

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties  
FR: Aaron Hanke  
President, Norse Strategies  
RE: *The Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission:  
What to expect as a Commissioner*

### INTRODUCTION

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The following document has been prepared for those Santa Barbara County residents interested in serving on the Independent Redistricting Commission. By summarizing the role and responsibilities of a commissioner, this outline provides those interested parties with an understanding of expectations prior to submitting an application.

### TENURE AND SERVICE

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The term of office for each member selected to the commission will commence on the day of appointment and expire upon the appointment of the first member of the succeeding commission. Therefore the full length of a commissioner's term is: December 31, 2020-December 31, 2030.

With that being said, most of this tenure is in name, not practice. A majority of the work executed by a commissioner and the commission will occur in 2021 over an eight-month period. Over the course of these eight months, commissioners will have to attend public meetings throughout the County, participate in and encourage public discussion, operate in a manner that upholds the integrity of the process, and work with fellow commissioners to finalize new lines for the County's supervisorial districts.

### ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

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In accordance with local redistricting protocol, the 11-person commission shall be established by December 31, 2020. Therefore, all commissioners will be aware of their selection or appointment by the end of the current calendar year.

In January 2021, the redistricting process involving the general public as well as the active participation of commissioners will commence. As the governing body throughout this process, the Independent Redistricting Commission and its members will be required to organize and attend public hearings, manage and encourage public discussion, disseminate informational materials, and work as a group to form decisions.

#### Public Hearings

- By law, there will be no fewer than 14 public hearings. They will be split evenly, seven and seven, and each series of seven meetings must be held within no fewer than 30 days.
- Within each series of meetings, one meeting must be held within each of the five existing supervisorial districts—meaning no fewer than five of the seven meetings will be held in different locations.

#### Mandatory Attendance

- If a member fails to attend a majority of publicly noticed commission meetings within any three-month period, they will be dismissed from their position.

### Transportation/Travel

- A commissioner should have access to a reliable source of transportation and the capability to travel throughout Santa Barbara County.

### Schedule

- Public hearings will be held on weekdays and at various times of the day, therefore a commissioner should have a flexible schedule and the ability to manage their calendar accordingly.

### Public Communication

- During public hearings, commissioners will be responsible for the facilitation of said hearings as well as communication with members of the public participating in the discussion.

### Public Education

- Commissioners are obligated to educate residents about the importance of redistricting and encourage public participation throughout the process. With the help of County officials, members will use websites, printed materials and community calendars to fulfill these requirements.

## **RULES AND LIMITATIONS**

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Every commissioner must abide by protocols and guidelines that have been approved by County voters and adopted by the local governing body. These regulations have been established to protect the integrity of the redistricting process, and any violation may result in immediate dismissal from the commission.

County officials will work with members of the commission to ensure protocols relating to on-duty activities are followed, therefore the following rules and limitations listed pertain to times when commissioner's are off-duty or may not have access to counsel.

Throughout the entirety of their tenure, a member of the commission shall not do any of the following:

- Endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a campaign contribution to, a candidate for any County elective office
- Be a candidate for an elective County office

For four years commencing with the date of a member's appointment, he or she shall not:

- Accept an appointment to any County office, board or commission
- Accept employment as a staff member of, or consultant to, an elected County official or candidate for County elective office
- In their personal capacity, receive a noncompetitively bid contract with the County
- Register as a lobbyist for the County

## **SUMMARY**

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The process of redistricting is an extremely important aspect of the Country's Democratic system of government. The decisions made by the future commission will shape the dynamics and decisions of Santa Barbara County for the next decade. For this reason, it is imperative that commissioners are familiar with the region and eager to be a part of something that will shape their community for the next decade.

For further questions about the role of a commissioner or instructions on how to apply to be considered for the position, call or email:

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