

Application to Serve on the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission

This is your application to serve as a Commissioner on the County of San Diego's 2020-2021 Independent Redistricting Commission.

Read the tips below to
make sure your
application is complete.

David

First Name

Bame

Last Name

Make sure you have all the pages.

There are nine (9) total pages that make up this application, including this page. The pages are numbered in the bottom right corners.

Initial the top right corner of pages 2-9 in the "Initial Here" box. This will make sure your application stays together.

Print clearly and legibly or type your application. Doing so will speed up processing time. Unclear handwriting may cause delays.

Don't know if you're eligible to serve on the County's Redistricting Commission? Among other requirements, you must be a registered voter in San Diego County to serve on the Commission. See page 3 for more details.

Questions? Learn more at www.sandiegocounty.gov/redistricting or redistricting@sdcounty.ca.gov.

This application must be received no later than Friday, July 31, 2020, at 5 p.m. See page 9 for submittal instructions.



Application Timeline

July 31, 2020	Applications must be received by the San Diego County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors no later than 5 p.m.
August 26, 2020	From the pool of qualified applicants, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors will post the names of the 60 most qualified applicants. The names will be posted online for at least 30 days.
October 13, 2020	The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors will conduct a random drawing of the qualified applicants at the Board of Supervisors meeting to select eight Commissioners.
October 22 and November 5, 2020	The selected eight Commissioners will meet to choose the remaining six Commissioners from the remaining pool of qualified applicants.

Important Things to Know

- The questions in this application ensure you are eligible to serve on the Commission.
- Answer the questions to the best of your ability.

A. Tell us About Yourself

First Name: David

Last Name: Bame

Address (where you are registered to vote)

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address (if different than the address listed above)

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Contact Information

Phone 1: [REDACTED]

Type: Mobile

Phone 2: _____

Type: _____

E-mail: _____

B. How This Application Will Be Used

I understand the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

☒ Yes, I understand

I understand that while this application is a public document, my personal e-mail address, street address, and phone number(s) will be kept confidential to the extent authorized by law.

☒ Yes, I understand

C. Questions to Determine Eligibility

Government Code section 21550 sets forth certain qualifications to serve on this Commission. Please check the appropriate box for each question. Applicants may be asked to verify and update information at various points in the process.

1. Are you a resident of the County of San Diego? ☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Which supervisorial district do you live in? ☒ 1
If you're not sure, visit www.sandiegocounty.gov, click on "Find My District" under the Board of Supervisors, and enter your address in the top right of the web page. ☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5

3. Which political party are you currently registered?
☐ Democratic ☐ Republican ☐ American Independent ☐ Green ☐ Libertarian
☐ Peace and Freedom ☐ Other: _____
☒ I am not registered with a political party (non-partisan)

4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the County of San Diego with the same political party preference or with no political party preference and have not changed your political party preference for at least five years? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If you're not sure, you can check your voter registration at www.sdvote.com.

5. Have you voted in at least one of the last three statewide elections immediately preceding your application to be a member of the Commission? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanatory Notes: If necessary, you may further explain answers to the questions above.

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6. Within the 10 years immediately preceding the date of this application to the Commission, have either you, or an immediate family member, done any of the following? For purposes of these questions, immediate family members means a spouse, child, in-law, parent, or sibling.
You are not eligible to serve on the Commission if you answer "Yes" to any of the following:

- a. Been appointed to, elected to, or have been a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of San Diego, including as a member of the Board of Supervisors. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b. Served as an employee of, or paid consultant for, an elected representative at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of San Diego. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- c. Served as an employee of, or paid consultant for, a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of San Diego. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or as an appointed member of a political party central committee. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Been a registered federal, state, or local lobbyist ☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanatory Notes: If necessary, you may further explain answers to the questions above.

D. Experience Qualifications

State law requires candidates demonstrate experience in areas related to redistricting. Please provide responses to the following questions.

1. What experience do you possess that demonstrates analytical skills relevant to the redistricting process and voting rights, and demonstrates your ability to comprehend and apply the applicable state and federal legal requirements?

My experience as a team-oriented diplomat, teacher, and leader with a proven commitment to our country's values could offer useful contributions to the Commission.

I served as a U.S. diplomat for 29 years in both Washington, D.C. and in U.S. Embassies overseas. I have represented the United States in more than 50 countries, with duties that often required me to explain our country's principles and institutions to support greater respect for democracy and human rights. These activities included public speeches, sometimes to hundreds of foreign students or diplomats from other countries, as well as private meetings with kings, prime ministers, tribal leaders, state and local officials in California, community advocates, businesspeople, scientists, and other audiences. I have worked with Iraqis, Israelis, Palestinians, Somalis, and others on redistricting efforts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Throughout these experiences, I had to maintain current knowledge of legal requirements as well as how audiences perceived those requirements.

My volunteer experience leading the Chula Vista Elementary School District Advisory Council included analysis and communication for the Council on how school boundary lines affect our families and communities. Serving as the Council's Chair and in other leadership positions since 2017, I have led teams that drafted and secured approval for the first systemic amendments in years to the Council's bylaws that led to increased efficiency, more diverse leadership, and more active parent input. Our transparent efforts on budget and related issues garnered praise from parents, principals, teachers, and others as the most productive work seen in years. We also built community unity and creative approaches on such issues as social-emotional learning, special education, and improved services to students from homes where English was not the first language.

As both a diplomat and parent leader, I developed skills to succeed in comprehending and applying applicable state and federal legal requirements in terms of amending civic districts as needed and other functions of government. My diplomatic experience regularly included fostering discussions about U.S. federalism, anti-corruption statutes, interstate regulations against the illicit distribution of narcotics, and even U.S. military rules of engagement required me to learn regularly and intensively about applicable state and federal legal requirements. I am confident that my educational and educational skills are more than sufficient to comprehend and apply legal requirements for redistricting. I am also confident that I can bring fresh perspectives and ideas about how to apply such requirements effectively and use them to build an even better civic dialogue with residents of our County.

I also have had the honor to talk to U.S. military audiences, civic organizations, and students about civic functions like redistricting. I have enjoyed communicating what I have learned about such issues in ways that yield insightful questions and comments from audiences. As a teacher, I also have enjoyed inspiring my students to learn more from themselves by pursuing education with an impartial eye and awareness of existing biases. Finally, as a community leader, I have enjoyed inspiring parents to become more engaged with their schools and communities in ways that can make their children even more proud of them.

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page.

2. What experience do you possess that demonstrates an ability to be impartial?

I have developed and exercised impartiality in nonpartisan roles as a community leader, university lecturer, and U.S. diplomat. For me, true impartiality requires an awareness of bias and of other views, in order to constantly challenge my own predispositions and test my objectivity. As a career public servant who served for 29 years as a U.S. diplomat overseas and in Washington, I worked under six U.S. presidents to help them achieve the political goals they set as impartially and objectively as possible. I also learned how to address any biases as transparently and objectively as possible, so that decisions could withstand close scrutiny and could address biases without becoming biased decisions themselves.

I had the honor to work directly with four Secretaries of State on such partisan issues as Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, Iraqi democracy, and rights of Guantanamo detainees after September 11. Working with leaders of such diverse views on such volatile issues required both expertise in domestic politics and impartiality in applying that knowledge. I also have had the honor of serving as a nonpartisan lifelong-learning teacher at San Diego State University and Cal State-San Marcos University. These results drew on my commitment to impartiality and innovation, including by confronting and defusing charges of bias before they became problematic. Positive reviews of my talks from military, student, and other audiences over the years demonstrate the value of confronting biases and partisanship through objective analysis and an intellectually open attitude.

In all my work, I have found that guiding principles help greatly in remaining impartial. My own oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, rather than any one political leader or party, has kept my commitment strong to impartiality throughout my career.

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page.

3. What experience do you possess that demonstrates an appreciation for the diverse demographics and geography of the County of San Diego?

My relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities can hopefully help the Commission through my unusual combination of local and international experience. As a U.S. diplomat, I gained appreciation for the importance of diverse demographics and geography alongside the power they can offer to improve civic life for all. I have lectured in more than 20 countries on redistricting and other aspects of U.S. democratic principles, structures, and processes. I also worked with the UN included leading a "town hall" where foreign diplomats on the UN Human Rights Council could ask Native American, Hispanic-American, African-American, and other minority representatives about such issues as redistricting.

Another key aspect of my experience with the power of diversity stems my familiarity in meeting the needs of historically underrepresented members of our community and others. My experiences with the Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD), disadvantaged young adults in the Navy, and refugees in other countries. I have taken great pride in tailoring subjects, materials, and activities for each audience to meet their respective needs. As Chair of the CVESD District Advisory Council, a volunteer position leading parents from each of the District's 47 schools, I have designed workshops and led discussions to provide under-represented parents with academic, parenting, and other skills. I have worked with junior military servicemembers and refugees on the benefits of broad political participation. These parents, servicemembers, and refugees demonstrate the same kind of courage found in underrepresented students who enter and pursue a truly active civic life.

Public communication and outreach to our diverse community were key priorities during my two years as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the CVESD District Advisory Council. Our leadership team succeeded in helping a highly diverse group of parent representatives from all 47 CVESD schools understand the District's educational, budgetary, and outreach priorities. Our team also helped our parent representatives grow as communication leaders, reaching out to disadvantaged segments of the City and helping them speak up on school issues. This work resulted in more public comments on CVESD plans and more in-depth comments on our community's diversity and how to close the achievement gaps of our most challenged students. Our communications and outreach work has been recognized by County and State officials as some of the most useful public inputs anywhere in California. I also have worked on such specific redistricting issues as CVESD's proposed new middle school that required on-the-record interviews with local journalists and coordination with CVESD and Sweetwater Union district officials.

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page.

E. Demographic Information

Providing this information is optional. You may select "decline to state" for each answer. Elections Code section 21550(g)(2) requires six of the 14 appointees, in addition to meeting minimum requirements, be chosen in a way that ensures the Commission reflects the County's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity. However, formulas or specific ratios shall not be applied for this purpose.

1. Please describe your ethnic origin. Mark one or more boxes.

- ☐ BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN: All persons having origins in any of the original Black racial groups of Africa.
- ☐ HISPANIC/LATINO: All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- ☐ ASIAN: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- ☐ NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- ☐ AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain cultural affiliation or community recognition.
- ☐ WHITE (not of Hispanic Origin): All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- ☐ Prefer to Self-Describe: _____
- ☒ Decline to state

2. What is your date of birth? _____ ☒ Decline to state

3. Select the gender you identify as:


- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☒ Decline to state

F. Signature

By signing below, I declare under penalty of perjury that the answers provided in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

First Name: David

Last Name: Bame

Signature: 

Date: 7/31/2020

G. Submittal

Completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors no later than Friday, July 31, 2020 at 5 p.m. Double check your answers in the application; once submitted, applications cannot be amended. Remember that you must answer all questions on this application to be considered for the Commission. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Option 1: Mail or drop off the signed paper copy of your completed application to:

County of San Diego
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Redistricting Commission
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101-2471
(619) 531-5434

Postmarks are not accepted. Applications must be received by the Clerk of the Board by the due date.

Option 2: E-mail your completed application.

Ensure the application is signed, then e-mail the application to:
redistricting@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Applications must be received by Friday, July 31, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.