FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is redistricting? How is it different from last time?
Every ten years, after receiving an updated U.S. Census count, local jurisdictions reestablish district boundaries. The City of Sacramento must reestablish city council district boundaries, creating council districts that are balanced in population and in accordance with local, state, and federal laws that govern the redistricting process.

In 2020 an independent redistricting commission made up entirely of community members will be formed to set those city council district boundaries in a process that is free from special interests, politics and political influence. The commission, approved by the voters of the City of Sacramento in 2016, will have 13 commissioners. Eight of the commissioners – one from each existing council district – will be selected from a pool of qualified applicants by the Sacramento Ethics Commission. Then those eight persons will then select the remaining five commissioners, plus two alternates. This commission has exclusive authority to redraw council district boundaries, ensuring that the process is powered by the people of Sacramento.

What can I do to get involved?
There are several ways to stay informed and involved about the City of Sacramento independent redistricting process:
• You can apply to be an SIRC commissioner. Applications are due by May 1, 2020 at 5:00 PM.
• You can sign up to help recruit applicants in your community.
• You can sign up to stay informed about the City of Sacramento independent redistricting process including via email, public meetings, commission meetings, and other events.

Who is qualified to serve on SIRC?
There are several qualifications in order to be eligible to apply to be a SIRC redistricting commissioner. You can view all of the qualifications on redistricting.cityofsacramento.org.

How do I know if I am qualified to serve on SIRC?
Qualified applicants must be able to answer YES to question 1 and YES to either or both question 2 and 3 below:
1) Are you registered to vote in the City of Sacramento?
2) Have you voted in two of the last three primary city elections immediately preceding your application to be on the commission?
3) Have you been a resident of Sacramento at least ten years immediately preceding your application to be on the commission?
Qualified applicants for SIRC must be able to answer NO to all of the questions below:

1) Have you, or your spouse, registered domestic partner, or child contributed to a candidate for city elective office, in a single city election cycle in either of the last two city election cycles (2016 - 2018) prior to your commission application date, more than 50% of the allowable amount for a council member candidate?

2) In the last four years, have you, or your spouse, registered domestic partner, or child been any of the following: a paid employee of the city; a registered city lobbyist, or someone who was required to be a registered city lobbyist; or a paid employee of any redistricting contractor or consultant?

3) In the last ten years, have you, or your spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, or child been any of the following: elected to, or a candidate for, city elective office; an employee of, or paid consultant or contractor to, a campaign for city elective office; a paid employee of, a consultant to, or someone under contract with any city elected official; or a principal officer of an active campaign committee domiciled in the County of Sacramento that has made expenditures on candidate elections for a city elective office?

Are there post-service restrictions or restrictions while serving as an SIRC commissioner?

Yes. Those selected to serve on the commission also have post-service restrictions including:

1) A commissioner is ineligible, for a period of ten years beginning from the date of their appointment, to hold city elective office.

2) A commissioner is ineligible, for a period of four years beginning from the date of their appointment, to be appointed to another city commission, to serve as a paid staff for or as a paid consultant to any city elected official, to receive a non-competitively bid contract with the city, or to register as a city lobbyist.

3) A commissioner shall not contribute to or participate in any candidate campaign for city elective office, from the date of appointment to the commission until 60 days after the adoption of a final map.

What is a city elective office or city elected official?

A city elective office or city elected official is the mayor and council members that represent each district.

What is 50% of the allowable amount that you can contribute to a council member in a single election cycle?

The exact figure depends on the election, but generally 50% of the allowable amount will be less than $1,650 in the 2016 and 2018 elections and less than $1750 in the 2020 election for a full election cycle (both a primary and general election).

Fifty percent of the allowable amount that you can contribute to a council member in a single election cycle is based on both the length of an election cycle and the year of the
An election cycle is defined as both a primary and general election period. Though if a candidate wins in a primary and there is not a general election period the election cycle is shorter and 50% of the allowable amount would be $825 in a 2016 or 2018 election cycle or $875 in a 2020 election cycle with only a primary election period.

**Do I have to be an expert in redistricting to be on the commission?**

No. You do not already have to know about redistricting to serve on the City of Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission or to participate in the process. An ideal applicant knows and cares about Sacramento and its diverse neighborhoods and communities.

**What is the time commitment? When, how often, and how many hours?**

The City of Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission will be formed by December 1, 2020. SIRC commissioners will receive training in February and March 2021. The commission will meet approximately twice a month April to October 2021. The SIRC must adopt a council district map by October 1, 2021.

**Is there a stipend for commissioners?**

Pursuant to City Charter section 29, the Compensation Commission shall establish the compensation that members of the commission receive for attending commission meetings. In general commission members receive a $50 stipend per meeting.

**How do I apply to serve on SIRC?**

Interested city residents can visit [redistricting.cityofsacramento.org](http://redistricting.cityofsacramento.org) to check that they meet the qualifications to serve and then fill out the online application to be on SIRC by selecting “Click here to apply to serve on the City of Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission.” It is a short, online application.

**Can I serve on more than one board or commission?**

Yes, you can. A city attorney may need to determine if there is an inherent conflict of interest by serving on two or more boards. There may also be times where there is a conflict of interest on an issue that affects both boards and commissions and you might need to excuse yourself from the decision-making and voting on that issue.

**What are the selection criteria? What do you want to know about me?**

When you fill out the online application we will ask you provide an interest statement of no more than 1800 characters stating the reason(s) you would like to serve on SIRC and to share any additional experience, community activities, or other qualifications that would be helpful in evaluating your application.

The Sacramento Ethics Commission will be screening qualifying applicants, creating a subpool of the most qualified applicants. The Ethics Commission exercising independent judgment, shall make each assignment to the subpool based on the applicant’s relevant analytical skills, familiarity with the city’s neighborhoods and communities, ability to be impartial, and apparent ability to work cooperatively with other potential commissioners.
What is the application timeline? When will I hear back about my application?
You can apply to serve on SIRC until May 1, 2020 at 5:00 PM. Then by August 1, 2020 the City Clerk will review all applications and create a qualified applicant list. The City Clerk will publish and transmit this list to the Sacramento Ethics Commission by September 15, 2020. By November 1, 2020 the Sacramento Ethics Commission will create a subpool of the most qualified applicants. SIRC commissioners will be selected and the commission established by December 1, 2020.

Who decides who will serve on SIRC?
Selection of SIRC commissioners is a multi-step and multi-person process. First, an applicant decides to apply to serve on SIRC. After May 1, 2020 the City Clerk will review all applications and create a qualified applicant list. After that the Sacramento Ethics Commission reviews the qualified applicant list, and at a publicly noticed selection meeting; allows for written and oral comment from the public and may ask additional questions of the applicants. The Ethics Commission creates a subpool of the 25 – 30 applicants most qualified to perform the duties of the commission, including at least two applicants from each existing council district. The Chair of the Ethics Commission will then randomly select eight names – one from each existing council district from the subpool. These eight individuals shall serve as commissioners on SIRC. Finally, these first eight commissioners will selection five commissioners and two alternates from the remaining applicants in the subpool. Each selection requires six affirmative votes from the eight commissioners, and the selection must be made at a publicly noticed meeting after the public has had the opportunity to provide written and oral comment.

How can I help others in my neighborhood or community apply?
If you would like to help recruit applicants from your neighborhood or know someone in your community that should apply to serve on the SIRC we have a community toolkit with resources including messages, graphics, and content for social media posts and invitation ideas for individuals. There is also a flyer, brochure, and recruitment information card available online or in print.

Contact Catherine McMullen at 916-808-6710 or cmcmullen@cityofsacramento.org if you are interested in helping to recruit applicants. Thank you!

Can you come to my event and speak about the City of Sacramento independent redistricting process?
We would be happy to talk about the City of Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission and independent redistricting process at your neighborhood event!

Contact Catherine McMullen at 916-808-6710 or cmcmullen@cityofsacramento.org if you have a community event that we should speak at.
Who do I ask if I have more questions?
Contact Catherine McMullen, Good Governance Administrator in the Office of the City Clerk, City of Sacramento at 916-808-6710 or cmcmullen@cityofsacramento.org with any questions or thoughts you might have.

You can also reach the City Clerk's Office at ethics@cityofsacramento.org or 916-808-7200. You can find out more online at redistricting.cityofsacramento.org.

SERVE YOUR CITY!
Learn more and apply at redistricting.cityofsacramento.org.

CONTACT
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