

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: 08-21-20

2. NAME:

Murti

Lata

Last

First

Middle

Santa Maria-Orcutt

93455

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: 44 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.

My professional and community experiences can help me redraw voting district lines to ensure that all of Santa Barbara County's diverse communities are represented in local politics.

Professionally, I am an Associate Professor of Sociology for Brandman University. As a sociologist, I am keenly aware of how the apparently independent decisions of individuals are actually greatly influenced by social and political factors and forces. I have also learned what questions to ask and what data to analyze to find out what those sociopolitical factors and forces are. For example, I was informally asking and analyzing why some Santa Barbara communities are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others before local media revealed that undocumented agricultural workers and incarcerated individuals (nearly all of whom are people of color) are more susceptible to the virus because they are not able to work from home nor socially distance (<http://www.santamariasun.com/news/19892/farmworkers-in-santa-barbara-and-san-luis-obispo-counties-remain-vulnerable-as-the-covid19-crisis-continues/>).

Also, as a local educator, I am always learning from others. Many of the working adult students I have taught during the past nine years—both in my hybrid (part online, part in person) classes on Brandman's Santa Maria campus and in my fully online classes—are from Santa Barbara County. They have educated me about local communities, as I have not grown up in the county. I have learned from them some of Santa Maria's specific needs, such as having more K-12 teachers from the city or county instead of from San Luis Obispo County, and also a more bilingual (Spanish-English) workforce, in addition to more jobs for those who are not Spanish-English bilingual. Helping to redraw voting districts so that county residents are better able to elect representatives who can make sure these needs are met is one way I can work to address these needs.

Additionally, I have been active in community organizations that have given me firsthand insight into local, County needs. Serving as a community volunteer for Santa Barbara County Education Office's Partners in Education organization since 2013 has allowed me the opportunity to speak in classrooms throughout the county about college and my career. In those classrooms, I hear our youth's concerns about their communities. They want to foster more respect for public facilities and spaces, the environment, and for each other. And they are our future voters. I want to help make voting as accessible as possible for them so their voices and concerns are heard.

Moreover, I am currently the 2020-2021 Co-President Elect of the Santa Maria Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). As the organization is currently celebrating the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment and U.S. women's right to vote, I have been learning (and informally educating others) that this right did not extend to all women of color until 1965; and many women of color nationwide still face barriers to voting. I want to do my part to help make sure no such barriers exist in Santa Barbara County.

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

Personally, as a South Asian American woman who has lived in many different parts of the nation and spent a considerable amount of time in Latin American and India, I have learned through experience what it means to respect diversity—namely, how to practice cultural humility and really listen to others on their terms without assuming to know what others need. Also, I have learned how to do this in more than one language, as I am proficient in Spanish and also have a basic, conversational knowledge of Tamil (a South Indian, Dravidian language). I believe that cultural humility and active listening, as well as asking the right questions when appropriate, are important skills and experiences that I can bring to the Commission to help redraw voting districts in ways that are fair to all of Santa Barbara County's communities.

Recently, I helped to organize and facilitate a webinar through my university on the importance of Census 2020 data for all communities. The webinar featured speakers from Kern County who work for the Census Bureau and for non-profit organizations in the county. It was from these speakers that I learned the importance of Census 2020 data for redistricting. As a sociologist, I already knew the importance of census data for academic research. But I didn't realize its importance for redistricting, specifically, until the webinar. Now I am excited that I may possibly be able to apply Census 2020 data not only in my research but also in ways that help to improve my local community and County. As I learned from the webinar speakers, Census 2020 data are particularly significant because, for the first time, respondents can write in their ethnic identities in addition to indicating their racial identities. As a result, we will have more data on our nation's and county's diversity than ever before.

***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:

Latao Murti

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

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