

Region 2 Ad Hoc Memo

To: Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission

From: Commissioner Richard Polanco, Commissioner Maria Brenes, Vice-Chair Sonja Diaz, Commissioner Andrew Garsten, Commissioner Carlos Moreno

Date: September 13, 2021

Re: Region 2 Summary of Principles

Background: These principles were developed during five Region 2 meetings. These principles were developed by consulting written Community of Interest Testimonies submitted by the public; public testimony given at various of the Commission's 17 public hearings; and publicly submitted maps sent to the Commission. Region 2 encompasses Council Districts 1, 13 and 14.

Principles:

Region 2's main principles for developing the City Council District Map are as follows:

- The overall work of the Commission should be grounded in the imperative to adopt recommendations for district lines which comply with the Voting Rights Act, adhere to the Charter requirement to keep communities and other well-established communities of interest intact to the extent feasible, and acknowledge the unique challenges presented by the undercount.
- The reduction of the split of Neighborhood Councils, LA Times-defined neighborhoods and other well-established communities of interest boundaries is a significant but not compelling consideration.
 - This is a common theme throughout the public testimonies, as individuals explain the difficulty of working with multiple council members for their Neighborhood Council efforts. This also aligns with the Fair Maps Act requirement of keeping neighborhoods intact to the extent possible.
- The existing splits of Northeast LA neighborhood council areas, Glassell Park, Cypress Park and Highland Park, should be reduced as much as possible.
- The Region's existing southern boundary of Washington Blvd. / 10 Freeway should be retained.
- Given the need for the Region as a whole to add significant population and the nature of the City's topography, the Region's footprint must move west and/or north.

- In recognition of public testimony and the historic relationships between the Lincoln Heights, Boyle Heights and El Sereno communities, these Neighborhood Council areas of these communities should be united in Council District 14 to the extent possible.
- In recognition of the importance of Downtown to the Region and public testimony concerning the importance of the historic relationship between Downtown and the Eastside, particularly Boyle Heights, Downtown LA should remain as is in Council District 14 to the extent possible.
- Unify Koreatown into one district in a way that it allows the neighborhood to have effective and fair representation, ultimately allowing the community to have a candidate of choice
 - The Commission has received an overwhelming amount of testimony requesting Koreatown unification. The Commission has received both written and spoken testimony from the Koreatown Unification Task Force and residents alike, including a petition of over 4,500 signatures requesting Koreatown to be placed in one council district. The Koreatown Task Force map should be used as a guide.
- The above stated principles are subject to the Undercount Analysis Study that will be received in October.