

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.

William

First Name

Teter

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: William Last Name: Teter

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: [REDACTED]

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.

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

INITIAL
HERE: →

WAT

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?

To aid in evaluating my application, I have listed my relevant experience under the tasks listed in subdivision (b) of 2 CCR section 60827, my experience in each area is in brackets.

1. Gathering and comprehending information that bears upon redistricting:

- a. An ability to read and understand dense and technical written materials, including, but not limited to, maps and statistical information.

[As an Army test and evaluation Officer, I developed test and data analysis plans using statistical analysis and wrote and defended reports on test results.]

- b. An ability to participate effectively in public hearings regarding redistricting by listening carefully and critically to the testimony of witnesses and formulating concise questions that will elicit relevant information.

[I participated in teams that evaluated vendor proposals for complex communications systems. This involved both quantitative and qualitative factors to arrive at the best value proposal]

2. Evaluating the validity and significance of the information gathered by the commission in order to make sound decisions about the proper placement of communities in districts:

- a. Basic mathematical skills.

- b. Familiarity with using computers and working with software programs such as spreadsheet programs, mapping websites or programs, or word processing programs.

[I have a Master of Science degrees in both computer science and Military Science]

- c. An ability to assess the credibility of information provided by staff, consultants, and members of the public, distinguish facts from opinions, distinguish relevant facts from irrelevant facts, and assess the relative strength of competing arguments.

[As an Army test officer, I developed test and data collections plans to support weapon systems R&D programs.]

- d. An ability to resolve complex problems, particularly those involving factual ambiguities as may arise when all of the relevant facts are not apparent or when there are conflicting claims about the facts.

[As a Government PM, I evaluated contractor proposals for communication systems and wrote reports explaining and defending the selection.]

3. Applying the appropriate legal standards to drawing district boundaries:

[As a Government PM I incorporated and integrated legal analysis to ensure contract award decisions were legally defensible and could withstand challenges.]

4. Working effectively as a member of a group to promote redistricting decisions that are factually and legally defensible and that the commission can agree upon:

- a. Effective communication skills, including, but not limited to, basic writing skills.

[I was a member Army multidisciplinary test and evaluation team that was responsible to design, conduct, evaluate results and write test reports.]

- b. An ability to interact effectively with other commissioners to build consensus on proposed decisions through reasoned discussion and negotiation.

[I am a member of my Home Owners Association Board.]

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?

According to the definition the "ability to be impartial" means to be able to set aside biases, personal interests, political opinions, group allegiances, and strong views in order to evaluate information with an open mind and make decisions that are fair to everyone affected and achieve the broad objectives the Redistricting Commission. As a Commissioner, I must set aside:

(a) Personal interests including, but not limited to, personal financial interests. As the financial and personal disclosure portions of this application will show, I have no personal, family, financial relationships or commitments that "a reasonable person would consider likely to improperly influence someone making a redistricting decision." I also have no aspirations for any office or board after the term of the commission.

(b) Biases for or against any individuals, groups, or geographical areas. This is the toughest area, because we all have biases, some implicit that may only be apparent to other people.

(c) Support for or opposition to any candidates, political parties, or social or political causes.

As an involved citizen, I have supported political candidates and causes – voter registration drives, canvassing, handing out literature, lawn signs, and so forth. For the most part, I have enjoyed the interplay with other people that are part of these activities, whether they agree with me or not. I understand and respect that others feel as strongly about their positions as I do and it is best for our democracy if we exchange with words in a civil dialogue rather than weaponized media barbs. In fact, I would submit that everyone on the commission should have a record of supporting causes and candidates because in a participatory democracy showing up matters. I believe that advocacy of a cause or candidate reflects the value that every voter's voice and choices belong in the system, regardless of the outcome of an election.

For several years I have been a volunteer poll worker for both primary and general elections. In that role it is critical to the credibility of the vote that there be not even a hint of preference or bias, even an eye role or a change of voice. But the payoff in helping people exercise their right to vote and participate in the process more than compensates for forced neutrality. When I see the sense of pride on the face of a first-time voter, whether a new citizen or young person, it reminds me that with all the complaints we still have a great system. I always stand and lead a round of applause and just about everyone in the polling place joins in. That voter will probably not remember how they voted but they will not forget the experience of being part of 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?

California has a diverse population both in geographically centered interests and individual characteristics: race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender identity.... Redistricting has to address this diversity from several different perspectives. First, during the redistricting process there will be an involvement of diverse groups with different objectives. All must be given a fair hearing or the output of the Commission will not be seen as legitimate. California benefits by having effective participation in the electoral process by persons of all demographic characteristics, residing in all geographic locations. Second, to address the diversity of views over how those districts should be drawn – does it favor one demographic group over another. In drawing boundaries, these values may be at odds - such as community cohesiveness versus addressing a historically underrepresented minority. Finally, the commission must understand that people in a locality may share characteristics that they want to be reinforced by the drawing of the district – communities of common interests such as agriculture in rural area or rapid transit in an urban area.

For several years local governments have been encouraged to move from at-large elections to districts, in order to tie elected representatives closer to the neighborhoods they serve. When the city where I reside broke apart the city, I participated in the working sessions. The city even had a tool that allowed anyone to draw and propose their own districts and then evaluate the statistics – ethnic representation, party registration, and many more. This was much more difficult than I imagined. There were numerous discussions about moving a district line to enhance minority representation versus encompassing the traditional communities and cohesive neighborhoods. Drawing good district boundaries was further complicated by different sources of data, some with variable accuracy and meaning. In the end the City Council adopted a solution that made most residents somewhat happy and somewhat unhappy, but not surprisingly left all the current City Council members in distinct districts where they reside and left the impression, rightly or wrongly, that the districts were drawn to enhance their reelection. My impression is that without the clear definition of diversity metrics that are agreed to up front and that provide a lens through which to evaluate alternatives, it will be difficult to scale this process and to arrive at consistent, credible results at the county level.

See attached file SD_redistricting.pdf for additional information on my application.

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:

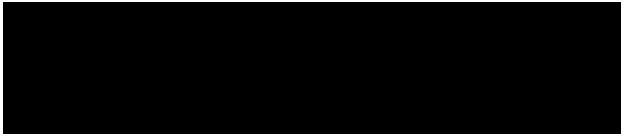
- ☐ Female
- ☒ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Decline to state

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: William

Last Name: Teter

Signature: 

Date: 06/22/2020

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.

Why me and why I think redistricting is important.

The Voters First Act took drawing the lines of election districts out of the hands of the Legislature and established an Independent Commission to perform that function after the 2010 census. Some of the arguments for this change were that the Legislature would inherently draw districts to protect themselves, that "safe" partisan districts caused gridlock as each legislator followed the dictates of their party base instead of compromising for the greater good, and that districts drawn by an independent commission would be more competitive, leading to voters electing more moderate legislators. Whether these projected effects have come to pass is debatable. However, my view is that, in a participatory democracy, the benefits to the election process itself are just as important as the results of the elections. The commission creates a sense of community involvement in how the districts are created, promotes transparency, empowers voters, and establishes the sense that elections are a level playing field, not preordained by a political party. It is not so much about who wins or loses an election, although that is important, it is about giving candidates a fair shot and letting the voters decide on Election Day; not ratify a decision made months before in a party central committee room. It is especially important, when a single political party has been dominant in County Government for a long period that an entity independent of the current political power structure draws the districts where future elections will be held.

So why me?

First, California is my home. I was born here, raised here, schooled here, married here, and retired here after a career of service in the military and defense industries. My ancestors were also in the military and I was raised in a tradition of service to the community – city, county, state and nation. I want to participate in preserving the values on which our country was founded and part of that is to ensure that elections are "by the people".

Second, our state faces many challenges over the next 10 years – global warming, housing crisis, correcting racial inequities, immigration, the high cost of living, protecting civil liberties... to name a few. We need our best and brightest people in office to effectively address those issues. I trust our people will elect them if we protect fair, open elections and those start with fair, diverse, community-based election districts.

Third, Although I am retired my brain still works after a fashion. I feel that I can bring a lifetime of experience in my careers and living, tempered with a healthy dose of common sense to make a small contribution in helping the Redistricting Commission solve the challenges of redrawing the lines.