10328

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Application Period:
January 18, 2013
through
February 22, 2013

Please submit your completed application
by email to district.applications@austintexas.gov
by mail or in person to:
Office of the City Auditor
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

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2013

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER AT WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE

You must submit an electronic application to district.applications@austintexas.gov
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:
301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701
Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013

DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission **duties** include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member **terms of service** include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
   - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
   - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
   - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not:**
     - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
     - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
     - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

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Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Bishop (Last) John (First) Franklyn (Middle) Jr (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1139730899

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

1240 Barton Hills Dr. #221 (Street Address) Austin (City) Tx (State) 78704 (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-440-0451

Contact Email Address: jackbishop@austin.rr.com

Spouse's Name: (Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-21A09:56 RCVD

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Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☑ No

2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☑ Yes ☐ No

3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☑ Yes ☐ No

4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☑ Yes ☐ No

5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	☑ Yes ☐ No
May 14, 2011	☑ Yes ☐ No
May 9, 2009	☑ Yes ☐ No
May 10, 2008	☑ Yes ☐ No
May 13, 2006	☑ Yes ☐ No

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Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

Within 5 years of the application date, have *you or your spouse*:	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	☐ Yes ☑ No
Been elected to a state or city office?	☐ Yes ☑ No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	☐ Yes ☑ No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	☐ Yes ☑ No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	☐ Yes ☑ No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	☐ Yes ☑ No
Within 3 years of the application date, have *you or your spouse* been:	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	☐ Yes ☑ No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	☐ Yes ☑ No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	☐ Yes ☑ No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	☐ Yes ☑ No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	☐ Yes ☑ No
In the last City Election did *you or your spouse*:	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars ($1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	☐ Yes ☑ No

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Personal Background Information

- **Ethnicity:** White American
- **Race:** White
- **Gender:** ☑ Male ☐ Female
- **Age: (Please check your response)**

  ☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☑ 65+

- **Education level: (Please check any that apply)**

  ☑ High School Diploma or GED

  ☐ Some College (major_____)

  ☐ Associate's Degree (major_____)

  ☑ Bachelor's Degree (major Mathematics)

  ☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject Computer Science)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

I have a BA in mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin with minors in computer science and economics. I also have two years of graduate work in computer science at UT Austin. I had a 40 year career working at the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs as a programmer, analyst, and IT specialist. Today's redrawing of lines for voting districts has become largely a computer driven process and my education and experience with computers and databases would be a plus.

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Please describe your ability to be impartial.

Splitting Austin into 10 logical districts, each with roughly equal population, with non-gerrymandered lines, and with regard for fairly representing diverse racial and ethnic communities should be looked at as a mathematical puzzle. I had a letter published in the Statesman (Jan. 20, 2012) suggesting that our state redistricting could be done in a completely neutral manner by merely using a computer algorithm that sought solely to produce districts of equal population - with no regard for party, incumbency, race, etc. I realize that, due to the Voting Rights Act, race and ethnic communities have to be factored in. It may be that a neutral computer algorithm would generate districts for Austin that would satisfy the need for respecting these various groups and, if so, the job would be done. If not, then I would favor the least amount of tweaking to bring the districts into compliance.

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

I lived in Austin from 1950-1953 during which time I attended first and second grades at Rosedale Baptist Day School on what was then Alice Avenue (now Medical Parkway). We lived first on MacDonald Ave., gone now - Seton Hospital is on the site, then on Marathon Ave. which was then a gravel road and there were red ants, horned toads, daddy longlegs, and doodle bugs. My family moved to Chicago in 1953 (I was six) and then moved back to Austin in 1960. I attended Baker Jr. High, Lamar Jr. High, then McCallum High School graduating in 1965. I graduated from UT Austin in 1970. I've lived in North Austin off St. John's, North Austin off Mopac, South Austin in Dove Springs, and, more recently, South Austin near Zilker Park. I've heard music at Armadillo, Antone's (all four locations), Soap Creek (two locations), and, going way back, Charlie's Playhouse, the Id Club, the New Orleans Club. I came in third place in the Spam Cram at Spamarama in 1995 (I still have the medal). I saw Jerry Lee Lewis play at Aquafest as a thunderstorm blew in behind him. I went to a Willie picnic in Dripping Springs.

During my career with the VA I had a number of opportunities to move away from Austin, but I had the good sense not to.

I voted for the 10 district plan and am glad it passed. It's time that our City Council had membership from all over the city. I really hope we don't botch the job of drawing these districts. We've certainly been given good examples of how not to do it by our state legislature.

Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

I am retired, in good health, and have time and energy to devote to the effort. Let's get this right!

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DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

John F. Bishop

John F. Bishop

Signature of Applicant

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

1/23/2013

Date

GLOSSARY

- "Bundle" means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate's behalf.
- "Campaign committee" in regard to an "officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee" means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- "Candidate" for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- "City" means Austin.
- "City elective office" means the office of mayor and city council member.
- "City employee" means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- "City office," with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of "city official" in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- "Community college or university in the City of Austin" means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin's city limits.
- "Contribution," for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- "County" refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- "County elective office" means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- "Employee" with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- "Local lobbyist" means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- "Non-competitively bid contract" means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code ("lowest responsible bidder" or "best value for the municipality").

- "Officer" with respect to the "campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office" means:
  - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
  - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
  - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.

- "Officer" with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.

- "Paid Consultant" with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.

- "Paid Consultant" with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a "political or professional contract" with a council member as defined in this guidance.

- "Political or professional contract," in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.

- "Political party" means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.

- "Professional contract," in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.

- "State" means Texas.

- "State office" means an office held by a "state officer" as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
  - In the context of an appointment to a state office, "state office" means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
  - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, "state office" means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.

- "Student" means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person's application to the Commission.