

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: August 17, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 20-0668-S2
Assignment No. 21-08-0618

Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission Budget FY 2021-2022

SUMMARY

On June 25, 2021, the City Council approved the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission's (LACCRC) Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Budget in the amount of \$1,233,210 to support their work program as mandated by the City Charter (C.F. 20-0668-S2). In a report to Council dated August 10, 2021, the LACCRC is now seeking Council approval of an amended budget in the amount of \$1,607,430 which includes an increase in the amount of \$374,220 from funds allocated in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 City Budget (C.F. 20-0668-S2). The amended budget amount reflects a 30 percent increase from the previously approved budget. The Council allocated \$1.5 million in the FY 2021-2022 City Budget to support the work of the both the LACCRC and Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission (LAUSDRC).

As previously reported to Council, the U.S. Census Bureau delayed release of the 2020 decennial data needed to complete the redistricting process from March 31, 2021, to August 12, 2021, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The delay in the release of this data has extended the working schedules of both the LACCRC and LAUSDRC by two months. Recent Council action requested that the City Attorney prepare and present an Ordinance to allow both commissions to complete their work by October 29, 2021, rather than by August 31, 2021, as mandated by the City Charter (C.F. 20-0668).

The LACCRC report indicates that the costs associated with educating the public on the importance of redistricting over a prolonged period of time, encouraging active participation in the redistricting process, and providing appropriate language access services is greater than had originally been projected. The requested amended budget provides additional funds for an extensive, updated outreach program to solicit public input in the drafting of new Council District boundaries, staffing costs, City department costs, and office-related expenses. The Commission's updated outreach strategy includes contracting with community-based organizations in order to reach traditionally underrepresented population groups, expanding social media coverage, and increasing language interpretation, translation, and access services. The amended budget was adopted by the Commission on July 31, 2021 (see Attachment A).

The CLA has reviewed the proposed LACCRC amended budget in the amount of \$1,607,430 and found that the increase amount requested of \$374,220 is in accordance with funds available in the "Census 2020 / Redistricting Commissions" line item of the FY 2021-2022 City Budget and includes costs associated with redistricting. Council action is needed to approve LACCRC's FY 2021-2022 Amended Budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Approve the Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Amended Budget in the amount of \$1,607,430 as attached to the Council File 20-0668-S2

and reflects an increase in the amount of \$374,220 from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City Budget in the “Census 2020 / Redistricting Commissions” line item; and

2. Authorize the Chair of the LACCRC, or designee, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to prepare Controller instructions and make any technical corrections necessary consistent with the Council and Mayor actions on this matter and authorize the Controller to implement these instructions.

BACKGROUND

Every ten years following the decennial U.S. Census, the Los Angeles City Charter requires that district boundaries for the City Council and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. As part of this process, the twenty-one member LACCRC and the fifteen member LAUSDRC are formed with members from the public. Each commission has the authority to make recommendations to the City Council on redistricting plans that set boundaries for the City Council and LAUSD districts until the next decennial Census. Redistricting is primarily done using U.S. Census data, which would have traditionally been released around March 31, 2021. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the data was released on August 12, 2021, more than four months later than the traditional release date. Per the City Charter, the redistricting process for the City of Los Angeles must be completed by December 31, 2021.

The delay in the release of the U.S. Census data will extend the work of the Redistricting Commissions by approximately two months. The LACCRC report provides a revised schedule that projects their work to be completed by October 29, 2021. The extended working schedule has caused an increase in staffing and professional services costs related to redistricting.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no impact on the General Fund, as funds have already been allocated in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City Budget in the Unappropriated Balance account for this purpose.

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by KEK