oral presentations by VPA Consultant finalist(s) before the LA County CRC	May 12, 2021
Enter into contract with the selected VPA Consultant so that work can begin	May 17, 2021
VPA tasks completed	July 31, 2021





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## Reminder: Submissions

Proposals may be submitted as PDFs by Email:

- In the subject line, enter *“Proposal for Voter Polarization Analysis for LA County CRC”*
- Email to: Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, Ph.D., LA County CRC Executive Director, at [ghartsough@crc.lacounty.gov](mailto:ghartsough@crc.lacounty.gov)

