

BYLAWS  
&  
OPERATING PROCEDURES  
of the  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this commission is the CITY OF SAN DIEGO YEAR 2000 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, with each member Registered to vote in the City of San Diego. All of the activities of this Commission will be conducted in its official name.

Section 2. The sole and exclusive authority to adopt plans which specify the boundaries of districts for the City Council is vested in the Commission. After the decennial census, the Commission will adopt plans that redistrict the City into eight (8) Council Districts designated by 1 to 8 inclusively. Those districts will be used for all elections of Council Members, including their recall, and for filling any vacancy in the office of member of the Council. No change in the boundary or location of any district by redistricting as herein provided will operate to abolish or terminate the term of office of any member of the council prior to the expiration of the term of office for which such member was elected.

Districts formed will each contain, as nearly as practicable, one eighth (1/8) of the total population of the City as shown by the Federal census immediately preceding such formation of districts

Section 3. It is the pledge of the Commissioners to perform its duties to ensure fair and equitable Redistricting for all racial, ethnic and language minorities, and be in conformance with the requirements of the U. S. Constitution and Federal Statutes as amended.

Section 4. To the extent it is practical to do so, districts will preserve identifiable communities of interest; be geographically compact; populous contiguous territory will not be bypassed to reach distant populous areas; be composed of whole census units as developed by the United States Bureau of the Census; be composed of contiguous territory with reasonable access between population centers in the district, and not be drawn for the purpose of advantaging or protecting incumbents.

Section 5. Positions and opinions of the Commission will not be established or determined by any other criteria than contained in Section 5. of the San Diego Charter, amended by Proposition C., June 1992.

## ARTICLE II - Commissioners

Section 1. Members of the Commission will be composed of seven (7) persons who have been appointed by three retired Judges of the Superior Court, San Diego Judicial District drawn at random by the City Clerk pursuant to the San Diego Charter amended by Proposition C, of June 1992.

Section 2. The Judges will appoint women and men who will give the Commission geographic, social and ethnic diversity, and who in their judgment, have a high degree of competency to carry out the responsibilities of the Commission. The appointees will include individuals with a demonstrated capacity to serve with impartiality in a non-partisan role.

Section 3. Any vacancy in the Commission which occurs after the the Commission is constituted will be filled within seven (7) calendar days by the same procedure and using the same same criteria as the appointment of the initial Commissioners.

Section 4. Any vacancy created by continuous absences (without approval of the Chair) will not exceed three (3). Upon such occurrence the Commission, by majority vote, can recommend to the appointing authority, removal of the member for cause.

## ARTICLE III - Officers

Section 1. Officers will include a Chair and Vice Chair.

Their duties are as follows:

The Chair will convene and conduct regularly scheduled and or special Commission meetings, order committee meetings and other activities germane to the Commission.

All public statements will be expressly the responsibility of the Chair and any inquiries will be directed to his attention.

The Vice Chair will chair meetings and duties in the absence or instruction of the Chair.

Section 2. The Commission will employ a Chief of Staff by 5 aye votes who will serve at the Commission's pleasure, exempt from Civil Service, and will contract for needed staff, technical consultants and services, using existing City staff to the extent possible

## ARTICLE IV- Meetings

Section 1. Commission meetings will be open to the public and all records and data will be available at no charge to the public for inspection in the office of the City Clerk during normal Business hours. Copies of Records and plans shall be provided, for a reasonable fee, for any interested person.

Section 2. The Chair will establish regular and special meetings according to the requirements of the activities of the Commission and provide notices to the public thereof.

Section 3. The Commission shall make every reasonable effort to have meetings to afford maximum public access to its proceedings. It will solicit public comment and will hold at least four (4) public hearings in various geographic areas of the City before the preparation of a preliminary Redistricting plan.

Section 4. Within sixty (60) days after the Commissioners are appointed, the Commission will adopt a budget and submit it to the appointing authority. If it is approved it will be forwarded to the City Council for its consideration. The City Council shall appropriate adequate funds to the Commission and to the City to carry out their duties.

Section 5. At least thirty (30) days prior to the adoption of the final plan, the Commission will file a preliminary plan with the City Clerk, along with a written statement of findings and reasons for adoption which includes notation of all criteria employed in the process and a full analysis and explanation of decisions made by the Commission.

Section 6. During the thirty (30) day period after the filing, the Commission will hold at least three (3) public hearings in various geographic areas of the City before it adopts a final plan. Upon approval of the final plan, the Commission will adjust the boundaries of any or all of the Council districts of the City pursuant to the final plan. This final redistricting plan will be effective thirty (30) days after adoption and will be subject to the right of referendum in the manner as are ordinances of the City Council. If rejected by referendum, the same Commission will create a new plan pursuant to the criteria set forth in Sections 5 and 5.1.

#### ARTICLE- V Policies

Section 1. Decision for comportment or action of the Commission will be by majority vote of members representing a (quorum) attending the meeting.

Section 2. Commissioners will request acknowledgment from the Chair to speak to an issue.

Section 3. Commissioners are expected to attend all meetings.

Section 4. Persons who accept appointment to the Commission, at the time of their appointment, shall file a written declaration with the City Clerk stating that within five (5) years of the Commission's adoption of a final Redistricting plan, they will not seek election to a San Diego City public office. The members of the Commission will serve until the Redistricting plan is adopted and becomes effective and all legal and referendum challenges have been resolved.

Section 5. To avoid conflict of interests, all Commissioners will be governed by the highest standards of conduct regarding action or decisions on issues of Redistricting matters which may be of personal or financial benefit to themselves, members of their immediate or extended family and associates under California Code of Reg. H 1837., Conflict of Interest.

Section 6. In order to further avoid possible conflict of interest, Commissioners will not engage in independent discussions regarding Redistricting matters with attendees at public hearings at any location.

#### ARTICLE IV- Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the Commissioners and be submitted to the Chief of Staff to be sent out with regular Commission notices.

These Bylaws were approved at a meeting of the CITY OF SAN DIEGO YEAR 2000 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Date 11/29/00

