



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY REDISTRICTING 2021

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (LA County CRC) CRC MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING – April 28, 2021 VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

VIDEO FILE FOR ENTIRE MEETING NOW POSTED ON YOUTUBE:

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### Agenda

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Daniel Mayeda called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Thai V. Le, County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA County CRC) Clerk, took roll call with the following Commissioners present:

Excused	Commissioner Jean Franklin	Yes	Commissioner Hailes Soto
Yes	Commissioner David Holtzman	Yes	Commissioner Saira Soto
Yes	Co-Chair Daniel Mayeda	Excused	Commissioner Brian Stecher
Yes	Commissioner Mark Mendoza	Yes	Commissioner John Vento
Yes	Commissioner Apolonio Morales	Yes	Co-Chair Carolyn Williams
Yes	Commissioner Nelson Obregon	Yes	Commissioner Doreena Wong
Excused for late arrival; arrived at 7:23 pm	Commissioner Priscilla Orpinela-Segura	No	Vacant

A quorum is present.

Co-Chair Williams noted the vacant Commissioner position and announced that former Commissioner Priya Sridharan has resigned. On behalf of the entire Commission, she expressed their thanks for her service.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was accepted.





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## 4. PUBLIC COMMENT—GENERAL

This is the time for public comment on matters not on the agenda. Pursuant to state law, the Commission may not discuss or act on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the Commission or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

**Public written comment:** There were no public written comments submitted.

## 5. CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed under the consent calendar are considered by the LA County CRC Executive Director to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion unless a Commissioner requests otherwise, in which case the item will be removed for separate consideration.

The Commissioners discussed the minutes for the April 14, 2021, LA County CRC meeting. The Commissioners made a motion and approved the minutes.

Motion Made:	Commissioner Wong
Motion Seconded:	Commissioner Hailes Soto
Outcome:	Approved

Excused	Commissioner Jean Franklin	Yes	Commissioner Hailes Soto
Yes	Commissioner David Holtzman	Yes	Commissioner Saira Soto
Yes	Co-Chair Daniel Mayeda	Excused	Commissioner Brian Stecher
Yes	Commissioner Mark Mendoza	Yes	Commissioner John Vento
Yes	Commissioner Apolonio Morales	Yes	Co-Chair Carolyn Williams
Yes	Commissioner Nelson Obregon	Yes	Commissioner Doreena Wong
Yes	Commissioner Priscilla Orpinela-Segura	N.A.	Vacant

## 6. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Co-Chair Mayeda introduced the Agenda Items.

### 6A. CRC EDUCATION— COMMISSIONER MARK MENDOZA, LEADER, AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION – CO-CHAIR DAN MAYEDA

#### 6ai. CRC Education – Commissioner John Vento, Ad Hoc Working Group on Education

Commissioner Vento introduced Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein, Executive Director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State LA. Dr. Sonenshein spoke about the best way to be a commissioner and, for the





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commission as a whole, to be understood, transparent, and credible, so the commission can complete its role in the best possible way.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

## 6a.ii. CRC Education – Commissioner John Vento, Ad Hoc Working Group on Education

Commissioner Vento introduced a panel to provide an overview of the redistricting mapping software and datasets. Steven J. Steinberg, Ph.D., MPA, GISP, Geographic Information Officer (GIO), County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department (ISD), provided an overview. Richard Leadbeater, Esri, provided background and overview of the redistricting solution. David Ely of Compass Demographics, the retained County demographer, presented an overview of the datasets being built.

Commissioner Hailes Soto asked how the County will support the 12 threshold languages when conducting workshops on the use of the redistricting mapping software. The panelists said they would explore options and get back to them.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

## **6B. UPDATES FROM AD HOC WORKING GROUPS – CO-CHAIR DAN MAYEDA**

### 6bi. Discussion and Consideration of Process to Fill Vacancy on Commission – Co-Chair Dan Mayeda

Co-Chair Mayeda outlined an approach for filling the vacancy. An Ad Hoc Working Group was formed to develop a short list or proposed final candidate to join the Commission. Commissioners Saira Soto, Mark Mendoza, and John Vento volunteered to assist with this effort. Once the Ad Hoc Working Group identified a short list of candidates, Co-Chair Mayeda requested that the LA County CRC Executive Director, Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, survey and confirm candidates' availability/interest, continued residency in Los Angeles County, and status regarding potential conflicts of interest. He indicated that he would like to return to the full Commission at the May 12, 2021, meeting with proposed Commissioner(s) for their consideration and potential approval.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

### 6Bii. Commissioner Apolonio Morales, Leader, Ad Hoc Working Group on Public Outreach – Co-Chair Williams

Commissioner Morales provided an update on the April workshops and introduced the concepts of Commissioner liaisons with external stakeholders. He announced that the Ad Hoc Working Group – Outreach





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would be meeting with community-based organizations to receive additional feedback about outreach and scheduling public hearings.

Executive Director Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough suggested some modifications to the upcoming public hearings, starting in June, including a more regional approach, for further exploration. She also suggested that, given the potential increase to 10 public hearings with a regional approach, that the Commission should consider holding only monthly meetings during June, July, and August.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

### 6Biii. Redistricting Mapping & Demography

Since the Leader of the Ad Hoc Working Group – Demography is no longer a Commissioner, Executive Director Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough provided an update, including:

- Review of a GANTT chart, highlighting the tasks to be completed in the coming months
- Update that 3 bidders proposed on the Demography & Mapping Consulting Services RFP and that the Ad Hoc Working Group – Demography will be rating those proposals
- Update that the questions (and answers) received to the Voter Polarization Analysis RFP are now posted on the LA County CRC website
- Reminder that the finalists for both RFPs will be presenting at the LA County CRC regular meeting on May 12, 2021

Independent Legal Counsel Holly Whatley outlined the code requirements and presented a scenario for reviewing draw maps and preparing the final redistricting map:

- The Code requires that after the Commission draws a draft map, it must conduct two public hearings over no fewer than 30 days.
- Those hearings have to have 7 days' notice.
- Because the language states a “draft map,” the law contemplates that the Commission may change that map over the ensuing period in which public hearings are held.
- Changing the map during that period does not trigger a new 30-day review/public hearing period.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.





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## 6Biv. Commissioner David Holtzman, Leader, Legislation and Updates on Other Redistricting Commissions – Co-Chair Mayeda

Commissioner Holtzman provided a written update that is attached to the minutes.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

## 6bv. Commissioner Mark Mendoza, Leader, Education

Commissioner Mendoza presented a roster of next speakers for May 26, 2021. Because the Commissioners will be hearing oral presentations from the finalists for the two RFPs, no educational speaker is planned for the May 12, 2021, regular meeting.

**Public speaker comment:** There were no public comments.

## 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

## 8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, Ph.D., provided a brief update that Antonia Jimenez, Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services, has offered to distribute information about LA County CRC public hearings and other events through their bulletins to 14,000 employees who serve approximately 30% of the County's population.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Mayeda adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

To sign up for receiving future LA County CRC notices, go to: [redistricting.lacounty.gov](https://redistricting.lacounty.gov)

To provide written public comment, you can: [Click Here](#) or go to: <https://PublicComment.Redistricting.gov>







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## Attachment to 6Biv. Commissioner David Holtzman, Leader, Legislation and Updates on Other Redistricting Commissions

UPDATES for April 28, 2021

Michigan ICRC:

*(Interesting: Comm'rs call each other by their first names.)*

- Hired, as a legal consultant, former US DOJ attorney Bruce Adelson, who lives in the Washington, DC, area. His firm is called Federal Compliance Consulting. (And he has written extensively about baseball and other sports ... *numbers games with complicated rules.*)

The Michigan Republican Party complained because Adelson has donated to Democrats. A coordinated comment-submission campaign resulted in lots of comments, many of which exaggerated Adelson's donations (which turned out to be not just to Democrats). The Detroit Free Press, a Fox TV station, and other news outlets covered the controversy. The commission considered revoking the hire or hiring a Republican attorney for balance. They decided to leave things the way they were.

I had watched Adelson's commission interview, and was impressed. So, come to think of it, he might be a good hire to do Voting Rights Act work for us.

- Has filed a petition for relief from state constitutional deadlines because of the Census Delay. Their petition points out that they may be able to complete their maps earlier than previously anticipated, if they are able to work with "Legacy Data." The "Legacy Data," they say, are the same as the official PL 94-171 data, but without any tabulations. So they propose to reconcile "the non-tabulated legacy format data" "with the tabulated PL 94-171 redistricting dataset" "to eliminate any risk" "of using non-tabulated data." They say that "reconciliation process is expected to take between 7-to-10 days."

San Diego County IRC:

- has approved a resolution in support of SB 594, based on the Amended March 5<sup>th</sup> version. Apparently they wanted to be on board with supporting the bill even though no version of the bill yet would make any substantive change in law to help us with the census problem. The bill was amended again on April 4<sup>th</sup>, to address adjusting division boundaries within some special districts.





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- is still working on obtaining Outreach and Engagement Services, and Demographic Services. At their last meeting, they approved an RFP for Demographic Services. (\*NOW POSTED ON BUYNET\* - RFP 10673 County of San Diego Redistricting Demographer Services)
- they get regular monthly budget updates, about which commissioners ask a lot of questions.
- three more county staff positions have been dedicated to working for the commission.
- they have yet another new Clerk of the Commission (also a county employee).
- one of them gave a joint presentation with a state CRC member to the North County chapter of the League of Women Voters. They are both League members, as am I. (good format!)

## Santa Barbara County CIRC

- have lost a 4<sup>th</sup> commissioner to resignation. As reported in the Santa Maria Sun, “That leaves the Redistricting Commission—an 11-member board that is supposed to reflect the diverse age, race, gender, and political demographics of Santa Barbara County ... — without its only Black member and [with] a District 3 seat up for grabs.”
- recall that some people are paying close attention to the Santa Barbara County commission because they think its work could flip party control of the county Board of Supervisors.

