

Public Input on Interpretive Guidance, Draft Applications, and 10-ONE Timeline

Citizen	Date	Input	OCA Position	Action Item
Jim Walker	12/21/2012	Questioned when applications would be accepted	Applications are available on January 18, 2013 and will be accepted from that day onwards until February 22, 2013	Email response
Steve Rogers	12/21/2012	Could not find draft documents	Draft documents are located on the landing page of the 10-ONE website at www.austintexas.gov/10-ONE	Email response
Delane Edwards	12/21/2012	Questioned on how citizens could confirm voter registration and participation in last 5 elections.	Form will be placed on website to request voters information	Upload forms to website
Marilyn Rogers	12/21/2012	Questioned if applications were still being accepted	Applications will become available on January 18, 2013 and will be accepted until February 22, 2013	Email response
John Corry	12/21/2012	Potential for bias towards one group or other groups.	With regard to the City Auditor's role, as required by the Charter, the process is transparent and nonpartisan. We have reached out to all parties we have been able to identify to ensure that the diversity of the City of Austin is being represented.	Post public input spreadsheet
Sam McGlamery	12/22/2012	Input on equally populated geographic districts drawn like a pie, equal in population	Charter defines structure of how the lines will be drawn by the redistricting commission not the City Auditor.	Post public input spreadsheet
Brian Almon	12/23/2012	definitions of "Community Partners"	see list of organizations on 10-ONE website in the FAQ section	upload info
Brian Almon	12/23/2012	definitions of "various parts of the City"	Not the City Auditor's purview to define. Charter does not define it. So it is up to the Applicant Review Panel to define it.	Post public input spreadsheet
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Application: What is the definition of "race or ethnicity"? Does this mean "white" or "Caucasian"?	Left to applicant to self-identify.	Post public input spreadsheet
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Application: Not enough room for people with multiple majors or multiple graduate degrees. What about honorary degrees?	Open ended question at the end of application allows for this.	Post public input spreadsheet
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Application: Is it clear which is "highest" person with, say a medical and a law degree?	Open ended question at the end of application allows for this.	Post public input spreadsheet
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Application: does the city/county/state have any records to determine whether a person has voted in the last 3 out of 5 general city elections?	County form will be placed on website to request voters information	Upload forms to website
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Consistently spell "email". Both spelling "email" and "e-mail"	Agreed	Incorporate Input
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Just above the signature, why is the section titled "DISCLAIMER"	To highlight what applicants are attesting to.	Post public input spreadsheet
James Peterson	12/27/2012	Spouse name section does not allow for case where there is no spouse.	Applicant can enter N/A in a cases where there is no spouse.	Post public input spreadsheet
Toni Rayner	12/29/2012	Input on geographic districts not racial (basic "blind" grid layout)	Charter defines structure of how the lines will be drawn by the redistricting commission not the City Auditor.	Post public input spreadsheet
Rodger Barnes	1/2/2013	Input on letting computer draw lines	Charter defines structure of how the lines will be drawn by the redistricting commission not the City Auditor.	Post public input spreadsheet
Ken Rigsbee	1/3/2012	Input on distribution at City facilities	Already incorporated select City facilities into outreach	Post public input spreadsheet
Gerald Gilligan	1/4/2012	Application: Is Voter Registration number the VUID on left side of Voter card? If so, use this as a descriptor and mention it in glossary.	Agreed, "VUID" was added to the section asking for the voter registration number on the Commission application.	Incorporate Input
Gerald Gilligan	1/4/2012	Application: Ethnicity? What are you looking for? Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic OR is it Jewish, Italian American and so on. If it is the former, use two check boxes, if more then provide guidance.	Left to applicant to self-identify.	Post public input spreadsheet
Gerald Gilligan	1/4/2012	Application: Is there a simple way for people to check their voting record in order to avoid checking the wrong box?	County form will be placed on website to request voters information	Upload forms to website
Gerald Gilligan	1/4/2012	Process: Do not publish alternate 8 commissioners unless they are called to serve. The 8 may think they have priority to be in the 6 commissioners later picked.	There are no alternative 8. The City Charter requires the drawing of 8 and the selection of 6 additional commissioners by the 8.	Post public input spreadsheet
Alden Oreck	1/5/2013	Question on applying	Applications will become available on January 18, 2013 and will be accepted until February 22, 2013	Email response
Mike McAllister	1/7/2013	Input on 10-1 redistricting charter interpretation: the use of "an" in p6, line 30-31	This was meant to be "an"	Post public input spreadsheet
Mike McAllister	1/7/2013	transparency on the name struck off the list by Council. Also a public disclosure of which council members used this right and which applicant they strike off.	Agreed. We intend to hold a public meeting where Council can exercise this option and post this information to the redistricting website.	Post public input spreadsheet
Mike McAllister	1/7/2013	repetition of the word "shall" in p.13 line 7 and 8	Agreed	Incorporate Input
Mike McAllister	1/7/2013	changing the deadline date to 2013 for both panel and commission application forms.	Agreed	Incorporate Input
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	AGR is happy with the timeline and the dates	N/A	Post public input spreadsheet

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Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	<p>Interpretative Guidance should clearly state that the panel has an affirmative duty to select 60 commission applicants that reflect racial, geographic, and gender diversity of Austin. He suggests using the following revision language in Section 2(A)(4):</p> <p>"The panel has a duty, in addition to selecting applicants for the pool based on their qualifications, to select applicants with regard to assembling a pool whose membership is diverse."</p>	<p>The purpose of the interpretative guidance is to address gaps or ambiguities in the charter. We do not see a gap or an ambiguity in the charter that needs to be addressed on this point. (We do not believe the City Auditor has the authority to add duties to the responsibility of the Panel or the Commission.)</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	<p>General elections should include May and November dates:</p> <p>Proposed revision: Section2(a)(4): "(y) City of Austin general elections" means May and November City elections."</p>	<p>Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	<p>Interpretative Guidance: "officers of political parties" should be revised to exclude precinct chairs, who should not be disqualified because they are not day-to-day decision-making principals of the parties and therefore do not reasonably appear to have a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Proposed language: Section 2(a)(4)(p)as follows: "Officer" with respect to a political party means a county chair, county secretary, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code."</p>	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	<p>Qualified Auditors should be paid reasonable and necessary compensation for their service as intended by AGR drafters; also as it falls under Section 3 (K)(9), which mandates that the "the City of Austin shall appropriate sufficient funds to meet the operational cost of the commission."</p>	<p>The Charter does not give the City Auditor authority to make decisions on budgetary issues. The City Auditor's role is limited to the selection process.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	<p>Look to California's law and interpretation in construing Austin's ICRC provisions and interpreting ambiguous statutory language.</p> <p>Texas courts look, among other things, to the "circumstances under which the statute was enacted" and "the legislative history." Tex. Gov. Code 311.023.</p>	<p>We have looked at California's law and process but subject to Texas law and city ordinances to interpret the Charter amendment.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet

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Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	California language on diversity also included "economic diversity". This should also be included in Austin's interpretation and the Draft Guidance.	We have included the diversity characteristics required by the Charter in the applications. Should an applicant wish to disclose further information related to their diversity, the application allows them to do so.	Post public input spreadsheet
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	City Auditor to mail a letter to all registered voters in Austin if he follows the May election interpretation.	Already incorporated to contact registered voters who, through best efforts, appear to meet the 5 year registration and the 3 out of 5 voting requirement.	Post public input spreadsheet
Fred Lewis	1/8/2013	Special outreach effort should be placed on increasing applications from minority and other communities that have historically voted at a lower rates than Anglos in Austin.	Already incorporated into outreach efforts	Post public input spreadsheet
Brad Parsons	1/8/2013	Interpretative Guidance should clearly state that the panel has an affirmative duty to select 60 commission applicants that reflect racial, geographic, and gender diversity of Austin;	The purpose of the interpretative guidance is to address gaps or ambiguities in the charter. We do not see a gap or an ambiguity in the charter that needs to be addressed on this point. (We do not believe the City Auditor has the authority to add duties to the responsibility of the Panel or the Commission.)	Post public input spreadsheet
Brad Parsons	1/8/2013	General elections should include May and November dates;	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Brad Parsons	1/8/2013	Interpretative Guidance: "officers of political parties" should be revised to exclude precinct chairs, who should not be disqualified because they are not day-to-day decision-making principals of the parties and therefore do not reasonably appear to have a conflict of interest.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Brad Parsons	1/8/2013	Qualified Auditors should be paid reasonable and necessary compensation for their service as intended by AGR drafters.	The Charter does not give the City Auditor authority to make decisions on budgetary issues. The City Auditor's role is limited to the selection process.	Post public input spreadsheet
Brad Parsons	1/8/2013	ANY prior PAID involvement, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, in City Council campaigns should be a clear disqualifier for serving on the 10-1 Districting Commission, consistent with the intent of the original 10-1 petition.	Our process incorporates the qualifications and conflict of interest prohibitions as laid out in the Charter. Our interpretation are meant to be inclusive as possible within the word of the Charter.	Post public input spreadsheet
Brad Parsons	1/8/2013	The applications of the applicants should be available for review by the public as well as the spreadsheet of names, in a timely manner, at least until the commission is selected.	We intend to post all applications received.	Upload applications
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	Provide ample time for the robust citizen input (review, feedback, and community outreach effort promoting the proposed ten district boundaries) once the the ICRC has established "draft" boundaries.	Charter defines structure of how the lines will be drawn by the redistricting commission not the City Auditor.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	Deadline proposed in revised timeline should not be delayed any further.	Agreed	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	process of applying, being qualified to serve, and possibly serving on the ICRC should guarantee a fair and transparent selection of a pool of 60	Not the City Auditor's purview. Selection of the 60 most qualified is entirely within the discretion of the Applicant Review Panel.	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	Qualified auditors should reflect the broadest demographic of city.	Our outreach plan includes contacting all qualified CPAs regardless of demographics	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	qualified auditors should be charged with an "affirmative duty" to ensure diverse pool of applicants that reflects the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of Austin. "In Phase IV, the Panel shall select, according to the criteria set forth in the charter, a <u>diverse</u> pool of 60 most qualified applicants from the pool of qualified Commission applicants and submit this selected pool to the city council. <u>The panel has a duty, in addition to selecting applicants for the pool based on their qualifications, to select applicants with regard to assembling a pool whose membership is diverse.</u> "	The purpose of the interpretative guidance is to address gaps or ambiguities in the charter. We do not see a gap or an ambiguity in the charter that needs to be addressed on this point. (We do not believe the City Auditor has the authority to add duties to the responsibility of the Panel or the Commission.)	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	Qualified auditors should be paid a reasonable compensation for their services.	Not City Auditor's Purview. City Council deciding reimbursement of reasonable expenses.	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	Guidelines should clarify with more detail and specifics how the process will guarantee a balanced and diverse commission.	The City Auditor's process does not provide a "guarantee" but does provide for reasonable and assertive outreach efforts to provide balance and diversity.	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	General election should include both May and November dates. Draft Guide, Section 2(a)(4): (y) "City of Austin general elections" means May and November City elections.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	the essay question section should include a reminder to applicants that this is not a "college essay" on grammar but rather it can described as "a tool to capture the applicant's substantial life experience" and that "these responses will be evaluated on content and NOT essay writing skills".	Not the City Auditor's purview to determine how the essays will be evaluated. It will be the Applicant Review Panel's authority to determine what is appropriate to evaluate.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	serving as a political party precinct chair does not exclude anyone from applying to serve on the commission, as precinct chairs are not routine decision-makers and would not be compromised by conflicts of interest.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	ALPC wants much more information about the process moving forward once the public comment period closes.	All available information will be posted on the redistricting website.	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	Publish the public comments with the City Auditor's response to each comment.	Already incorporated into plan	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	What process will be utilized to arrive at the important final interpretation, guidance, applications, timelines, etc. to be utilized for this effort?	Review of all comments, consideration of the charter, consultation with legal counsel, public information office staff, and final decision by the City Auditor.	Post public input spreadsheet
Austin Latina Policy Coalition	1/10/2013	When do you expect the above decisions to be made and shared with public?	As soon as all public input has been considered and appropriate responses have been determined.	Email response
Jose A. Velasquez	1/11/2013	General elections should include both May and November dates.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	The eligibility criteria and the conflict of interest provision joint with the open-ended time commitment, lack of stipend, and heavy work-related demands common in immigrant community will seriously reduce the chances of any Asian American serving on the commission.	City Auditor does not have the authority to alter any of these factors. Rather, he is working within the confines of the charter.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Conflict of interest guidelines are vague. It is not entirely clear, particularly to those with limited English proficiency or understanding of legal language, that the \$1,000 aggregate number includes contributions to all candidates for city office in a cycle, rather than to a single candidate per cycle.	Applicants in need of additional clarification on any issue can contact our office directly or attend one of the Application Info Sessions.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	The contribution definition does not include contributions to general political action committees, enabling those who primarily influence elections through GPACs to skirt this limitation. This is also difficult to verify.	The Charter prohibits campaign committees of candidates but does not extend to general purpose committees participating in a Council election. In the interest of being inclusive, the City Auditor followed the language of the Charter as literally as possible.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	The conflict of interest guidelines are vague with respect to professional or political contract to the City of Austin or City Council of Austin and their members. Small business owners and employees that may have provided an extremely limited service through contracts may not realize that they have triggered a conflict, exposing themselves to potential criminal and other liability if they apply. (He provides a couple of examples)	The City Charter does not provide for any limitation on the amount of a contract with respect to a professional or political contract.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	It is unclear what contracts "solely for the sale of goods" means. Would a restaurant that provided food as well as workers to serve it have been operating under a contract "solely for the sale of goods"?	If the primary purpose of the transaction is the goods, the associated services are incidental. Therefore the transaction would be considered "solely for the sale of goods."	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	What does the term "conclusive evidence" mean regarding reconsideration of disqualified applicants? Is this less or more than "beyond a reasonable doubt"? More or less than "clear and convincing evidence"? This term is not defined anywhere in the guidance.	Conclusive evidence is written documentation that leaves no doubt. Will add definition in Interpretive Guidance.	Incorporate Input
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	There is no guidance on how an applicant is to seek reconsideration in cases where there is a dispute with the City Auditor's interpretation of eligibility, conflict of interest, or procedural requirements, other than a factual dispute.	The Interpretive Guidance incorporates a process for reconsideration, the result of which is the City Auditor's approval. The charter authorizes only the City Auditor to determine applicant eligibility.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Is the ten day period to request reconsideration after notice start when the notice of disqualification is sent or received? What process is there to address situations where notice was incorrectly delivered?	Will incorporate clarification in Interpretive Guidance.	Incorporate Input
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	There isn't enough time between deadline and drawing, applicants who validly request reconsideration of their exclusion may end up being re-included after the panel drawing has occurred and will have missed eligibility for that part of the process.	Will include specific deadline in Interpretive Guidance (i.e., within 10 days following notification or 3 days prior to the drawing, whichever is earlier)	Incorporate Input
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Regarding reconsideration of disqualified applicants, does the charter or ordinance create a judicial remedy in cases where there is a continuing dispute over the decisions of the City Auditor or Applicant Review Panel?	No, the Charter authorizes only the City Auditor to determine eligibility of applicants	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Are there any private causes of action impliedly created by any provision in the charter or ordinance relating to the independent redistricting commission and redistricting process?	This is a legal question that the City Auditor's Office is not qualified to address.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	While the names and statuses of all applicants will be publicly posted, it does not appear that the applications themselves will be publicly posted. This will make it difficult for public to provide oversight.	We intend to post all applications received.	Upload applications
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	There is no guidance on procedures for challenging the eligibility of applicants.	There are no procedures because there is no such process within the Redistricting efforts.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	What exactly are the penalties for submitting an ineligible application? Would such penalties/liability attach even if the applicant did not intentionally seek to skirt the restrictions? What if the applicant misinterpreted or misunderstood the eligibility criteria? What if the applicant disagrees with the interpretation of the eligibility criteria?	There are no penalties for submitting an ineligible application; however, pre-existing processes for falsified government records will apply.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	The potential exposure to criminal liability could constitute a significant deterrent to applicants that feel less secure in their understanding of the law and process or feel less familiar with the legal system and local institutions in general. In the case of minority, low income, youth, and immigrant applicants, such potential risk could be extremely discouraging.	Criminal liability would only apply to individuals that intentionally or knowingly break a law.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	There appears to be no mechanism for managing and addressing complaints or allegations of fraud or other forms of ineligibility. Who can challenge, how, how to track allegation, will allegation be investigated, will applicants know about allegations, and so on.	There are no penalties for submitting an ineligible application; however, pre-existing processes for falsified government records will apply.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	The outreach period is far too limited and narrow to achieve the goal of reaching segments of the population that have been traditionally marginalized and excluded from city governance and participation.	We disagree. The breadth and depth of our outreach efforts, we believe, will inform all segments of Austin's population.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Need to make more aggressive efforts in targetting minorities, immigrants, youth, and lower income populations. Targeting ethnic media is not enough especially when the interpretive guidance and information is entirely in English.	We have met with leaders of underrepresented organizations and have identified mechanisms for reaching out to those populations. The Interpretive Guidance is not only available in English. Youth are not eligible for serving on either entity.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Paper applications should specifically be made available in cultural centers and other places that serve diverse populations, as well as at university, college, and community college campuses.	Already incorporated in outreach plan to place applications at rec centers, cultural centers, libraries, museums, etc.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Income diversity should also be included.	We have included the diversity characteristics required by the Charter in the applications. Should an applicant wish to disclose further information related to their diversity, the application allows them to do so.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Clarification and guidance is needed for determining eligibility under the voting criteria. Is the five years to be calculated backwards from the date an application submitted, the last city election, or some other point? Are any brief lapses or gaps permitted given the possibility of re-registration lags due to moving, name change, etc.? If so, how long and how many? What about the possibility of errors or typos in the system, mistaken purging, or other issues with voter registration records that have been known to occur?	The 5 years is calculated back from the date of application as stated on the draft applications. Brief lapses or gaps are not permitted as the Charter requirement specifies "continuously registered." Mistakes can be addressed through the reconsideration process if conclusive evidence" is provided.	Post public input spreadsheet
Nicholas Chu	1/10/2013	Under the ten day window to appeal and submit evidence for an improper exclusion, if there is an error in the voter registration rolls, an applicant may have trouble submitting evidence to the auditor in time given the difficulty of correcting such errors in the voter registration system.	We've provided the reconsideration process to maximize citizens' ability to participate. Unfortunately, due to the time constraints necessary to meet the November 2014 election the timeline must be adhered to as closely as possible while providing a reasonable opportunity to reconsider errors or mistakes.	Post public input spreadsheet
Karl-Thomas Musselman	1/11/2013	Will public feedback be posted publicly? Can the information be available online or for download or in a report?	Yes. The public input and City Auditor's response will be posted on the redistricting website.	Email response

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Bette Pritchett	1/14/2013	Exclude the restriction on precinct chairs serving on the redistricting committee. These individuals have no conflict of interest.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Janet Barkley-Booher	1/13/2013	She cannot determine whether it is acceptable for a person living in one ZIP code to represent another ZIP code; especially if the person has a history of working to improve living conditions in the other zip code. Is it possible that persons living in other areas could represent under represented areas that may not produce many applicants for the commission?	This can be addressed through explanation in the last question of the Commission application by the applicant describing which areas or demographics they represent.	Post public input spreadsheet
Paul Smolen	1/13/2013	Where is the outreach event on the 15th, please?	There was no outreach event on the 15th. That was the date of the Council work session.	Email response
Steve Bickerstaff	1/12/2013	Interpretation of "City of Austin General Election" is unnecessarily restrictive. It should also include November elections. The last election (November) was a general election, so that date should be listed.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Steve Bickerstaff	1/12/2013	Mail notice of possible membership on the commission to Austin voters	Already incorporated to contact registered voters who, through best efforts, appear to meet the 5 year registration and the 3 out of 5 voting requirement.	Post public input spreadsheet
Steve Bickerstaff	1/12/2013	Specific outreach to racial and ethnic minority organization	Already incorporated into outreach	Post public input spreadsheet
Steve Bickerstaff	1/12/2013	If an advertising firm is used for outreach, ensure that the firm is not perceived as being tied to one of the sides in the Proposition 3 dispute or to one or more members of the city council.	The City Auditor is not using an advertising firm for outreach efforts.	Post public input spreadsheet
Steve Bickerstaff	1/12/2013	Concerns have been expressed that the auditor's interpretative guidance document does not sufficiently emphasize assuring that the commission selection process results in a diverse redistricting commission.	The purpose of the interpretative guidance is to address gaps or ambiguities in the charter. We do not see a gap or an ambiguity in the charter that needs to be addressed on this point.	Post public input spreadsheet
Mary and James Hooten	1/11/2013	Support and implement the recommendations by AGR group	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Javier Bonafont	1/11/2013	The conflict of interest provision is draconian. He made a few dollars teaching classes at Channel Austin and was involved with Austin Studios and the Film Society, all of which have ties to the city, does that make him a city employee?	The conflict of interest provisions were laid out by the City Charter. The City Auditor has no authority to alter these provisions.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Javier Bonafont	1/11/2013	Would being part of the commission prevent him from applying for a job at the library?	Yes, within three years following the end of their term.	Post public input spreadsheet
Javier Bonafont	1/11/2013	He does not understand the civil service ban for three years. It rules out regular folks who are civically involved.	The Charter specified these provisions. The City Auditor does not have the authority to alter these provisions.	Post public input spreadsheet
Javier Bonafont	1/11/2013	How does one self-verify what elections he/she took part in? Is there a site we can go to and punch in voter ID # and see when we voted?	Form is on redistricting website to request voters information.	Upload forms to website
Javier Bonafont	1/11/2013	It seems overly cautious to ban someone from running for council for 10 year. This is removing people from the pool who may be the most civically involved.	The Charter specified these provisions. The City Auditor does not have the authority to alter these provisions.	Post public input spreadsheet
Lottie A. Dailey	1/11/2013	Support and implement the recommendations by AGR group	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Michael Guajardo	1/11/2013	He would encourage office to expedite your input into getting our city into the `10-1 redistricting process.	The timeline incorporated in the Interpretive Guidance considered the time necessary for the City Auditor to execute his duties and meet the needs of the November 2014 election.	Post public input spreadsheet
Rod Sanders	1/14/2013	Please explain why there is a requirement to vote in at least three of the last five City of Austin general elections.	The Charter specified these provisions. The City Auditor does not have the authority to alter these provisions.	Post public input spreadsheet
Carol Lee and Austin Neighborhoods Council	1/14/2013	Voting in three of the last five City of Austin general elections should include cases where an applicant has participated in any local election where the ballot includes either a candidate or propositions (charter amendments and/or issuance of bonds)	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Raul Calderon	1/14/2013	Is the Office of the Auditor posting the "Interpretive Guidance on the Redistricting Process" in conformity with Section 1-2 of the City Code? The Revised Redistricting Process Tmline omits any mention of the comment compilation and explanation periods required for rules adoption.	The City Auditor's Interpretive Guidance followed an informal public input period; not a formal rules adoption process.	Post public input spreadsheet
Raul Calderon	1/14/2013	Will an electronic application received after noon on the deadline date be disqualified as late?	No, an electronic application received after noon on the deadline date will not be disqualified.	Post public input spreadsheet
Raul Calderon	1/14/2013	The application receipt process creates a post-submission opportunity to "complete" an application. Perhaps some guidelines on what can be ministerially accepted may be in order.	The City Auditor may inquire about or seek additional information from an applicant during any phase of the application process. This authority is subject to the City Auditor's discretion.	Post public input spreadsheet
Raul Calderon	1/14/2013	To avoid administratives burdens, Section 3 G. could state that a request for reconsideration is strictly on a written record -- meetings and hearings are not available.	The Interpretive Guidance specifies that the request must be in writing.	Post public input spreadsheet
Raul Calderon	1/14/2013	The application for the commission members would do well to include the applicant's precinct to better aid in identifying residence in Travis County commissioner precincts.	This would place an undue burden on the applicant. The City Auditor plans to map the address of each applicant and will include an overlay of the Travis County commissioner precincts.	Post public input spreadsheet
Raul Calderon	1/15/2013	I would suggest that the Guidance be reworded to a be policy statement to avoid argument that the Guidance is a departmental rule that was adopted without adherence to Section 1-2.	We will remove any references to the term "rule" from the Interpretive Guidance.	Incorporate Input
Pat Epstein	1/15/2013	Please take into consideration the identification of our neighborhood. I would like to see more of an east-west delineation than putting my neighborhood with Circle C. Please take these demographics and neighborhood concerns into consideration as the maps are drawn.	Not the City Auditor's purview. This is within the discretion of the Commission.	Post public input spreadsheet
Dan Sieczkowski	1/15/2013	Hold an additional information session further out of the city center. Areas annexed into the City in the last 15 years are woefully underrepresented. You must make an effort to include all Austin citizens.	The Application Info Sessions were scheduled based on consideration of County Commissioner Precinct, availability of venues, and concentration of potentially eligible residents. We also considered the availability of public transportation.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Citizen	Date	Input	OCA Position	Action Item
Caro Dubois	1/15/2013	Please consider using both the November City elections in addition to the May City elections for the criteria by which voters qualify. That will provide a larger pool of potential candidates for the Commission.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Caro Dubois	1/15/2013	Also, do not exclude Precinct Chairs or other election officials not involved in the day-to-day decisions of political parties.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
David Albert	1/15/2013	Follow California's plan and consider November elections as well as May election for the "general election" voting requirement.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet

Public Input on Interpretive Guidance, Draft Applications, and 10-ONE Timeline

Citizen	Date	Input	OCA Position	Action Item
David Albert	1/15/2013	Intent of referendum writers was not to exclude precinct chairs.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
David Albert	1/15/2013	Read the referendum broadly and inclusively in the spirit of which it was intended.	The City Auditor's Interpretive Guidance is based on the City Charter.	Post public input spreadsheet
Skip Cameron	1/15/2013	Hold an additional information session further out of the city center. Areas annexed into the City in the last 15 years are woefully underrepresented. You must make an effort to include all Austin citizens.	The Application Info Sessions were scheduled based on consideration of County Commissioner Precinct, availability of venues, and concentration of potentially eligible residents. We also considered the availability of public transportation.	Post public input spreadsheet
Skip Cameron	1/15/2013	Hold a meeting at Spicewood Springs Library	The Application Info Sessions were scheduled based on consideration of County Commissioner Precinct, availability of venues, and concentration of potentially eligible residents. We also considered the availability of public transportation.	Post public input spreadsheet
Rae Nadler-Olenick	1/16/2013	Supports the points raised by AGR in their earlier letter.	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Art Olbert	1/16/2013	Supports the points raised by AGR in their earlier letter.	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Brian Rodgers	1/16/2013	Supports the points raised by AGR in their earlier letter.	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Brian Rodgers	1/16/2013	The political consultants aligned with some members of council who fought prop 3 should not be allowed to be part of the process. This should include any firms or individuals you hire to shepherd this process.	The City Auditor did not hire any political consultants, consulting firms or individuals to "shepherd" this process.	Post public input spreadsheet
Ed English	1/16/2013	Supports the points raised by AGR in their earlier letter.	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Tina Cannon	1/16/2013	Supports the points raised by AGR in their earlier letter.	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet
Stacy Suits	1/16/2013	Supports AGR's comments and proposal. Add the november election to get a larger applicant pool.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Dan Price	1/16/2013	Supports AGR's proposals.	All AGR recommendations were considered and changes were made as appropriate. See responses above.	Post public input spreadsheet

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Rosemary Edwards, Ph.D	1/16/2013	The Travis County Republican Party (TCRP) recommends revising the definition in the Draft Guidance, Section 2(a)(4)(p) as follows: "Officer" with respect to a political party means a county chair, county secretary, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code."	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day. For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Rosemary Edwards, Ph.D	1/16/2013	Austin's disqualification for being an officer of a political party should include only the major party principals and should exclude precinct chairs. We do not consider our precinct chairs to be officers of the TCRP. Precinct chairs do not have the day-to-day responsibility for running the party, unlike the Chairman or Treasurer.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a stricture that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day. For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet

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Rosemary Edwards, Ph.D	1/16/2013	Please do not intentionally exclude a group of citizens and voters who have no inherent conflict and have already shown an interest in being involved and contributing to civic affairs.	It is our intent to be as inclusive as possible given the requirements of the Charter and Texas Law.	Post public input spreadsheet
Mark McCulloch	1/16/2013	Deference is given for ethnicity, gender and geographical representation. Will deference be given for sexual orientation?	It is not the City Auditor's purview. The application allows for this information to be submitted in the last question. It is up to the applicant review panel to determine whether or not to factor this in.	Post public input spreadsheet
Mark McCulloch	1/16/2013	A procedural question for the voting process when the original eight commission members vote on the additional six members: Will the six be voted on consecutively one at a time, or will all six have to be approved as a group by the super majority?	It is not the City Auditor's purview. The charter does not allow for that.	Post public input spreadsheet
Mark McCulloch	1/16/2013	Deference is given for having lived in several areas of the city. Will applicants be discriminated against if they have lived 5 years in a house they own (and having lived in Austin for only 5 years), or 40 years in a house they own? What quantitative criteria will be used?	Deference is not given to have lived in several parts of the city.	Post public input spreadsheet
Frances McIntyre	1/16/2013	In agreement with AGR's recommendation of including November dates.	Based on discussion with legal counsel, the Texas election code defines "general election" as an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs at fixed dates. The only City of Austin elections that meet this definition are mayoral and council elections which historically have taken place in May.	Post public input spreadsheet
Frances McIntyre	1/16/2013	Have a supply of printed applications available	Hard copy applications will be distributed to various city facilities including recreation centers, senior centers, and libraries.	Upload list of City facilities with applications
Real Estate Council of Austin; Annie Armbrust	1/16/2013	RECA ask that the applicants for the 3 person Applicant Review Panel who are not selected for this panel be automatically placed into the Commission Pool if they qualify and want to be considered for the Commission. They should not be required to apply separately.	The qualifications for the Panel and the Commission are different. Therefore, Panel applicants cannot automatically be placed into the Commission pool.	Post public input spreadsheet
Real Estate Council of Austin; Annie Armbrust	1/16/2013	Criteria outlined in the Charter are so subjective. How will criteria such as "analytical skills", "impartiality", and "appreciation for the City's diverse demographics" be measured and judged? These criteria should be clearer and the basis for judging them needs to be stated clearly in the application.	Not the City Auditor's purview to define. Charter does not define it. So it is up to the Applicant Review Panel to define it.	Post public input spreadsheet
Real Estate Council of Austin; Annie Armbrust	1/16/2013	The question on p.6 of the draft commission application are too subjective. We ask that the "essay" questions be reworded to required the description of specific examples of the listed qualifications, not just affirmation that the applicant possesses those qualifications.	Not the City Auditor's purview to determine how the essays will be evaluated. It will be the Applicant Review Panel's authority to determine what is appropriate to evaluate. The questions were worded exactly as the criteria are described in the Charter.	Post public input spreadsheet
Real Estate Council of Austin; Annie Armbrust	1/16/2013	Persons who have served in the military during the past five year should be exempt from the requirement that they have voted in three of the past five elections. Instead, they should be reviewed on the same criteria as student applicants to the Commission.	It is not the City Auditor's purview to do this. The Charter does not exempt anyone from the general qualifications except for the student member(s).	Post public input spreadsheet

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Cynthia Valadez-Mata Jr.	1/16/2013	LULAC does not believe that Partisan Precinct Chairs, elected by voters within a particular precinct, should be considered qualified applicants under this Ordinance.	<p>The Charter disqualifies a person (and the spouse of a person) who served within the last 5 years as an "officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office."</p> <p>In attempting to define "officer" with respect to a political party the objective was to be as objective as possible, to draw as bright a line as possible, to look to existing law if possible, and to adopt a definition that would apply regardless of the individual idiosyncrasies of how a party might internally assign titles. As with all definitions an important consideration was to keep the potential applicant pool as open as possible while adhering as closely as possible to the language and apparent intent of the charter (in this case, avoiding a conflict-of-interest based on partisan activity).</p> <p>The Texas Election Code creates for all parties with ballot access a structure that consists of "executive committees" at various levels (county, district, senatorial district, etc.). These executive committees are made up largely of precinct chairs, and have extensive authority regarding the conduct of party primaries, and regarding the nominating process of parties conducting primaries as well as parties not conducting primaries.</p> <p>For parties holding primary elections, precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by the vote of the qualified voters of the precinct who participate in the primary, and serve for a term of two years beginning the 20th day after runoff primary election day.</p> <p>For parties not holding primaries, the Election Code requires the selection of a precinct chair for each election precinct in which the party will hold a precinct convention.</p> <p>Party executive committees are responsible for the conduct of party primaries and other nominating procedures, and may fill vacancies in nominations in some circumstances. The county executive committee must approve the appointments of precinct polling officials. The county executive committee may contract with a county election officer for the conduct of a primary.</p> <p>Considering the above, the precinct chair appears to be an elected or appointed party official, prescribed by state law, for all parties with ballot access, with significant and substantive duties that are administrative, partisan, and political in nature. The definition adopted in the guidance document therefore appears to meet our criteria for adoption.</p>	Post public input spreadsheet
Cynthia Valadez-Mata Jr.	1/16/2013	existing, current, or seated commission and board members should likewise be disqualified due to their possible allegiance to that council member and/or mayor that selected them.	The conflict of interest provision regarding being "appointed to a state or city office" addresses this issue	Post public input spreadsheet
Central Austin Community Development Corporation	1/16/2013	The district design process should be sensitive to this cultural separation with the aim of creating unity in this area and improving the levels of civic participation among the student population.	Charter defines structure of how the lines will be drawn by the redistricting commission not the City Auditor.	Post public input spreadsheet
Central Austin Community Development Corporation	1/16/2013	Universities students are often underserved or not represented.	We incorporated students in our outreach efforts.	Post public input spreadsheet