

Communication from Public

Name: Maggie Murray

Date Submitted: 10/21/2020 09:16 AM

Council File No: 20-0668

Comments for Public Posting: I am a member of the League of Women Voters; Mitch O'Farrell is my council member. I'd like to thank the City Council for attempting to make the redistricting process more fair than it was ten years ago. However, there are more approaches to take that could serve the people of Los Angeles even better. Primarily, the disclosure ordinance does not go far enough and has many loopholes. The State of California's Redistricting Commission has an outright ban on all ex parte communication with respect to the redistricting process. For City Hall to regain the trust of its residents, L.A. City should impose a similar ban instead of just a disclosure requirement. Secondly, I want to reiterate that the Council needs to establish removal procedures for commissioners. A public statement should always be given if a commissioner is removed, and council members should remove commissioners only for a just cause. For example, if a council member disagrees with the commissioners or just wants to remove them on a whim, those are not just causes. This should be established procedure, so that commissioners can confidently make decisions that benefit the public, even if it may go against the wishes of the official who appointed them. If removal does take place, there must be a required submission of a written document. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: tracy cook

Date Submitted: 10/14/2020 03:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0668

Comments for Public Posting: My god have we not learned anything in the last four years about unfair practices? Sigh. The Los Angeles City Council must move toward a more independent, transparent, and accessible redistricting process. City Council needs to ban all ex parte communications between the commissioners, elected officials, and their staff. City Council must establish removal procedures for the commissioners including requiring that removal of a commissioner be accompanied by a reason for the removal and require a majority vote of the commission. Staff for the commission should be screened for conflicts of interest before being hired; any ongoing work or recent work on behalf of a political party, incumbent City Council member, or City-level political candidate should be disqualifying. 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Torene Svtil

Date Submitted: 10/21/2020 02:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0668

Comments for Public Posting: As I member of the League of Women Voters I would like to emphasize the need for a fair and transparent redistricting process in the City of Los Angeles. Recent revelations of corruption in city government have made it clear that things cannot continue as they have in the past. Changing the way redistricting is done is a good first step, but certain modifications could serve the city even better. The City Council has proposed a requirement that commissioners disclose any ex parte communications with elected officials or their staff. Prohibiting ex parte communications, as the State of California does, would help ensure that commissioners are not being influenced by back channel conversations. and I urge you to take that approach. If the city decides not to ban ex parte discussions, then all disclosures should be made public immediately after the conversation takes place, rather than waiting for the next Council meeting. And specific reporting guidelines should be followed. All evidence suggests that we cannot simply rely on an honor system. It is in the interest of real transparency to extend disclosure to all ex parte communications between commissioners and anyone who could influence the results, not just elected officials and their staff. Undue influence on the commissioners could be further limited by requiring a valid reason for the removal of a commissioner, with that removal requiring a majority vote of the commission. Recognizing the impact of district lines on representative government, the State of California, Los Angeles County and nearly every major city has embraced a truly independent redistricting process. It is time for the City of Los Angeles to join them. Thank you