Johnson, Patrick

From: Art Lopez <artlopez@swbell.net>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 12:17 AM
To: District Applications
Subject: App for Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission - Art Lopez
Attachments: Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application.pdf

Hi,

Please find attached my application for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Art Lopez
Sr. Mechanical Engineer
Electronic Packaging & Mechanical Design
(512) 636-4826
artlopez@swbell.net

10440

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

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION 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.

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION 2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: LOPEZ ARTHUR
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1140762621

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):
11905A SUNHILLOW BEND AUSTIN TX 78758
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

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

Contact Phone: 512-636-4826

Contact Email Address: artlopez@swbell.net

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

13-02-22P03:56 RCVD

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

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

Personal Background Information

- **Ethnicity:** HISPANIC
- **Race:** MEXICAN-AMERICAN
- **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 mechanical engineering)

  ☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject_____)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

When faced with a given task or issue that I have to resolve, I first begin by gathering as much background information and relevant data as possible (or as time will allow). In the course of my professional work for example, I'll refer to texts, published standards, white papers and articles. Most often this is done through on-line research. It can also involve contacting others that may have knowledge specific to the task or who can direct me to resources that may be helpful to me in gathering the information that I need.

Once I've gathered all the pertinent data (or more often in the course of gathering it) I will then analyze it to determine how it applies to the problem that I'm trying to resolve. I'll look to see how others have solved similar issues before and what tools they used to do so. The last thing I want to do is reinvent the wheel. Even though in my professional job this often means studying tools and processes that are very technical in nature, I try to be careful to ensure that they are applicable to the particular problem that I'm working on. From time to time I like to take a step back to verify that I haven't gone down a rat's nest. This is true even for personal matters. It's very important to make sure that I fully understand the problem first, before searching for solutions.

Often the best solution is a compromise, given constraints such as time and cost. Where practical, I always try to formulate a plan "B" in case things don't go as planned.

Please describe your ability to be impartial.

I believe that most people have biases (me included) of one form or another. The important thing is to try and approach life with a recognition of those biased viewpoints and to be aware of how they might color your perception of other people, places and events.

In trying to be impartial, I've found that it helps to put yourself in the other person's shoes. How would I feel if it was me in those same circumstances, in those same surroundings, faced with their dilemma? How would I react? Trying to empathize with the other person or their situation goes a long way toward understanding their point of view.

I've also found that it helps to do as much fact-checking as possible in an effort to strip away the subjective clutter from the facts. Extreme positions on both sides of an argument are often supported by shaky "facts", fuzzy data and questionable interpretations.

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

Being Hispanic, I appreciate the diverse population that Austin has. I personally appreciate taking part in social events that feature or cater to latinos such as the annual Pachanga-Fest. But I also like experiencing similar activities that showcase other cultures like the celebration of Chinese New Year at Chinatown on North Lamar.

I'm also glad to see that the city, along with the police and fire departments, takes an active role in pursuing diversity in hiring. I think it's important that they serve as a model for private organizations to do the same.

Having grown up in a desert environment (which I still love) I can tell you that I adopted a real appreciation for the hills and lakes of Austin and central Texas when I first moved here. Everything was so brand new in a way that maybe only a child could understand. I still remember the wonder I felt on my first trip to Lake Travis, even though I was already an adult.

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

I'm originally from El Paso which for many years also had an at-large system of city council government. At the time, the common perception was that the city was run by insiders and power brokers who served the interests of a few. The at-large system made it difficult for minorities to get elected and it resulted in parts of the city being regularly neglected. Similar to Austin, council members were mostly residents of the affluent west side of town. Fortunately that changed in the 1970's when the city transitioned to single member districts.

So I was surprised after moving here in 1984 to see that Austin was still practicing this "old form" of local government. I wasn't really interested in politics at the time, but I remember being struck by that reality, because I just thought that of all places, surely the capitol would be an example of some of the most progressive forms of government.

It really gave me an appreciation for the "pioneers" in El Paso who were instrumental in getting the old system changed, and how difficult that journey must have been. It made me realize just how vital it is to have a local government that reflects the demographic of the citizens that it governs.

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.

Arthur Lopez
Signature of Applicant

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

02/22/13
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.