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21.001 – INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

21.001.001 – Description

The 2021 Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) is an advisory committee created by the Lane County Board of Commissioners with the authority granted in Lane Manual section 3.505. The purpose of the IRC is to create options for the Board of Commissioners to comply with the obligation imposed by the Lane County Home Rule Charter Chapter III, section 3 subsections (d) and (e) to not less than every 10 years to modify the district boundaries for Lane County Commissioners. The redistricting options must comply with the relevant law relating to redistricting, voting rights and the applicable local, state and federal legal requirements.

A. Composition.
   1. The IRC shall be composed of fifteen (15) Regular members and three (3) Alternate Members;
   2. The membership of the IRC should reflect the diversity of Lane County and shall include members with the following characteristics: areas of expertise, advocacy experience, community involvement, profession, education, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, age, religion, speaking English as a second language and geographic identification, political affiliation and non-affiliated voters, registered voters and non-registered voters; and,
   3. All potential members will be required to complete the application described in section 2.

B. Qualifications/Application.
   1. Applicants will be solicited in the following manner:
      a. Notice will be sent by e-mail to all of those that expressed interest in the redistricting process during the Board’s September 15, 2020 and December 2, 2020 listening sessions and the January 27, 2021 work session and anyone that has e-mailed the Board of Commissioners regarding redistricting; and,
      b. The advertisement for applications will be run for not less than thirty (30) days. The advertisement will be posted in the same manner as vacancies on other Lane County Committees.
   2. All members of the IRC must meet the following qualifications:
      a. Be a resident of Lane County at the time of appointment to the IRC; and
      b. Complete the application described in section 2(b).
   3. All members of the IRC must complete the application form and the Oregon Government Ethics Commission disclosure form.

C. Selection of IRC.
   1. Each commissioner will select one applicant to serve as a member of the IRC.
      a. Committee staff will remove all personally identifying information creating a "blind" application.
b. Each commissioner using the blind application will select one person from their district to serve on the IRC applying the criteria in section 1(b).

2. The five (5) Regular members selected by the five (5) Commissioners will select the remaining ten (10) Regular members and three (3) Alternate members of the IRC.
   a. The process used by the five (5) Regular members to select the remaining ten (10) Regular members and three (3) Alternate members will follow the same process and apply the same criteria as the selection of Regular members described in Section 1(b) and,
   b. The selection process must be transparent and comply with the Oregon Public Meeting Law.

D. Duties of the IRC.

1. The IRC will prepare at least two (2) but not more than four (4) proposed redistricting plans in ordinance form for adoption by the Lane County Board of Commissioners as required by the Lane County Home Rule Charter Chapter III, section 3 subsections (d) and (e); and,

2. The proposed plans must comply with the relevant law relating to redistricting, voting rights and all applicable local, state and federal requirements; and,

3. The proposals must be ranked by the IRC in the order of its preference and the IRC must report to the Lane County Board of Commissioners the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal.

E. Operation of the IRC.

1. The IRC will conduct all of its work in compliance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law;

2. The IRC will operate according to By-Laws and the By-Laws are by this reference incorporated herein.
   a. A draft of the By-Laws shall be initially adopted by the Lane County Board of Commissioners;
   b. Once the full fifteen (15) Regular members and three (3) Alternate members of the IRC has been selected the first order of business is to review and make any suggested changes to the By-Laws adopted by the Board of Commissioners;
   c. The Board of Commissioners shall approve the final version of the By-Laws and any subsequent amendments to the By-laws proposed by the IRC.

3. Staffing. The IRC will be staffed with a person from County Administration, County Counsel and the Lane County Clerk.

F. Duties of the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

1. Shall approve the IRC By-laws and any subsequent amendment of those By-Laws; and,

2. In accordance with the Lane County Home Rule Charter Chapter III, section 3 subsection (e) the Board shall adopt in the form of an ordinance a redistricting plan; and,

3. The plan adopted by the Board shall be a plan, unchanged by the Board, developed and proposed by the IRC.

(Ordinance 21-04, 07.08.21)