

**INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 10, 2022
6:00 PM**

Commission Members:

DISTRICT 1 – TERRY NICOL
DISTRICT 2 – JESSE SUSSELL
DISTRICT 3 – LISA M. TRAN
DISTRICT 4 – CURTIS W. HANSON
AT-LARGE – DELORES COOPER
AT-LARGE – CARLY MICHELE ALEJOS
AT-LARGE – SHERRY SMITH

DISTRICT 5 – WINSTON RHODES
DISTRICT 6 – ELISABETH WATSON
DISTRICT 7 – RANA CHO
DISTRICT 8 – ANDREW FOX
AT-LARGE – LUPE GALLEGOS-DIAZ
AT-LARGE – RONALD K. CHOY

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the Independent Redistricting Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84516471404>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **845 1647 1404**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Independent Redistricting Commission by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Commission meeting will be distributed to the members of the Commission in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record.

MINUTES

Roll Call: 6:01 p.m.

Present: Alejos, Cho, Cooper, Fox, Hanson, Rhodes, Smith, Tran, Watson

Absent: Choy, Gallegos-Diaz, Nicol, Sussel

Choy present at 6:02 p.m.

Nicol present at 6:07 p.m.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters – 4 speakers

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Commission's consideration and approval.

- Minutes - December 15, 2021 regular meeting and December 20, 2021 special meeting**
Action: M/S/C (Rhodes/Nicol) to approve the minutes of 12/15/21 and 12/20/21.
Vote: Ayes – Alejos, Cho, Choy, Cooper, Nicol, Rhodes, Smith, Tran, Watson; Noes – None; Abstain – Fox, Hanson; Absent – Gallegos-Diaz, Sussell.

Commission Action Items

The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up.

2. Review of Public Redistricting Submissions

From: Independent Redistricting Commission

Recommendation: Review and discuss the Subcommittee memo and the completed Map Matrix.

Contact: Mark Numainville, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6900

Action: 6 speakers. M/S/C (Rhodes/Nicol) to identify consensus on significant themes in the public maps as noted below.

- Unify and Prioritize COIs and Neighborhoods with Minor Changes - Several maps made minor changes to the current boundaries in an effort to correct concerns associated with the current map. For example, the elimination of boundaries established based on the residency of Council members reflected in the current City Council District Map as well as respecting the submitted COI requests.
- Two UC Student Districts - Several maps sought to establish two supermajority “student” districts to increase representation of UC Berkeley student interests on the City Council. These maps usually included student population nodes on and off campus as well as north and south of campus. Often this theme resulted in substantial changes to the other six proposed districts in an effort to equalize the population in each district.
- One More Compact UC Student District – Several maps reflected the substantial increase in student housing between the 2010 and 2020 Census. For example, the large number of students living in existing student housing north of campus near Euclid Avenue, recently built multi-story housing on or near campus, and the students living at the Clark Kerr campus.
- More Representative and Diverse Districts - Some maps were drawn specifically to increase demographic diversity and include more varied housing types and interests. The intent was to create more socio-economic diversity within each district by splitting traditional neighborhood boundaries so each district would contain a wider range of interests.
- West Berkeley District – Some maps proposed unifying west Berkeley and creating a north-south oriented district that contains the Berkeley Marina, Fourth Street, new western University Avenue housing and the City’s industrial and light industrial areas.
- Topography – Highlighting the issues of transit access and wildfire risk for neighborhoods identified by topography features of the city.

Vote: Ayes – Alejos, Cho, Choy, Cooper, Fox, Hanson, Nicol, Rhodes, Smith, Tran, Watson; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Gallegos-Diaz, Sussell.

3. Direction to Staff on Proposed Maps and Appointment of Two Commissioners to Assist with Development of Draft Maps

From: Independent Redistricting Commission

Recommendation: Provide direction to staff on the themes to include and prioritize in the five draft city council district maps and appoint the two members of the Map Drafting Subcommittee.

Contact: Mark Numainville, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6900

Action: 3 speakers. M/S/C (Rhodes/Nicol) to provide direction to staff and the Map Drafting Subcommittee on the following themes for development of the first set of draft maps:

1. Themes to be prioritized in all draft maps:
 - a. 10% Population Variance
 - b. Contiguity
 - c. Communities of Interest/Neighborhoods
 - d. Use major arterials as boundaries where possible
 - e. Correct the features of the 2010 map for Councilmember residences
 - f. Include at least one compact student district in every map

2. Themes to be included in one or more draft map variation:
 - a. Single, north-south West Berkeley district
 - b. Topography/Transit Access/ Wildfire Risk
 - c. Two different maps with different configurations for two student majority districts
 - d. A map that has a high level of continuity with the existing boundaries that includes changes only as required by the six mandatory criteria in #1 above.

Vote: Ayes – Alejos, Cho, Choy, Cooper, Fox, Hanson, Nicol, Rhodes, Smith, Tran, Watson; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Gallegos-Diaz, Sussell.

Action: M/S/C (Smith/Hanson) to appoint Commissioners Rhodes, Nicol, and Alejos to the Map Drafting Subcommittee.

Vote: Ayes – Alejos, Cho, Choy, Cooper, Nicol, Rhodes, Smith, Tran, Watson; Noes – None; Abstain – Fox, Hanson; Absent – Gallegos-Diaz, Sussell.

Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittees may provide verbal reports on their activities and discuss topics under their purview with the full commission. To take action on a subcommittee item, the topic must be agendaized on the commission's Action Calendar.

4. Final Report Drafting Subcommittee

- Reported working on the table of contents and drawing from existing materials for the final report contents.

5. Map and COI Subcommittee

- Report provided under Item 2.

6. Outreach Subcommittee

- Reported review of staff's proposed outreach plan for community review of commission maps. Suggested increasing the number of community messages; focusing paid advertisements in Berkeleyside, the East Bay Times, and the Daily Cal; revisit tabling at farmers markets'; seek additional press coverage in Berkeleyside; expand student outreach.

Information Reports

**7. Outreach Plan for Community Review of Commission Maps
From: Independent Redistricting Commission**

Contact: Mark Numainville, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6900

Action: Received and filed.

Items for Future Agendas and Meeting Calendar

- **Discussion of items to be added to the next scheduled meeting calendar**
 - None
- **Discussion and possible modifications to the meeting calendar**
 - None

Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (Nicol/Rhodes) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes – Alejos, Cho, Choy, Cooper, Fox, Hanson, Nicol, Rhodes, Smith, Tran, Watson; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Gallegos-Diaz, Sussell.

Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Independent Redistricting Commission meeting held on January 10, 2022.

Mark Numainville
City Clerk

Communications

Communications submitted to the Independent Redistricting Commission are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or redistricting@cityofberkeley.info or may be viewed through [Records Online](#).

Redistricting Suggestions

39. Aimee Baldwin

Supplemental Communications

40. Commissioner Ronald Choy