

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.

Benjamin

First Name

Mendoza

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: Benjamin Last Name: Mendoza

Address (where you are registered to vote)

Street Address: ████████████████████

City: ██████████

State: ██ Zip Code: ██████

Mailing Address (if different than the address listed above)

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Information

Phone 1: ██████████ Type: Cell

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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HERE:  BM

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?**

With degrees in communications and organizational leadership, as well as experience with civic engagement work around our county, I would be an exceptional candidate for the Commission. The analytical skills developed during these experiences empower me to hit the ground running when it comes to starting my role as a Commissioner. Some of these analytical skills include: effectively working with others, consensus building techniques, effective communication, public speaking, and critical questioning strategies.

My years of undergraduate work in Communications honed my ability to work effectively with others in a way that would allow me to build consensus on the Commission team by utilizing open dialogues and negotiation tactics. My history of facilitating open dialogues and consensus based decision-making would make me an asset to any group or team. In my current role as a Community Advisor in the Student Promoted Access Center for Education & Service, I facilitate communication workshops, conflict resolution trainings, and skill building around group collaboration and coalition building. These skills will be essential on the Commission team because part of our responsibilities require that we work together to achieve our common goal of redistricting San Diego County.

Some of my academic studies have been devoted to learning and analyzing our nation's laws and political systems. My devotion to this hasn't been limited to just my academic studies, because I have an extensive history of also putting it into practice. I've gotten progressively more involved at all different levels of our city and county government. This past May, I joined the City Heights Town Council as a Board Member which requires me to advocate on behalf of my community and help residents identify solutions that improve and better the community for all. This experience, along with various public presentations/workshops and my background in Communications, would allow me to participate effectively in public hearings by enabling me to both actively listen to witness testimony and formulate concise and effective questions.

Additionally, I've been involved with local political campaigns which requires me to possess a solid understanding of city and county campaign laws, ordinances, and adhere to the regulations set forth by the Fair Political Practices Commission. This honed my understanding of reviewing and interpreting various local, state, and federal laws which directly relates to the level of analytical skills required of a Commissioner.

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?

In my perspective impartiality is the ability to comprehend multiple sides of an issue or subject while being cognizant of your own personal biases and ultimately remaining neutral on said issue or subject in order to remain fair and impartial. Although sometimes incredibly difficult, this means checking and/or setting aside your own stance or viewpoint on a situation. In numerous facets of my life I must employ impartiality to ensure that I am fulfilling my responsibilities by providing the best guidance and advising possible in any given situation.

For example, I'm currently a Board Member of the City Heights Town Council which requires me to be impartial to a variety of different issues and initiatives that come before the council. The Council is a non-partisan organization that is charged with advocating for and on behalf of our community through building relationships and creating safer neighborhoods. In order to cultivate these relationships it has required me to develop my ability to reflect on my own positionality and viewpoint, and at times put my own views aside in order to remain impartial and to further the mission of our organization.

Additionally, I currently work in the Student Promoted Access Center for Education & Service (SPACES) which is a student-run space that does access and retention work for underserved and underrepresented communities on and off campus. Our operating and programming funds are collected from a portion of a fee that ALL University of California, San Diego (UCSD) undergraduate students pay each quarter. Since our funding comes from all students, it is part of my responsibility to remain unbiased in providing my student employees with all possible options when it comes to decision-making. Since it is ultimately the student employees doing the decision-making, my role is to impart upon them the importance of being good stewards of our funds by supporting initiatives that are reflective of the entire student body on campus.

Another tool of impartiality that I use in all aspects (professional work, community work, personal life) of my life, is the strong belief I have in making data-informed decisions when it comes to planning and executing initiatives, projects, programs, and/or strategic decision making. Instead of making the automatic assumption that your viewpoint is correct (and/or the best), how can we utilize data to take a step back to truly evaluate what the best course of action is. In this evaluation process, provided data can be used as an objective tool to make informed decisions and ensure that a chosen course of action is the most fair and equal.

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 have a deep love and appreciation for the diverse communities that make up the crucial fabric of our beautiful city, state and country. With past experiences in cultural centers, working with underserved communities in a variety of capacities, and knowledge of our county's unique demographics, I am confident that my background and skills will prove to be valuable assets to the Commission.

During my time working in the United Front Multicultural Center at the University of San Diego and the UC San Diego Cross-Cultural Center I had the opportunity to work with people from a multitude of different backgrounds. This work developed into an appreciation of not only diversity, but also effectively working across difference. I see working across difference as a critical skill in putting together a team (such as the Redistricting Commission) of varying backgrounds and political ideologies. For example, part of my current (and past) work responsibilities are to develop and coordinate diversity and inclusion programming across various campus departments. This has included facilitating a number of workshops and trainings on dialogue circles for both students and staff to learn how to better communicate with one another.

As a queer non-binary individual of color, I not only have an appreciation for diversity, but I am also cognizant of the institutional and systemic challenges underserved and underrepresented communities face in our city, state, and country. My experiences with my own identities have empowered me to play a more active role in ensuring fair representation for marginalized communities. If selected for the Commission, I would ensure that the redistricting process would accurately reflect the demographics of the communities we have been charged to serve. Additionally, being selected as a Commissioner would allow me to continue my advocacy work in an even greater capacity.

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: Benjamin Last Name: Mendoza

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.

| Benjamin Mendoza |

Education

M.A. Higher Education Leadership — University of San Diego, San Diego, CA

May 2015

B.A. Communication Studies — Seattle University, Seattle, WA

June 2010

Cum Laude

Professional Work Experience

Community Programs Advisor — Associated Students – S.P.A.C.E.S, UC San Diego

April 2017 – Present

- Support student-initiated and student-run access, yield, and retention programming for historically underrepresented student communities both on campus and off.
- Advise a student staff of 45+ in the development and coordination of over 100 events, programs, and services annually while managing a budget of nearly \$1,000,000.
- Develop training sessions, workshops, and organizational retreats for SPACES Board of Directors, Directors, All-Staff, volunteers, and affiliated student organizations on a variety of leadership, diversity, and social justice topics.
- Assess and evaluate participant engagement and program effectiveness by employing a variety of assessment methods, analyzing data collected, and composing statistical reports in order to provide data-based recommendations for further program growth and development.

Office Manager & Affiliate Program Coordinator — Cross-Cultural Center, UC San Diego

July 2015 – April 2017

- Coordinated the Cross-Cultural Center Affiliate Program for 35+ faculty, department, staff, and student groups which included quarterly leadership workshops and an annual three day leadership retreat.
- Supervised 3-4 student interns and provided a social justice based curriculum that engaged interns with topics such as institutional racism, activism on and off campus, LGBTQ allyship, and gender equity.
- Served as point of contact for facility scheduling and CCC liaison for approximately 1000-1200 events annually for student organizations, campus departments, staff associations, and off-campus stakeholders.

Program Coordinator — NCCHC Leadership Fellows Program, University of San Diego

January 2014 – June 2015

- Created and developed an annual marketing and recruitment plan that contributed to a 45% increase in applicants from across the country.
- Coordinated and organized program related activities and events including, meetings, conference seminars, interviews, travel, teleconference calls, and other programmatic needs.
- Researched and identified key data sources to prepare reports and correspondence such as memos, emails, charts, meeting minutes, meeting notes, and other support materials.

Executive Assistant to the President — President's Office, Seattle Central College

August 2011 – August 2013

- Completed a broad variety of administrative tasks for the President including: managing an expectedly active calendar of appointments; communicating directly, and on behalf of the President, with Board members, donors, staff, and students on matters related to President's Office initiatives.
- Actively monitored and maintained budgets; evaluated costs for expenditures; completed all travel related documents; completed payroll documents, as well as personnel service contracts for both the President's Office and the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Institutional Research.
- Assisted the President in navigating highly political, sensitive, and complex issues occurring at the institution as well as coordinated the compilation of financial, purchasing, and personnel reports and records.

Program Coordinator — President's Office, Seattle Central College

November 2010 – August 2011

- Facilitated, supported, and coordinated committee and college-wide communications, reservations and other arrangements for on and off-site meetings for the President's Office and the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Institutional Research.
- Trained and supervised student employees; provided assistance for student crisis situations; and provided assistance with copier, fax, and other technical needs for the Administration Center.
- Answered telephone; screened calls and visitors for the Administration Center; and acted as a point of contact for facility and security matters.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistant — Center for Student Success, University of San Diego

June 2014 – June 2015

- Conducted student coaching meetings with undergraduate students on academic probation, mid-term deficiency grades, and/or are referred to the Center for Student Success for support.
- Assisted in the coordination and implementation of new student orientation (fall and spring) for transfer and first-year students. This included being an active member of the Transfer Orientation Committee and advising the Transfer Transition Team and Spring Orientation Team.
- Oversaw operations at the Commuter Student Commons (CSC), track commuter student transition via MapWorks, design and implement commuter specific programming, and supervise 7 student staff in the CSC.

Graduate Assistant — United Front Multicultural Center, University of San Diego

August 2013 – June 2014

- Developed and coordinated equity, diversity, and inclusion programming such as Multicultural Night, Chicano Graduation, monthly Community Lunches, and spring leadership retreats.
- Advised and supported student staff and identity-based student organization leaders through program and leadership development.
- Facilitated workshops and trainings on diversity, inclusion, and leadership as well as assisted in the development of diversity and inclusion initiatives within the Center through collaboration with campus and community stakeholders.

Leadership Experience

Research Advisory Committee Member — The Kim Center for Social Balance

October 2019 – Present

- Assist in identifying core metrics for workplace gender equity with the purpose of building comprehensive tools to advance the commitment to bridging the gender equity gap in public and private sector organizations.
- Serve as the liaison for LGBTQIA community when reviewing core metrics, evaluation tools, and compiled reports of submitted deliverables.
- Provide insights and strategies on addressing gap areas in the developing research by sharing relevant studies, findings, and best practices.

UC San Diego Census Liaison — University of California, Office of the President

July 2019 – Present

- Work collaboratively with State and Government Relations and the UC Office of the President to promote participation in the 2020 Census on the UC San Diego campus.
- Coordinate the UC San Diego Census Taskforce to educate UC San Diego students, staff, and faculty on the importance of being counted and also generating materials for them to share with their own networks (family, friends, and local community contacts).
- Ensure all UC commitments are fulfilled at the conclusion of the 2020 Census deadline. With particular attention to education and awareness for undercounted communities (foreign-born residents, renters, individuals living in homes without broadband, people living close/ below poverty line, and children under five).

Transgender Programs Coordinator — San Diego Pride

July 2019 – Present

- Develop, implement, and coordinate a broad array of activities and programs for the transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary community, such as the San Diego Trans Coalition and Trans Pride Village.
- Connecting community members with necessary resources (culturally proficient information, organizations, providers and services) as well as conducting transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary competency trainings.
- Maintaining and developing collaborations with other local, statewide and national transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary organizations.

Assistant Parade Manager — San Diego Pride

September 2018 – Present

- Coordinate all components of the parade application process including the JotForm online application and payment processes, management of parade registration database, ongoing contingent communication, and planning and executing three parade safety trainings for representatives from 300 parade contingents.
- Determine staffing and volunteer shift needs, create and manage volunteer shifts in BetterImpact volunteer management system, develop department curriculum for 300-person training sessions, and supervise volunteers and parade leadership team to support the organization's goals and expectations.
- Support the organization's volunteer program with volunteer database management, recruitment for Pride volunteer opportunities, completing room reservations for internal meetings and outside community groups, and coordinating event logistics for annual volunteer appreciation celebration.

2019 Student-Scholar Conference Co-Chair — California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Ed. **July 2018 – Feb. 2019**

- Led logistics planning for a one-day drive-in conference that was designed to create a pipeline for undergraduate and graduate student-scholars to enter the field of social justice, identity, and advocacy on college campuses.
- Coordinated a committee of students and staff from various campus departments to formulate a meaningful program schedule for the 20+ higher education institutions in California that participated.
- Outreached and secured funding and sponsorships from campus entities (Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Office, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life Office, and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) and professional organizations (American College Personnel Association - College Student Educators International).

Youth Programs Coordinator — San Diego Pride **November 2017 – Present**

- Serve as a mentor by fostering sense of belonging and leadership among LGBTQ junior-high and high-school-aged youth.
- Assist in the coordination of Pride’s youth programming, including but not limited to: Pride Youth Leadership Academy, Pride Youth Collective, Fridays at Pride, and the Pride Youth Art Show by providing training, resource, and community support.
- Provide organizational support and guidance to coalition-led projects and programs and collaborate with LGBTQ youth-serving professionals in the San Diego region.

Institutional Committee Involvement

University of California San Diego

- Co-Curricular Record Evaluation Committee
- Civic Engagement Workgroup
- Overnight Planning Committee
- LGBT Scholarship Committee

University of San Diego

- Board of Trustees – Academic Affairs Committee
- Transfer Orientation Committee
- SOLES Dean Search Committee

Seattle Central College

- Executive Leadership Council
- President’s Cabinet
- District Vice Presidents of Student Services Committee

Seattle University

- Multicultural Programming Fund
- Office of Multicultural Affairs Alliance
- President’s Advisory Board

Affiliations & Memberships

- City Heights Town Council – *Member at Large* 2019 – Present
- San Diego Trans Coalition – *Committee Member* 2019 – Present
- American College Personnel Association - College Student Educators International 2018 – Present
- San Diego Pride – *2019 Volunteer of the Year* 2014 – Present
- Trans Pride San Diego – *Committee Co-Chair* 2018 – 2019
- California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education (CaCCCHE) 2014 – 2019
- National Association Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) 2014 – 2018
- San Diego LGBT Community Center – *2017 Young Professionals Council Academy Graduate* 2017-2018
- The Trevor Project – *Social Media Coordinator* 2016 – 2018
- UCSD LGBT Staff & Faculty Association – *Executive Board* 2016 – 2017
- International Leadership Association (ILA) 2014 – 2017
- Classified Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) 2010 – 2011
- Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) 2010 – 2011
- Lifelong AIDS Alliance – *Mpowerment Core Team Member* 2007 – 2010

Technical Skills

- Expert with MAC OS and Windows operating systems
- Expert in developing online presence via social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft OneDrive software, and Google Suite.
- Proficient with managing Constant Contact, WordPress, and BetterImpact