



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Independent Redistricting Commission

MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS

David Bame, Chair
Amy Caterina, Co-Vice Chair
Rosette Garcia, Co-Vice Chair
Colleen Brown
Chris Chen
Sonia Diaz
Elidia Dostal
Barbara Hansen
Kenneth Inman
Kristina Kruglyak
Arvid Larson
Fernandez Ponds
John Russ
Ramesses Surban

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 5:30 PM

1. Called to Order at 5:31 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Commission Members David Bame, Colleen Brown, Amy Caterina, Chris Chen, Sonia Diaz, Elidia Dostal, Carmen-Rosette Garcia, Barbara Hansen, Kenneth Inman, Kristina Kruglyak, Arvid Larson, Fernandez Ponds, John Russ; and Andrew Potter, Clerk.

ABSENT: Commission Member Ramesses Surban

(Note for the record: Pursuant to AB 361, signed into law on September 16, 2021 by California Governor Gavin Newsom as urgency legislation, effective immediately, and the January 12, 2022 Resolution Of The County Of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission Authorizing Continuance of Teleconferenced Public Meetings Pursuant To Government Code §54953(e)(1)(C), all members of the Independent Redistricting Commission attended the meeting via teleconference and participated in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.)

3. Approval of Minutes from the December 14, 2021 Special Meeting and January 12, 2022 Special Meeting

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Commissioner Chen, seconded by Commissioner Larson, the Commission approved the minutes from the December 14, 2021 Special Meeting and the January 12, 2022 Special Meeting.

AYES: Bame, Brown, Caterina, Chen, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Larson, Ponds

ABSENT: Diaz, Russ, Surban

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4. Discussion and Possible Approval of Supplemental Resolution of the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission Approving Technical Adjustments to the 2021 Redistricting Plan

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Commissioner Inman, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission approved the Supplemental Resolution of the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission Approving Technical Adjustments to the 2021 Redistricting Plan Adjusting the Boundaries of the Supervisorial Districts.

AYES: Bame, Brown, Caterina, Chen, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Larson, Ponds

ABSENT: Diaz, Russ, Surban

5. Discussion and Possible Approval of Supplemental Resolution of the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission Amending Final Report Concerning Final Redistricting Plan

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Commissioner Inman, seconded by Commissioner Larson, the Commission approved the Supplemental Resolution of the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission Amending Final Report to Reflect Technical Amendments to 2021 Redistricting Plan.

AYES: Bame, Brown, Caterina, Chen, Diaz, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Larson, Ponds

ABSENT: Russ, Surban

6. Discussion and Possible Approval of “2020 IRC Lessons Learned Summary” and Appendices from the Lessons Learned Ad Hoc Committee

The Commission heard a presentation from Commissioner Kruglyak on the lessons learned summary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Larson, the Commission approved the amended “2020 IRC Lessons Learned Summary” and appendices from the Lessons Learned Ad Hoc Committee as included in the agenda materials.

A secondary motion was made by Commissioner Bame, seconded by Commissioner Dostal, to make the following amendments to the “2020 Lessons Learned Summary” report:

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- In the Legislation section, make the following changes:

LEGISLATION

Many of the recommendations described in subsequent sections would necessitate changes to the legislation that guide the formation or execution of the San Diego County IRC. The 2020 Commission recommends consideration creation of a task force to engage with appropriate legislative and other elected officials regarding these recommendations. In addition to the discussion in later sections, the potential legislative changes are listed cumulatively here:

- In the Commissioner Selection section, make the following changes:

COMMISSIONER SELECTION

The 2020 Commission felt that the existing selection process delivered a diverse and qualified group of Commissioners and recommends ~~a task force to engage with appropriate County leadership regarding recommended modifications to the process considering steps~~ to maintain the strength of the Commission:

1. Work to expand the size and diversity (age, ethnicity, geography, etc.) of the applicant pool via earlier and more aggressive public outreach.

- In the Budget section, make the following changes:

BUDGET

The 2020 Commissioners' feedback consistently recommended modifications to the budgeting process, highlighting the need for budget ownership and oversight by the Commission itself. Specific recommendations to consider include:

1. Ensure the Commission's budget is transparent and shared immediately by the County, including budget-related County staff hours and costs.
2. ~~Consider Establishing~~ a Treasurer Officer role and/or a Budget & Finance standing committee to provide regular oversight of all finances related to the Commission, ideally comprised of one or more Commissioners with financial expertise.
3. Ensure detailed budget reports are provided to the Commission for monthly (at minimum) review.
4. ~~Consider Establishing~~ specific budget-related policies and procedures and lines of authority, e.g., how to handle contract amendments, how to reallocate funds, the use of discretionary funds, etc.

- In the Leadership section, make the following changes:

LEADERSHIP

All Commissioners agreed that the workload of the Chair and Vice-Chairs was significant. Suggestions to address this issue varied considerably as summarized below. Given the diversity of feedback, the 2020 Commission recommends that future Commissions consider this question carefully, potentially during an interim period before decisions about Officers are made and selected, and when reviewing these options, the 2020 Commission suggests reflecting on how each option could result in differential levels of *de facto* authority and influence between the Chair and/or Officers and non-Officer Commissioners. As needed, any decision regarding changes to Leadership structure should be codified with appropriate changes to the Commission bylaws. Some of the specific suggestions to consider include:

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- In the Consultants section, make the following changes:

The most consistent feedback provided by the 2020 Commission was that the IRC should determine which consultants they require and then hire those consultants as early in the process as possible. Commissioners generally agreed on the success of utilizing a single point of contact (SPOC) to serve as IRC liaison to each consultant. Feedback differed on the best process by which to hire external consultants. Specific recommendations/suggestions are summarized below.

1. Retain external consultants (demographer, legal, and ability- to-elect consultant, at minimum; other consultant options include Public Outreach and AV) as soon as possible in the redistricting process. Evaluate whether subcontractors are appropriate for specific deliverables (e.g., ability-to-elect as a subcontractor to demographer) and the process by which subcontractors would be approved by the full Commission. Consider need for Public Outreach consultant versus ability to leverage existing County resources/logistics/staff for this activity, if possible.
2. Commission should understand and determine their preferred method for hiring consultants,

- In the Mapping Considerations section, make the following changes:

MAPPING CONSIDERATIONS

The 2020 Commission was subject to a condensed mapping period due to census delays. From this experience, Commissioners provided feedback related to mapping preparation and principles to streamline the mapping process. Specifically, suggestions to consider include:

1. Ensure Commissioners are able to effectively use the demographer-provided mapping software. This could be via early training or via user testing of mapping software as criteria for demographer selection. If Commissioners cannot effectively use the software, the public is unlikely to be able to. With introductory training, a user should be able to reach a draft map in under 3 hours.
2. Establish advanced procedures for selection of the original base map. Options include use of the existing County map, springboard maps, or a blank slate. The 2020 Commission used a set of demographer-provided springboard maps that represented a range of options for a starting

- In the Public Comment section, make the following changes:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Open and honest public comment is critical to arrive at a final map. Commissioners were provided with thousands of comments prior to and during the mapping process, a volume that grew significantly towards the end of the final mapping process. Several Commissioners suggested consideration of process improvements related to receipt of public comment:

1. Organize collected feedback within a single document rather than as hundreds of individual PDF files. Ideally feedback could be synthesized in an automated fashion, or at minimum categorized in terms of District and/or COI so that Commissions could quickly review related comments.

The motion was withdrawn.

A secondary motion was made by Commissioner Kruglyak and Commissioner Dostal to make the following amendments to the “2020 Lessons Learned Summary” report:

- Amended the first paragraph on page 1 to read:

The 2020 Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) was the first such Commission tasked with drawing District boundaries for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors elections. Consequently, the IRC completed its work without

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access to previous examples or lessons learned. After completing all statutory deliverables defined for the 2020 Independent Redistricting Commission (~~IRC~~), Commissioner feedback was presented to the full IRC on January 12th, 2020. The IRC authorized the creation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review and summarize Commissioner feedback into a Lessons Learned Report (this document) and also make recommendations for other actions based on Lessons Learned. All feedback were organized according to topic, generally following the chronological order of the IRC's cycle: legislative foundation; commissioner selection and onboarding; IRC organization, bylaws, and leadership; hiring of external consultants; public interaction; mapping considerations; and closeout. Commissioner Lessons Learned are summarized below by topic. The purpose of this report is to summarize recurring themes of those Lessons Learned, as well as to highlight differences in Commissioner recommendations for the same topic. Not all Lessons Learned are captured in this report in their entirety; for full Commissioner comments, see Appendix II. Additionally, sSupporting summary statistics are presented in Appendix I, and full Commission comments are included in Appendix H.

- Amended the Legislation section, introductory statement, to read:

Many of the recommendations described in subsequent sections would necessitate changes to the legislation that guide the formation or execution of the San Diego County IRC. ~~The 2020 Commission recommends~~ Several Commissioners recommended the creation of a task force to engage with appropriate legislative and other elected officials regarding these recommendations. In addition to the discussion in later sections, the potential legislative changes are listed cumulatively here:

- Amended the Commissioner Selection section, introductory statement, to read:

The 2020 Commission felt that the existing selection process delivered a diverse and qualified group of Commissioners and several Commissioners recommendeds consideration of a task force to engage with appropriate County leadership regarding recommended modifications to the process to maintain the strength of the Commission

- Amended the Personnel section, item 1., to read:

1. Maintain County support staff as per the 2020 framework or expand use of County staff for Commission support.

- Amended the Closeout and Transition section, introductory statement, to read:

As stated above, as the inaugural County Independent Redistricting Commission, the 2020 Commissioners did not have reference to any previous Lessons Learned. In addition to this document, several Commissioners suggested the creation of a

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transition team that could serve as support for the next Commission in 2030. The purview of such a transition team could be considered from the following:

The motion was accepted as a friendly amendment to the original motion on the table.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Larson, the Commission approved the amended “2020 IRC Lessons Learned Summary” and appendices from the Lessons Learned Ad Hoc Committee as included in the agenda materials, noting the following changes:

- Amended the first paragraph on page 1 to read:

The 2020 Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) was the first such Commission tasked with drawing District boundaries for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors elections. Consequently, the IRC completed its work without access to previous examples or lessons learned. After completing all statutory deliverables defined for the 2020 Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), Commissioner feedback was presented to the full IRC on January 12th, 2020. The IRC authorized the creation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review and summarize Commissioner feedback into a Lessons Learned Report (this document) and also make recommendations for other actions based on Lessons Learned. All feedback were organized according to topic, generally following the chronological order of the IRC’s cycle: legislative foundation; commissioner selection and onboarding; IRC organization, bylaws, and leadership; hiring of external consultants; public interaction; mapping considerations; and closeout. Commissioner Lessons Learned are summarized below by topic. The purpose of this report is to summarize recurring themes of those Lessons Learned, as well as to highlight differences in Commissioner recommendations for the same topic. Not all Lessons Learned are captured in this report in their entirety; for full Commissioner comments, see Appendix II. Additionally, ~~s~~Supporting summary statistics are presented in Appendix I, ~~and full Commission comments are included in Appendix II.~~

- Amended the Legislation section, introductory statement, to read:

Many of the recommendations described in subsequent sections would necessitate changes to the legislation that guide the formation or execution of the San Diego County IRC. ~~The 2020 Commission recommends~~ Several Commissioners recommended the creation of a task force to engage with appropriate legislative and other elected officials regarding these recommendations. In addition to the discussion in later sections, the potential legislative changes are listed cumulatively here:

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- Amended the Commissioner Selection section, introductory statement, to read:

The 2020 Commission felt that the existing selection process delivered a diverse and qualified group of Commissioners and several Commissioners recommended consideration of a task force to engage with appropriate County leadership regarding recommended modifications to the process to maintain the strength of the Commission

- Amended the Personnel section, item 1., to read:

2. Maintain County support staff as per the 2020 framework or expand use of County staff for Commission support.

- Amended the Closeout and Transition section, introductory statement, to read:

As stated above, as the inaugural County Independent Redistricting Commission, the 2020 Commissioners did not have reference to any previous Lessons Learned. In addition to this document, several Commissioners suggested the creation of a transition team that could serve as support for the next Commission in 2030. The purview of such a transition team could be considered from the following:

AYES: Brown, Caterina, Chen, Diaz, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Larson, Ponds, Russ

ABSTAIN: Bame

ABSENT: Surban

7. Discussion and Possible Approval of Recommendations for Other Actions Based on Lessons Learned from the Lessons Learned Ad Hoc Committee

The Commission heard a presentation from Commissioner Kruglyak and Commissioner Larson on other actions for lessons learned.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Chen, to deliver copies of the Lessons Learned Report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer.

A secondary motion was made by Commissioner Inman, seconded by Commissioner Bame, to make the following changes to the motion: Deliver copies of the Lessons Learned Report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer, under an appropriate cover letter drafted by the officers.

The motion was accepted as a friendly amendment to the original motion on the table.

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A secondary motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Hansen, to make the following additional changes to the motion: Deliver copies of the Lessons Learned Report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, ~~and~~ Chief Administrative Officer, and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, under an appropriate cover letter drafted by the officers.

The motion was accepted as a friendly amendment to the original motion on the table.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Chen, for the Commission to deliver copies of the Lessons Learned Report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative Officer, and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, under an appropriate cover letter drafted by the IRC officers.

AYES: Brown, Caterina, Chen, Hansen, Inman, Larson, Russ

NOES: Dostal, Ponds, Kruglyak

ABSTAIN: Bame, Garcia

ABSENT: Diaz, Surban

The motion failed due to the lack of affirmative votes.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Chen, seconded by Commissioner Dostal, the Commission directed that copies of the Lessons Learned Report be delivered to the Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under an appropriate cover letter drafted by the IRC officers.

AYES: Bame, Brown, Caterina, Chen, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Larson, Ponds, Russ

ABSTAIN: Kruglyak

ABSENT: Diaz, Surban

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A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Ponds, to create a Task Force to advance recommendations identified by Commissioners in Lessons Learned.

AYES: Caterina, Larson, Ponds

NOES: Bame, Brown, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Russ

ABSENT: Chen, Diaz, Surban

The motion failed due to the lack of affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Caterina, to engage a General Counsel for a 3-month interim period as soon as practical.

AYES: Caterina, Larson, Ponds

NOES: Bame, Brown, Diaz, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Russ

ABSENT: Chen, Surban

The motion failed due to the lack of affirmative votes.

8. Transition of 2020 IRC to Post-Mapping Status

The Commission received the memo on the transition of the 2020 IRC to Post-Mapping Status.

9. Monthly Budget Update

The Commission received the monthly budget update.

10. Recess to Finalize Minutes

The Commission recessed at 9:50 p.m.

The Commission reconvened at 10:09 p.m.

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11. Approval of Minutes from the January 26, 2022 Special Meeting

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Commissioner Dostal, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, the Commission approved the minutes from the January 26, 2022 Special meeting

AYES: Bame, Brown, Caterina, Chen, Diaz, Dostal, Garcia, Hansen, Inman, Kruglyak, Larson, Ponds, Russ

ABSTAIN: Caterina

ABSENT: Chen, Surban

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 6 of the *Bylaws and Operating Procedures of the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission*, staff identified a total of seven members of the public present during the meeting.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Independent Redistricting Commission
County of San Diego, State of California

NOTE: These Minutes set forth all actions taken by the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

Supporting documentation and attachments for items listed on this agenda can be viewed online at www.sdcounty.ca.gov/redistricting or in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101.

Approved by the Commission: January 26, 2022