

APPLICATION FOR "COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION"

Applications Due By: August 21, 2020, 5:00PM

Application Revised: 6/29/2020

Date Received:

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete each item below and sign the application. For more information please [review the ordinance](#), visit the redistricting webpage at: www.countyofsb.org/redistricting or email questions to redistricting@countyofsb.org.

Please print legibly in ink or type. When completed, print and sign the application. Submit the application by mail, drop off or email as listed on the signature page.

1. Today's Date: 8/21/20

2. NAME:

Adams

Kathryn

Tracy

Last

First

Middle

Santa Maria

93454

City

Zip Code

6. Are you or have you been employed by the County of Santa Barbara? YES No If YES, list:

Department:

Title:

Date:

Demographic Section: Providing this information is optional. You may select "decline to state" for each answer. County Ordinance Code Section 2-10.9A, (4)(h)(3) requires six of the 11 appointees, in addition to meeting minimum requirements, be chosen in a way that ensures the Commission reflects the County's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, age, and gender diversity. However, formulas or specific ratios shall not be applied for this purpose.

7. Please describe your ethnic origin. Mark one or more boxes.

- BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN: All persons having origins in any of the original Black racial groups of Africa.
- HISPANIC/LATINO: All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- ASIAN: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain cultural affiliation or community recognition.

WHITE (not of Hispanic Origin): All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.

Decline to state

8. Select the gender you identify as:

Female Male Non-Binary Decline to state

9. What is your age: 63 Decline to state

10. EXPERIENCE: Please explain why you are interested in serving and what experience you bring to the Commission. Attach an additional page if necessary.

“May you live in interesting times.” This apocryphal phrase has been invoked in the Western world for decades. Sometimes it is perceived as a blessing; sometimes it is perceived as an ironic curse. Given the unprecedented events we are all now living through in the United States, I find it to be deeply appropriate in both senses.

With a pandemic spreading tragedy and chaos across the nation, and with wildfires currently spreading destruction across our beautiful home state, surely we might mark this moment as “cursed”. But I also see the blessing: emergencies bring us together; they inspire us to rise to the level of our best selves.

My “best self” invites me to bring more to my already active civic engagement by applying to join the Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission. While I am a registered and regular voter, a member of my local chapter of the Women’s League of Voters, and a volunteer in other community organizations, I have come to feel a particular urgency to serve my democracy in these “interesting times.”

I remember reading local and state-wide journalism in 2010--at the moment of our last Census-- about the work that the Citizens Redistricting Commission was able to do after passage of the Voters First Act. As someone who voted for Proposition 11 in 2008, I felt proud of California’s effort to “move the needle” on the constellation of problems that arise--not just in California but nationally--when legislatures become the central arbiter determining district boundaries, which in turn shape the outcome of elections. Citizen-staffed redistricting commissions in California seemed, to me, to be the best sort of democratic reform. Making citizen-commissioners central to an effort that privileged data-driven analysis and impartial deliberation over the “inside the beltway” status quo seemed to me then--and now--a good way to make elections more competitive and therefore fairer in every district throughout the state.

Yet in 2010, my interest was more “armchair” than “advocate.” Since that time, I have become more civically active in my own community on a number of levels, and I have become more generally concerned about the integrity and durability of our nation’s most cherished civic ritual: abiding by the “people’s voice” through fair elections. I am applying to serve on the county redistricting commission because I am convinced that democracy is not a spectator sport--it requires more from each of us than we sometimes assume, and it requires all of us to pitch in, however we can, in local, state, national, and global arenas.

I am passionately committed to the power and promise of the franchise, and like most Americans, I am troubled by both the historic meaning of “gerrymandering” and the current legal and legislative battles that have tinkered with the outcomes of “one person one vote” in various states and counties

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Give any other relevant information pertaining to your qualifications and experience that bear on your application for the Commission.

For most of my adult life, I have taught critical thinking, writing, and reading as a professor of English or American Studies at a variety of universities and community colleges. As such, I have learned that for most people, our assumptions about the world are alarmingly unexamined: most of us don't know what undergirds our opinions, our positions, or our views of others with whom we share community. But when we apply reason and inquiry in rigorous, methodical, and self-conscious effort--in other words, when we practice critical thinking--we can learn to "peel the onion" of our own (unexamined) worldviews.

I imagine that what is wanted in members of the county's redistricting commission is the skill of impartial analysis. By analysis, I mean the careful examination of complexities, or the breaking into parts of complicated systems in order to understand the whole.

The relevant analytical skills that belong to me and that might serve the goals of the commission rest primarily on words rather than numbers. Unlike (for example) accountants or computer scientists, my profession has taught me a deep reverence for words and their power to persuade, prevaricate, and promise all manner of things. I have learned to examine them, peer under their skin for biases, beauty, and missing claims, and to use them myself in support of my values and beliefs.

If you choose to select me for service on the commission, you are selecting an analyst of words and a critical thinker/reader whose life's work has immersed her in sentences, paragraphs, persuasive

***Required Selection Criteria: Please answer the following yes/no questions.**

*Are you a resident of the County of Santa Barbara?

Yes No

*Are you registered to vote in the County of Santa Barbara?

Yes No

*Have you changed your registered political party affiliation within the past 5 years?

Yes No

*Have you voted in Santa Barbara County in at least one of the last three statewide elections?

Yes No

*I have read and comply with the provisions of Elections Code § 23003(c), (d) and (e).

Yes No

*Do you have any significant financial interest, as defined in County Ordinance Sec. 2-10.9A. - Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission, in any company, corporation or other business entity that has donated five hundred dollars or more in one year to any candidate for elective office of the County of Santa Barbara, or to any controlled committee, primarily formed committee, general purpose committee, independent expenditure committee that expended funds in support or opposition to a candidate for elective office of the County of Santa Barbara within the last eight years preceding appointment to the commission?

Yes No

*Have you or any immediate family member, within the last eight years preceding appointment to the commission, contributed five hundred dollars or more in one year to any candidate controlled committee, primarily formed committee, or general purpose committee, independent expenditures committee or other political action committee that has expended more than one thousand dollars in support or in opposition to the election campaign for any elective office of the County of Santa Barbara?

Yes No

*Have you or any immediate family member, within the last eight years preceding appointment to the commission, been a board member, officer, paid or volunteer staff of, or had a significant influence on the actions or decisions of a political committee required to register with the California Secretary of State, which expended funds in excess of five hundred dollars in support or opposition to a candidate for any elective office of the County of Santa Barbara, including member communications.

Yes No

How this application will be used:

I understand the contents of this application may be made available to the public including posting on the internet.

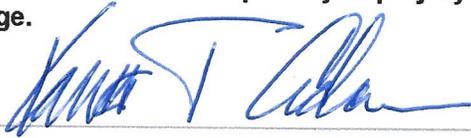
Yes, I understand

I understand that while this application is a public document, my personal e-mail address, street address, and phone number(s) will be kept confidential to the extent authorized by law.

Yes, I understand

By signing below, I declare under penalty of perjury that the answers provided in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:

 8/21/20

Completed applications must be received by Friday, August 21, 2020 at 5 p.m. Double check your answers in the application; once submitted, applications cannot be amended. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

OPTION 1:

Mail To:

Joseph E. Holland
Redistricting Commission
County Clerk, Recorder, Assessor, Registrar of Voters
P.O. Box 159
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0159

Drop Off in Person To:

Joseph E. Holland Redistricting Commission Assessor's Office
105 E. Anapamu St, Room 204 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

OPTION 2:

E-mail your completed application. Ensure the application is signed (no e-signatures), then e-mail the application to: redistricting@countyofsb.org

For more information please [review the ordinance](#), visit the redistricting webpage at: www.countyofsb.org/redistricting or email questions to redistricting@countyofsb.org.

ADDITIONAL PAGE--KATE ADAMS--APPLICATION-SB County Redistricting Commission

QUESTION 10:

across the nation. I am fortunate to live in California, where citizens have been empowered at both state and county levels to carefully and soberly use Constitutional tools to make sure that we, the voters, choose our leaders rather than enabling leaders to choose their voters.

QUESTION 11:

historical and literary documents, manifestos, arguments, white papers, poems, content analyses, narratives, and the occasional comic strip. You are also selecting a lifelong learner, willing to give to the commission by receiving opportunities to learn from fellow commissioners and staff whose professional lives have emphasized other literacies than the ones I own.

I'm reminded of a message I once saw on a social media page sponsored by the California Acceleration Project--a state-wide effort to bring more equity to all students seeking higher education. The message was a reminder that people can do complex, high-level analysis while needing a review of basics now and again: "Hello, my name is Joby," the message said. "I have a PhD in Physics and I work at NASA and I just had to look up the equation for the volume of a sphere." Like Joby, I have never been afraid "to learn in public."

Thank you for considering my application.