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Subject: Board Meeting April 27 2021 Item 27

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For Board of Supervisors Meeting, April 27, 2021 Item #27

From: Elizabeth Shields, Voter Services VP
League of Women Voters of Fresno

The League of Women Voters of Fresno recommends the following process and criteria for selecting members to the Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission. It is our belief that there is substantial risk for litigation if the Commission does not demonstrate its independence from the Board of Supervisors.

First, there must be an application process, and applications should be made available to County residents on the Fresno County Redistricting website with publicity about the availability of the applications made through the local media outlets.

Next, based on Elections Code Section 23002, individuals appointed to the Commission cannot be elected officials of the County, nor can they be family members, staff members, or paid campaign staff of any elected County official.

Additional requirements drawn from Elections Code Section 23003 for Hybrid and Independent Redistricting Commissions should be included, such as:

- Persons, and family members of persons who, if in the four years preceding his or her application, have been elected or appointed to office, or been a candidate for a County elected office.
- Persons and their spouses who have served as officers, employees or paid consultants to a campaign committee, a candidate for County elected office, or a political party.
- Persons and their spouses who have served as staff members, consultants to, or contracted with a currently serving County official.
- Persons and their spouses who have served as volunteers in excess of 500 hours within two years to a campaign committee.
- Persons and their spouses who have contributed \$1000 or more in a year to a candidate for County elective office.

The selection of the County's Advisory Redistricting Commission, if undertaken thoughtfully, can instill confidence in the redistricting process, and reduce disagreement when the final lines are drawn. We submit these recommendations cognizant of the scrutiny that the redistricting processes across the state and the county will be receiving in the coming months, particularly with respect to the demographics of the area. We urge you to establish a transparent and fair process for selecting Advisory Redistricting Commission members.