Application to Serve on the

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

This is your application to serve as a Commissioner on the County of Los Angeles's 2020-2021 Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Read the tips below to make sure your application is complete.

Complete all fields listed on this application. Incomplete information may disqualify applicants.

Make sure you have all the pages. There are ten (10) total pages that make up this application, including this page. The pages are numbered in the bottom right corners.

Initial the top right corner of each page in the "Initial" box. This will make sure your application stays together.

Print clearly and legibly or type your application. Doing so will speed up processing time. Unclear handwriting may cause delays.

Completely fill out the entire application. Incomplete applications may not meet the specified qualifications and could be eliminated.

Don't know if you're eligible to serve on the County's Redistricting Commission? Among other requirements, you must be a registered voter in Los Angeles County to serve on the Commission. See pages 3-4 for more details.

Questions? Learn more at **LAVote.net**.

This application must be received no later than Monday, August 31, 2020, at 5 p.m. See page 10 for submittal instructions.

David

First Name

Coher

Last Name

[redacted]

Email

APPLICATION

1. Identification Information

Prefix: _____

First Name: David

Middle Name: Brian

Last Name: Coher

Suffix: _____

2. Physical A[redacted]

Street Address: [redacted]

City: [redacted]

State: [redacted]

Zip: [redacted]

County: [redacted]

In what Supervisorial District do you reside? Fifth

3. Mailing Address (If different than the address listed above)

Mailing Address/PO Box: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

4. Contact Information

Preferred Phone: [redacted]

Alternate Phone: _____

Best Time to Contact: _____

Email: _____

5. Birthdate

[redacted]

6. Gender

☐ Female ☒ Male ☐ Nonbinary

7. Racial or Ethnic Background

Select all that apply

Latinx Group

- [ ] Cuban
- [ ] Mexican/Mexican American
- [ ] Puerto Rican
- [X] Other Hispanic/Latinx Groups

Pacific Islander Group

- [ ] Guamanian or Chamorro
- [ ] Hawaiian
- [ ] Samoan
- [ ] Other Pacific Islander Group

Asian Group

- [ ] Asian Indian
- [ ] Cambodian
- [ ] Chinese
- [ ] Filipino
- [ ] Japanese
- [ ] Korean
- [ ] Laotian
- [ ] Vietnamese
- [ ] Other Asian Groups

Other Groups

- [ ] Aleut
- [ ] American Indian/Native American
- [ ] Black/African American
- [ ] Eskimo
- [ ] White
- [X] Other Racial Group,
  Please specify: Mixed Ancestry

8. Language Proficiency

Please check all languages you which you are proficient.

- [X] English
- [ ] Armenian
- [ ] Bengali
- [ ] Burmese
- [ ] Cantonese
- [ ] Farsi
- [ ] Gujarati
- [ ] Hindi
- [ ] Indonesian
- [ ] Japanese
- [ ] Khmer/ Cambodian
- [ ] Korean
- [ ] Mandarin
- [ ] Mongolian
- [ ] Russian
- [ ] Spanish
- [ ] Tagalog/Filipino
- [ ] Telugu
- [ ] Thai
- [ ] Vietnamese
- [ ] Other: _____
  _____

9. Political Party Affiliation

- [ ] Democratic
- [X] Republican
- [ ] American Independent
- [ ] Green
- [ ] Libertarian
- [ ] Peace and Freedom
- [ ] No Party Preference (Decline to State)
- [ ] Other (Please specify)

10. Eligibility Information (complete to the best of your ability)

a) Have you been continuously registered to vote in the County of Los Angeles with the same political party or unaffiliated with a political party and have not changed political party affiliation for five (5) or more years prior? (If unsure about current registration, go to **LAVote.net** for self look-up.)

[X] **Yes** [ ] **No**

b) In which of the last three statewide elections have you voted, check all that apply?

- [X] June 2018
- [X] November 2018
- [X] March 2020

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CALIFORNIA

11. Conflicts of Interest

a) Have you done any of the following within 10 years of submitting this application?

Been appointed to, elected to, or a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles, including as a member of the board?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Served as an employee of, or paid consultant for, an elected representative at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Served as an employee of, or paid consultant for a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or as an appointed member of a political party central committee?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Been a lobbyist registered with the State of California or a California local government?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**

b) Have any of your immediate family members[1] done any of the following within 10 years of the date you submit this application?

Been appointed to, elected to, or a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles, including as a member of the board?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Served as an employee of, or paid consultant for, an elected representative at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Served as an employee of, or paid consultant for a candidate for office at the local, state, or federal level representing the County of Los Angeles?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or as an appointed member of a political party central committee?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**
Been a registered lobbyist with the State of California or a California local government?	☐ **Yes**	☒ **No**

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CALIFORNIA

1. "Immediate Family Member" means a spouse, child, in-law, parent, or sibling.

12. Qualifications

a) I possess experience demonstrating analytical skills relevant to the redistricting process and voting rights, described as follows (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

Please see the attached sheets for my complete response.

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page. If you have any additional documentation to support your qualification, it may be attached.

b) I am able to understand and apply applicable state and federal legal requirements dealing with redistricting and voting rights based on the following experience (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

Please see the attached sheets for my complete response.

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CALIFORNIA

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page. If you have any additional documentation to support your qualification, it may be attached.

c) I possess experience demonstrating impartiality, described as follows (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

Please see the attached sheets for my complete response.

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page. If you have any additional documentation to support your qualification, it may be attached.

d) I appreciate the diverse demographics and geography of the County of Los Angeles because of the following reasons (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

Please see the attached sheets for my complete response.

You are encouraged to limit your response to one page, however if more space is needed, you may attach an additional page. If you have any additional documentation to support your qualification, it may be attached.

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION AND WAIVER

Disclaimer

Any commission member shall be ineligible for a period of five years beginning from the date of appointment to hold elective public office at the federal, state, county, or city level in California. A commission member shall be ineligible for a period of three years beginning from the date of appointment to hold appointive federal, state, or local public office, to serve as paid staff, or as a paid consultant to, the Board of Equalization, the Congress, the Legislature, or any individual legislator, or to register as a federal, state or local lobbyist in this state.

Legal Authority for Collection of Personal Information

The County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) and the regulations implementing the CRC require the selection of commissioners to be open to public scrutiny and free from the influence of the board and reasonably representative of the county's diversity (California Elections Code sections 21530-21535). The CRC requires the elections official to select 60 of the most qualified applicants based on their voter affiliation, eligibility to serve pursuant to the Elections Code; the absence of any conflicts of interest; relevant analytical skills; ability to be impartial; appreciate the county's diverse demographics and geography; and racial, ethnic, geographic, gender, and economic diversity. To determine each applicants identity and qualifications to serve on the CRC and to track demographic information of the applicant pool, the application seeks personal information about applicants that will be provided to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk staff, the Auditor-Controller of the County of Los Angeles, the public, including members of the press.

Consequence of Not Providing All Requested Information

Failure to provide all of the requested information will result in your disqualification and the removal of your name from the applicant pool. Thus, if you want to be considered for membership on the CRC, it is mandatory to submit a response for each item of information requested.

Permission to Use and Release Personal Information

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that the application, all documents submitted in support of your application, are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be made available to the public, including, a Statement of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700) if you are asked to submit one, letters of recommendation, materials generated as a result of any investigation of you, and all public comments and responses to public comment about your application are public records. You agree that the County of Los Angeles shall provide copies of these materials to members of the public and the press, members and staff of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, the Auditor-Controller of the County of Los Angeles, the CRC, and as otherwise compelled by law. You understand that members of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk staff and the public may make public statements about you. You authorize the County of Los Angeles to use the information submitted by and about you as it deems necessary to select commissioners, replacement commissioners, or otherwise comply with its legal duties. You also authorize the County of Los Angeles, including the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to post all materials related to your application to serve on the CRC on its website and any website authorized by the County of Los Angeles.

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION AND WAIVER

Voluntary Waiver of Privacy Rights and County of Los Angeles's Liability

By applying to be a commissioner, you are waiving your privacy and other rights under various state and federal laws including, but not limited to, the Information Practices Act (Cal. Civil Code section 1798 et seq.), and any defamation, invasion of privacy, and negligence claim you may have against the County of Los Angeles and those acting on its behalf. Accordingly, by waiving your privacy rights, you are agreeing to permit the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to release any and all information submitted by or about you, EXCEPT that the County of Los Angeles will not post on the Internet your date of birth; physical, mailing, and email addresses (excluding the city and supervisorial district); telephone numbers; the addresses and telephone numbers of your immediate family members; or any materials that the County of Los Angeles deems offensive. At this point in the process, the County of Los Angeles will not collect, and you should not voluntarily submit to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, your social security number, driver's license number, financial account numbers, or health information. By submitting your application, you acknowledge and consent to the release of the information you and others are providing related to you and, except as specifically provided above, you are waiving your right to privacy regarding all information relating to you and your application to serve as a commissioner. This waiver authorizes the County of Los Angeles to make public information submitted by or about you for a period of 12 years from the date of your application, even if you are not selected as a commissioner. You are providing this waiver voluntarily, understanding that the County of Los Angeles shall not be legally liable as a result of the release of information submitted by or about you or as the result of comments made about you by others, and that the County of Los Angeles through the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk will post on its website or otherwise release publicly. This includes claims of defamation, invasion of privacy, negligence, and any other statutory or common law claims.

Declaration

I affirm, by placing my signature below, that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I have read and understand the Privacy Notification and Waiver.

David B. Coher

Printed Name

[redacted]

August 25, 2020

Date

Return Options

Return your completed and signed application to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by Email or U.S. Mail.

Email: CRC@rrcc.lacounty.gov

Mail: Attn: Citizens Redistricting Commission
12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650

12. a) I possess experience demonstrating analytical skills relevant to the redistricting process and voting rights, described as follows (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

I believe that my personal history, education, work, and volunteer experience demonstrate that I possess the required analytical skills capable of supporting and strengthening the work of the Commission.

From my leadership in my day job leading the team managing the safe, reliable, and cost-efficient annual spending of nearly $5 billion upon energy for 14 million Californians to my past volunteer work which has ensured the provision of *pro bono* legal work to thousands of Californians, and introduced new programs for broadening access to health insurance, to the present, I have the proven experience demonstrating my analytical skills.

More important than my ability to engage in the required analytical work, however, is my proven ability to understand and synthesize the highly specialized analytical work of the technical and legal experts who will be providing advice and counsel to the Commission. Further, I believe that my experience has trained me well in how to do this and to focus upon the important points of analysis for further questioning of the experts and staff in an efficient manner that respects the time of the professional staff, the consulting experts, and fellow Commissioners.

Also, my experience in public service has trained me in how to engage with the input and information provided by the public – something that will be critical to the success of the Commission as we face, for the first time, an engaged public with the ability to craft their own maps with the push of a button on their computers or phones. Local jurisdictions have already seen this in action across California and the Commission will have to digest a voluminous body of public, non-professional mapping work.

The work calls for Commission members to regularly review compilations of such information, and develop an understanding of an issue or problem, and provide a resolution. This process is required in both my day job and the volunteer work I have previously discussed throughout this application. My personal and professional experience provides me with the ability to understand, synthesize, and communicate this information in a way that will aid consensus and resolution of these extremely complex issues.

These experiences have also helped me to learn and hone my skills in receiving expert advice, applying that advice, and participating in group decision-making as a member of a body working to address issues and problems. These skills are most important in the ability to facilitate decision-making by the body, while making only informed and useful requests of professional staff, directing the focus of the public engagement to augment the expert work product, engaging in productive, focused discussions during public hearings, and an ability to drive the Commission towards a consensus to move its work forward for the benefit of all of Los Angeles County.

12. b) I am able to understand and apply applicable state and federal legal requirements dealing with redistricting and voting rights based on the following experience (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

I believe I possess the expertise required and have the experience necessary to understand and apply the applicable legal requirements for the redistricting work of the Commission. First and foremost, as an active California attorney, who has practiced law for nearly two decades, I have the legal training and experience to understand and apply the legal requirements.

In addition to my years of experience as a practicing attorney and my volunteer work for the State Bar of California (detailed elsewhere in these essays), I have also spent several years as a compliance professional and operational manager in the energy industry – a highly regulated business where multiple local, state, and Federal agencies and Commissions regulate our day-to-day work – sometimes in seemingly contradictory manners. This has enabled me to gain substantial experience in the practical application of legal requirements from multiple sources and reconcile them in a manner that will be both accurate and productive, advancing the goals of the organization.

Another example of where I have been tasked with applying legal requirements to practical matters is my service on the City of Pasadena Board of Zoning Appeals and the City's Planning Commission. The Board of Zoning Appeals is the body with final adjudicatory authority over all land use matters in the City. Therefore, service on the Board requires an astute understanding of the application of legal requirements to the unique circumstances of the matters before the Board – similar to the work required of the Commission. Meanwhile, the Planning Commission has authority over land use regulations such as zoning and the City's General Plan and review authority over the City's capital improvements. These are matters that require the application of very different legal standards and require the exercise of judgment in the decision to be made.

The importance of the ability to apply legal requirements is not in the application of the law, itself, but in understanding the practical implications of ones decisions and how that will engender meeting the spirit, as well as the letter of the law.

I wish to serve on the Commission because it will be a positive and productive way to contribute to fixing the unnecessarily poisonous political culture that has developed in recent years. Fairly designed districts are a key first step to draining the distrust of

one another that has infected our political culture. Political participation in our system will drive trust, therefore, participation is a requirement. Participation increases when districts are perceived to be drawn with communities in mind and not with a predetermined, partisan objective.

The Commission's purpose and effect is key to such an effort and, performed well, will advance this cause. Therefore, the formal tasks of a Commissioner, such as reviewing research, engaging public input, working with experts and professional staff, and, of course, drawing lines, must be performed in a manner that ensures that our elections and their results are considered fair and impartial. I believe that my experience on other similar bodies can benefit the work of the Commission in this effort.

Fair lines are the starting point for fair elections. Ensuring a fundamentally fair election begins with the district itself, as that defines the candidates who may run, and the communities of potential voters that are - or are not - engaged in the policy debates of our elections. The community of potential voters define the issues decisive of an election. In other words, a district based in a centralized community with one or two chief issues will result in a clearer election choice for the voters than a district spread across multiple communities with multiple and competing issues.

This focus of purpose upon the election process also provides transparency for the district and its constituents as those in a district with greater continuity and sense of community know which issues they are focused upon in their voting and, therefore, understand the differences between the candidates - limiting or, hopefully, avoiding situations where voters don't participate because they believe that their vote doesn't matter.

This clarity of the community, issues, and resulting transparency is the key to an educated and active populace that can appreciate - and demand - open and fair elections. Only with these fair elections can people reasonably believe in the political process. Because, if the elections are not fair, then the process is driven by others - other persons, other political forces, others' money - all of which are easy to consider faceless and demonize. When it is easier to demonize the process than to see the validity of your participation, a poisonous political culture is a predictable reaction of even the most educated electorate.

Therefore, fair lines lead to a cohesive district community which leads to the transparency required for people to appreciate and demand fair elections, which are required for a reasonable belief in the process. I am committed to the fairness and inclusiveness of the districting process and that is why I wish to serve.

12. c) I possess experience demonstrating impartiality, described as follows (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

I view impartiality as making decisions based upon an objective criterion, setting aside personal views, political leanings, and financial interests to make decisions that provide the greatest benefit for the whole of the public being served. I take the duty of impartiality and avoiding the appearance of impropriety very seriously and consider it paramount in all my public service.

A story that demonstrates this occurred during my time as Chair of the State Bar Committee on Group Insurance Programs. The charge of the Committee was to provide guidance to the Bar's Board of Governors on risk management matters and manage the Bar's sponsorship programs that provide financial support to *pro bono* legal services.

The life insurance program, a staple of State Bar offerings since the 1950s, was the largest of those sponsorship programs and held over $100 million in trust for the benefit of program participants and, then, the funding of *pro bono* legal services programs. Unfortunately, the program was based upon a series of contracts, dating back to the 1950s, many provisions of which had been superseded by court decisions in other matters during the intervening years. In short, it was a complicated mess.

Riddled with contradictions which put millions of dollars at risk, everyone on the Committee, professional staff, and our virtual platoon of expert consultants agreed – the contracts needed to be renegotiated into a single, organized agreement. However, due to the varied goals of what Committee members thought the program should offer to Bar members and of what should be done with the money from the program, a consensus was difficult to reach. Then, add on the density and complications of the multiple documents and intervening court rulings, and we had a perfect Gordian Knot.

The Committee members, I realized, would never be able to move forward until there was a sufficient understanding of the underlying agreements. This understanding could never be developed in the brief time allotted for our Committee meetings. What was required was to sit down with each Committee member and walk-thru the agreements and the member's particular concerns. Sometimes, this meant helping them to craft plans for reaching goals that I, personally, opposed. However, I realized the greater goal of a consensus allowing forward-progress required me to help others – even if it could result in hurting 'my' cause.

Adding to the burden of these meetings was that Brown Act requirements prohibited the meetings from being with more than one Committee member at a time. Depending upon the member, this sometimes meant a long conference call and other times meant travel for me, throughout the State.

In the end, the Committee was finally able to break out of our logjam and find a consensus that has allowed for the preservation of the program and ensured that millions of dollars will benefit *pro bono* legal services programs, as originally intended.

Because I was able to put aside my personal interests and my goals (as well as the inconvenience of substantial travel), I was able to broker a consensus within the Committee and drive us to the larger achievement.

12. d) I appreciate the diverse demographics and geography of the County of Los Angeles because of the following reasons (be specific and provide specific examples to the extent available):

As a student of our state and local history, I appreciate that in California, our diversity has always been our strength – and this is especially true of Los Angeles County.

Ours is a land of contrasts – some of which persist, like our varied geography or our penchant for being on the cutting-edge of public policy – whether to the right or the left, and others which are as ephemeral as our earthquake-scared topography or our celluloid heroes. These contrasts, and their contradictions, are what make this the place we so love and they both depend upon and drive the diversity required for the real story of Los Angeles – reinvention.

It has been said that the story of America is the story of reinvention. Yet, as Wallace Stegner wrote, "the history of California is American history *in extremis*." Most starkly drawn in Los Angeles, which prides itself – sometimes to a fault – in taking reinvention to its natural limits. The diversity of Los Angeles County is fundamental to its being this home of reinvention. This requires its extensive and historical diversity for the creativity to inspire such reinvention, which itself drives further diversity, in a virtuous cycle.

Perhaps I was destined to become a student of this history, as I am a sixth-generation Californian by my birth father's mother – a woman who married a Latino immigrant. As a youth, I was raised on public assistance in a coastal beach town by a single mother, who passed too young, leaving me to be raised in Lakewood, the quintessential post-war Southern California suburb, by her East Coast-bred parents with a grandfather who worked in aerospace and a grandmother in education.

A product of my local, discredited, and overburdened public schools and a student of my local community college, I leveraged Gov. Pat Brown's California Master Plan to obtain a scholarship to one of the most elite (and privileged) private schools in our community. I went on to marry a woman whose mother is Catholic and whose father was a first-generation Pakistani immigrant. These opportunities provided me with a breadth of experience to draw upon in serving as a leader in one of our state's most historically blessed and troubled communities – where the history of Pasadena, itself, mirrors the successes and failures of California in so many ways.

Only through the diversity of our community – in every conceivable way you could choose to measure – could I be so blessed to experience so much. I hope now to have the opportunity to contribute to a fair political process that encourages all of us to determine the path towards the next Los Angeles dream of greatness.

Nonetheless, many naysayers dismiss this portrait of our community, and the California dream, as a wild-eyed optimism for a time that never was. Indeed, as Kevin Starr once wrote, "[t]here has always been something slightly bipolar about California. It was either utopia or dystopia, a dream or a nightmare, a hope or a broken promise — and too infrequently anything in between." I cannot imagine a Los Angeles County anything but seemingly on the brink of disaster leading to anything less than the grandest and boldest chapter yet in our community's history – until the next one.