

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.

Joshua

First Name

Piedra

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.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2020 JUL -1 AM 9:12
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS



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: Joshua

Last Name: Piedra

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?
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?
If you're not sure, you can check your voter registration at www.sdvote.com. Yes No

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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County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission

INITIAL
HERE: →

JP

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?**

I do have all the relevant analytical skills needed to be a supporting member of the redistricting commission. Foremost, my degree required me to learn about electoral maps and complex-political science data. It is because of this education that I am able to read dense and technical materials. Furthermore, there were times that projects required me to attend on-campus hearings of issues we were learning about. It was through that experience that I am comfortable to participate in public hearings and be critical of testimony as a result of my ability to understand complex data.

Secondly, my university experience furthered my mathematical skills as well as familiarized me with using computers and different computer programs. More so, my degree taught me how to evaluate information properly. In politics, there are so many sources of information that can contradict one another. Years of reading different academic sources ingrained in me methods to point out bias and use other indicators that help to judge the credibility of the given information. This includes the strength of the argument, the relevancy of the given information, and the facts of the matter at hand. Most importantly, where information is not concise, I use my skills learned in academia to make the best choice. I've had to do this before where in-class certain propositions would arise that the respecting information on the matter was ambiguous on. It is during these times that I ask questions to help me better understand the situation and from there try and make a more concise understanding of the ambiguous nature.

Thirdly, I took law classes in college because I eventually want to be a lawyer. In these classes I learned about complex Supreme Court cases and had to argue within a legal standard. As a result of these classes, I understand legal jargon and respect the legal limitations as defined under the law when it comes to redistricting.

Lastly, in college, I was assigned many group projects that helped me to refine my leadership and teamwork skills. For example, in one group project, we had to create a report that advocated for cost-saving measures at our university. We had to not only research how the budget looked but also argue where cuts should be made. Each team member emphasized a different area to focus our budget cuts and we disagreed on many things. But, we had clear and open communication with one another on how we felt and presented our respected evidence. It was through reasonable discussions and negotiations that we came to a consensus on what to cut and what not to cut. I will exhibit nothingless as 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?

Impartiality means to have a fair and open mind when presented with information. Personally, I have always valued the principle of fairness because I understand that life is complicated and the best way to help one another is to listen to each other's stories with an open mind. When it comes to California law, I have no personal interests in shaping our districts, monetary or otherwise. The importance of having fair and representative districts in our democracy is what motivates me to apply. Secondly, I am able to set aside my biases when I need to be impartial. For example, when I applied to be an intern with the San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP), I hesitated a little because of my past philosophical disagreements with the positions/candidates that the party had endorsed. But, understanding the complexity of politics, I knew the best way to understand the endorsement process is by setting aside my biases and having an open mind. It is because of my impartiality as an intern that I understood why the party made its decisions and this helped me to set aside my personal views and focus on pressing for the common goals that the Democratic Party espoused.

Another example of me being impartial was when I was going to school. As a political science major, my classes were made up of differing political beliefs and opinions. While I had my own disagreements with many of these political thoughts, I made it a principle to have an open mind when listening to these points of view in order to make a fair evaluation. I found this to be the best way to have conversations with those who disagree with you and it helps in finding common objectives and potential solutions. In other words, impartiality was a tool I used in order to bridge the politically polarized gap in my classes.

Fair redistricting is hard to do because of bias. If our common goal is to end gerrymandering and have fair-representative districts, we must have commissioners who can be impartial in order to eliminate personal bias. Impartiality is a great tool to understand others and as a commissioner, I would use it in order to make fair and representative districts.

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 thorough appreciation of San Diego County's diversity. Foremost, as a person of color and as a bisexual from the City of San Diego, I grew up in diverse communities. My local community was made up of different immigrant groups with different cultures, work occupations, and sexual orientations. That was just within the radius of where I resided, San Diego is a massive city full of complex geographies and differing political interests. I cherish diversity because for the entirety of my life I have comfortably lived and participated in diverse neighborhoods.

Secondly, as a student, I've studied about the negative effects that gerrymandering and other voter suppression efforts have on our democracy. All these different studies come down to the same conclusion, districts that are fairly mapped and representative of their populaces increase electoral participation within these areas. This increases electoral competition by allowing more interests to be able to participate in their district and have greater influence in the candidacies for their district. This increased inclusion of diversity in our democracy only serves to benefit the County of San Diego.

Thirdly, while interning with the San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP), I had to work with many diverse areas. The SDCCDP is the second-largest local Democratic Party in the State. This party represents a massive area from as south as San Ysidro to as north as Fallbrook, and from as west as San Diego to as east as Borrego Springs. This county is made up of different demographics and talking to these people made me understand how diverse San Diego County is electorally. This helped me to ascertain what common goals we have and fostered plans focused on these goals in order to include as much diversity as possible to have maximum electoral outreach. Working at the SDCCDP showed me that different people can work together on common ground and only furthered my appreciation for diversity.

Lastly, my experiences in canvassing allowed me to engage in these diverse communities. In one of my canvassing experiences, I walked in these diverse communities to make note of their opinions on local issues. This laid the foundation for common goals that the organization that I canvassed for can use to make proper policy. In my more political canvassing efforts, I was able to talk to diverse people about the issues affecting them and informed them how they can come together as a community to organize behind solutions. Having to talk to diverse people about common goals helps to unify communities without diminishing their diversity.

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

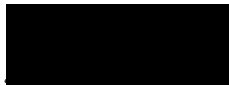
E. Demographic Information

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:

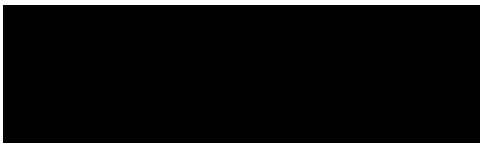
- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Decline to state

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: Joshua

Last Name: Piedra

Signature: 

Date: 06/29/2020

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.