## WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



1108 Bissell Avenue Richmond, CA 94801-3135

West Contra Costa Unified School District seeks applicants to serve on its Independent Redistricting Commission. This Commission will be responsible for determining the District's trustee area boundaries for the 2022 election.

In past school board elections, the District used "at-large" elections, in which the District's five Board members were elected by all voters within the District. In 2018, the Board agreed to transition to what are known as "by-trustee area" elections, commencing with the upcoming 2020 board election. In a by-trustee area election, the District is divided into five trustee areas; voters in each trustee area will elect one trustee, who must live within that trustee area.

The trustee area map for the 2020 Board election was approved by the current Board. A copy of the map can be found on page 3. The Board agreed that the trustee area map for the 2022 Board election would be prepared and adopted by an Independent Redistricting Commission. A demographer will work with the Commission to develop a proposed trustee area map (or maps) for public review and input. Following such input, as well as input from the Board, the Commission will be responsible for approving the map. That map will then be used in the 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030 Board elections.

The Commission will consist of 7 members. There will be one member from each of the District's five existing trustee areas, and two members who reside outside of the District but within Contra Costa County. Consistent with California law and the agreement reached as a result of the CVRA litigation, members of the Committee must meet particular criteria intended to help ensure the independence of the Commission. Under these criteria:

- Commission members and their spouses and family members must not have been elected or appointed or been a candidate for the Board in the past 8 years.
- Commission members and their spouses and family members must not have served as an officer, employee or paid consultant to a Board candidate in the past 8 years.
- Commission members and their spouses and family members must not have served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant to a political party or been a member of a political party central committee in the past 8 years.
- Commission members and their spouses and family members must not have been registered to lobby in the District in the past 8 years.
- Commission members and their spouses and family members must not have contributed \$500 or more to a Board candidate in the past 8 years.
- Commission members and their spouses and family must not be a Board member, their paid campaign staff, or a District staff member.

- While on the Commission, Commission members must not endorse, work for, volunteer for, or make a contribution to a candidate for Board.
- For 4 years after their appointment to the Commission, Commission members must not accept employment as staff or consultant to a Board member or Board candidate.
- For 4 years after their appointment to the Commission, Commission members must not receive a non-competitively bid contract with the District.
- For 4 years after their appointment to the Commission, Commission members must not register as a lobbyist for the District.
- For 2 years after their appointment to the Commission, Commission members must not accept an appointment to an office of the District.

The Commission may not consist entirely of registered members of one political party. In addition, Commission members will be subject to the District's conflict of interest code, which can be found here: http://gamutonline.net/DisplayPolicy/436947/9.

More detailed information regarding the requirements for the Commission can be found in the relevant portion of the Stipulation and Judgment from the CVRA litigation: https://www.wccusd.net/cms/lib/CA01001466/Centricity/Domain/16/Joint%20Ex%20Parte%20Appli cation%20for%20Entry%20of%20Judgment.pdf. Additional requirements can be found in Elections Code sections 23000- 23003

(http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displayText.xhtml?division=21.&chapter=9.&lawCode= ELEC), and on the Commission application, at the link below.

The Committee members will be screened by District staff to confirm that the selection criteria are met, following which appointment to the Committee will be determined by a Selection Judge. The District is fortunate and honored that the Honorable Thelton Henderson, formerly the Presiding Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, has agreed to serve as Selection Judge. Judge Henderson has had a distinguished career that includes notable work in the areas of civil and election rights.

The Commission will commence meeting during the 2021 calendar year, and shall complete its duties during the first half of the 2022 calendar year. It is expected that the Commission will meet a total of at least 8 times, and as many as 11 or more times. An anticipated timeline can be found here: www.wccusd.net/redistrictingcommission.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to apply for the Commission. This is a volunteer position. The application and instructions for submitting the application can be found here: <u>www.wccusd.net/redistrictingcommission</u>. Applications are due by **November 30, 2020.** Questions can be directed to Robert Jordan, Communications Director, (510) 231-1129 or redistrictingcommission@wccusd.net.

