

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.

Tammy

First Name

Lin

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: Tammy Last Name: Lin

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: SAME AS ABOVE

City:

State: Zip Code:

Contact Information

Phone 1: [REDACTED] Type: Personal Cell

Phone 2: [REDACTED] Type: Office Landline

E-mail: [REDACTED]

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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?

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.

☐ 1
☐ 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 academic and professional background encompasses a strong focus on understanding and explaining federal, state and local statutes, especially the ability to analyze and clarify these laws so that every day folks can understand. I spent my legal career since 2006 representing individuals seeking relief in their immigration cases from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of State and Department of Justice. This often requires an analysis of state and local regulations and statutes in relation to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act.

Prior to my devotion to immigration law, I spent my law school career interning, volunteering and working in the fields of civil rights (Post-bar ACLU Clerk, Summer Intern at Texas Civil Rights Project), public interest law (Intern with Center for Public Interest Law) and policy analyses (CA Senate Public Safety Committee Associate Consultant). These experiences strengthened my skills in interpreting, understanding and implementing the requirements of state and federal laws. Additionally, I am well versed in the requirements of administrative law such as the Brown Act in California and its equivalent on the federal level.

A great deal of my legal education focused on constitutional and administrative law. My Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame focused on Political Science with a minor in Peace Studies. My university education was a strong foundation for the skills and knowledge required in insuring that the redistricting process in our county is fair, unbiased, impartial and up to all legal standards. On a personal note, I consider myself a nerd when it comes to constitutional issues.

I am fortunate that my career allows me to practice immigration law with clients throughout the United States and incorporate international law in making my arguments for my asylum and refugee clients. Additionally, my practice in immigration law insures that I have a firm grasp of issues and government practices throughout the world.

I will admit that my knowledge of the redistricting process is rudimentary but have no doubt that I can easily understand and apply it properly and in the best interest of the residents of San Diego County.

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

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

My experiences on a variety of boards and in leadership positions easily demonstrates my ability to be impartial. I served on the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN) Advisory Board as Treasurer from 2013-2014 in addition to holding the Chair position in the Professional Development and Board Development Committees. Prior to this board experience, I sat on the Notre Dame Club of San Diego Board rising to the leadership position of Secretary. As a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), I twice served as Chapter Chair and on the National Board of Governors. I participated in the New Leaders Council as a fellow in 2012 and later joined the San Diego Leadership Alliance Board .

These leadership positions demonstrate my ability to show impartiality in each of these organizations and garner the trust of its members to shoulder leadership roles. I understood and understand that my responsibilities as a leader in these organization is to serve in the best interest of the members and to follow the organizations' bylaws.

For example, I worked for almost nine years at Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFSSD). During that time, I became Chapter Chair of AILA San Diego and a state bill greatly and unfairly impacted the practice of immigration law. This bill eventually carved out an exception for nonprofits but still impacted my colleagues in private practice.

I personally and professionally had no "dog in the fight" because of my work at a nonprofit but I still knew the bill was unacceptable in its introduced form because of the onerous restrictions imposed on the practice for private practitioners and discriminatory focus against attorneys working in immigration law. I worked just as hard, if not harder, to get my members' voices heard to insure that the bill was fair and focused on its aims.

My impartiality and understanding of my responsibilities in positions of leadership is why my peers, professionally and socially, place me in these roles. These are the same reasons why I know that my membership on the commission is to serve in the best interests of the residents of San Diego County and in accordance to the guidelines set forth in the process.

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?

I was born and raised in Texas and left the state to attend college at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. I attended Notre Dame for three reasons. First, I knew that if you did not leave Texas for college then more likely than not you would never leave the state. Second, I wanted to experience what life was like in the Midwest. Third, I wanted to experience life in a small town with winter weather. These were all things I never lived through in my time in Texas. I never really saw snow until my Freshman year in college. Through this experience, I learned that I like snow but do not want to live in it. Small towns are not a place for me.

My parents retired to San Diego when I was in college and I moved here after graduating. I lived in Rancho Bernardo while studying law at the University of San Diego. I lived in Cardiff-by-The-Sea for approximately six years during my career at Jewish Family. I now live in North Park for almost five years. My clients live throughout the county coming from very different backgrounds in life. Many are new immigrants in City Heights and Barrio Logan. Others are highly skilled U.S. citizens living in Carmel Valley and North County.

Through my work and community engagement, I know that there are large populations of Cubans in South Bay, East Africans in City Heights, Central American migrants in North County and European and Russia immigrants peppered throughout the county. Large populations of Iranians live in North County along with East and South Asians. I helped the early resettlement of Burmese ethnic Karen, Karenni and Chin refugees in the county.

My mother was a Methodist and my father a Buddhist. We lived surrounded by Southern Baptists in Houston. I attended a Catholic university for undergrad and law school. Later, I worked for a Jewish organization where I frequently visited synagogues to talk to fourth graders and the community about refugees in relation to the teachings of the Torah. I attended meetings at mosques and conducted know your rights presentations at community centers throughout the county. I am well aware of the wonderful diversity that is San Diego and worked with the many nonprofits helping these varied populations.

I am a daughter of immigrants. I grew up working our family's restaurant business. I am now a small business owner of my own law practice. I always joked that my super power is that I can relate to anyone I meet if you give me time with them.

San Diego County's diversity is part of the reason I am taking time to apply for this commission. I want to make sure that all these diverse voices are heard and represented when the redistricting happens based on the 2020 National Census. San Diego welcomed me when I moved here in 2002. I want to give back to what the city and county has given me. A home.

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: Tammy

Last Name: Lin

Signature: 

Date: 6/16/2020

G. Submission

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.