

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to demand a more independent, transparent, and accessible redistricting process, as is the case in almost every other major city in California. Let's not forget that the decision to consolidate nearly all of Downtown LA into District 14 has come under renewed focus in light of recent corruption investigations. The conflict of interest with politicians essentially choosing their voters must be obvious to anyone here. There are different ways to ensure transparency immediately:

1. **Timing:** The Charter requires redistricting commission members to be appointed no later than when Census data is released. The current implementation plan requires the Commission to be seated by next month, months before that deadline. More time should be granted for City Councilmembers and Citywide officials to make a thoughtful decision about their appointee. Additionally, on the subject of timing, the commission should be granted sufficient time to hold public meetings, solicit community input, draft maps, and deliver their proposed map to City Council. While changes to the elections calendar and the timeline for Census data release are currently pending, the commission should be granted at least 2-3 months after the release of Census data to carry out its work before issuing a report to the Council.
2. **City Council needs to ban ALL ex parte communications** between the commissioners, elected officials, and their staff.
3. **Removal process:** The Charter provides no guidance on the removal of redistricting commissioners and past practice has allowed the appointing authority to remove them at will, which significantly undermines the independence of commissioners. Removal should require a majority vote of the redistricting commission.
4. **Independent Staffing:** Staff for the commission should be screened for conflicts of interest before hiring - any ongoing work or recent work on behalf of a political party, incumbent City Council member, or City-level political candidate should be disqualifying. Just as city officers and employees are prohibited from serving on the redistricting commission, current/recent city officers and employees should be prohibited from serving as Director or support staff.
5. **Independent Counsel:** Under current plans, the City Attorney would advise the commission in its work. The City should follow the example of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and grant the commission the ability to hire

independent legal counsel who is not an elected official in the City of Los Angeles and thus does not have an inherent conflict of interest in the redistricting process. Thank you for your time,  
Virginia