

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood Neighborhood Council

Name: Furkan Yalcin

Phone Number: 3107179681

Email: [furkanyalcin805@yahoo.com](mailto:furkanyalcin805@yahoo.com)

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/07/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 02/15/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-1472

Agenda Date: 02/07/2022

Item Number:

Summary: The North Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission. It is a necessary and overdue step for the City Council and Los Angeles Unified School Board Districts. It is time for the City to align with the County and the State and have a truly independent redistricting commission: one with members not selected by officeholders and with the ability to draw lines without City Council meddling. The current redistricting commission is not independent at all, with appointees named by current officeholders and subject to removal at any time, even during the process. Moreover, the City Council gets the final say and can (and did) amend the final map. The 2021 redistricting process was polarized and politicized, with many neighborhoods ignored and many decisions made without adequate transparency.

Furthermore, we strongly believe that the City Council size needs to be expanded, as part of this motion and potentially the subsequent ballot measure. It is simply not possible for 15 council members to govern 4 million people. Each councilmember is supposed to represent over a quarter million residents. For comparison, in New York City (51 districts), each councilperson represents ~160,000-170,000 people. In Chicago (50 wards), each alderman represents ~54,000 people. Too large to govern each area well, LA Council districts have created an environment rife with opportunity for corruption, concentrating power in so few hands (as evidenced by a fifth of our council being indicted in the last decade). Finally, the large size of council districts often leaves neighborhood councils as the expected venue for constituent services, even though they lack the budget and staff needed to address them in the way a city council office could.



- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: [21-1472](#)

Title: November 2022 Ballot / Ballot Measure / City Charter Amendment / Independent Redistricting Commission

Position: Support

Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the creation of an independent redistricting commission. It is a necessary and overdue step for the City Council and Los Angeles Unified School Board Districts. It is time for the City to align with the County and the State and have a truly independent redistricting commission: one with members not selected by officeholders and with the ability to draw lines without City Council meddling.

The current redistricting commission is not independent at all, with appointees named by current officeholders and subject to removal at any time, even during the process. Moreover, the City Council gets the final say and can (and did) amend the final map. The 2021 redistricting process was polarized and politicized, with many neighborhoods ignored and many decisions made without adequate transparency.

Furthermore, we strongly believe that the City Council size needs to be expanded, as part of this motion and potentially the subsequent ballot measure. It is simply not possible for 15 council members to govern 4 million people. Each councilmember is supposed to represent over a quarter million residents. For comparison, in New York City (51 districts), each councilperson represents ~160,000-170,000 people. In Chicago (50 wards), each alderman represents ~54,000 people. Too large to govern each area well, LA Council districts have created an environment rife with opportunity for corruption, concentrating power in so few hands (as evidenced by a fifth of our council being indicted in the last decade). Finally, the large size of council districts often leaves neighborhood councils as the expected venue for constituent services, even though they lack the budget and staff needed to address them in the way a city council office could.