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## Virginia Redistricting Commission

### Budget and Finance Subcommittee

May 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Electronic Meeting

<https://virginiaredistricting.org/>

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The Budget and Finance Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the Virginia Redistricting Commission (the Commission) met virtually with Mr. Sean Kumar, co-chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with opening remarks from Mr. Kumar. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [\*Commission's meetings webpage\*](#).

### Updates from Staff

*Amigo Wade, Acting Director, and Brooks Braun, Senior Attorney, Division of Legislative Services*

Mr. Brooks Braun reviewed the draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs) provided to the Subcommittee prior to the meeting. The four draft RFPs for legal services request (i) legal counsel with a background representing Democratic Party institutions or individuals, (ii) legal counsel with a background representing Republican Party institutions or individuals, (iii) nonpartisan legal counsel, and (iv) neutral legal counsel. Mr. Braun noted that each RFP contains the same boilerplate language but differs in the appropriate areas where specifics regarding the demonstrated partisan, nonpartisan, or neutral background is requested.

- Ms. Mackenzie Babichenko asked if the Commission could ask applicants that respond to the RFPs about existing relationships with different consultants that concern redistricting. Mr. Braun responded that an additional question can be added to the RFPs, or such relationships could be explored through questioning at the interview stage.
- Senator George Barker added that for the 2011 redistricting cycle, the attorneys secured by the Senate Democratic Caucus did provide some consultants, and having legal counsel with such existing relationships will likely save the Commission time.
- Senator Stephen Newman asked if the RFP could request the applicant to provide a flat fee and a fee with specialized services included. Mr. Kumar asked additionally if the Commission could request a full estimate or an hourly rate. Mr. Braun explained that the Commission can ask for a fee arrangement and an hourly rate for attending the Commission's public hearings.
- Mr. Kumar asked Senators Barker and Newman if they could identify who paid for the legal counsel in the last redistricting cycle. Both senators replied that legal counsel was paid for by caucus funds.

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<sup>1</sup> **Subcommittee Members Present:** Marvin Gilliam, co-chair, Sean Kumar, co-chair, Mackenzie Babichenko, Greta Harris, Senator George L. Barker, Senator Stephen D. Newman, Delegate Margaret B. Ransone, Delegate Marcus B. Simon

**Subcommittee Members Absent:** None

**Other Commission Members Present:** James Abrenio

- Senator Newman suggested that it would be helpful for the Subcommittee to meet again prior to the next full Commission meeting to review the language of each RFP. The Subcommittee decided to schedule an additional meeting to further discuss the RFPs and develop a final recommendation regarding the legal counsel model.
- Delegate Marcus Simon asked if there would be more updates to the website and if website additions were categorized as additional costs. Ms. Julie Smith, the Division of Legislative Services' Senior GIS Specialist, explained that the website additions are already included in the general contract agreement with CityGate LLC, the software vendor. She added that there will be more updates to the site after the census bureau data is published that will allow for the public to create and submit maps and to provide comment on maps that have been developed by the Commission.
- Ms. Greta Harris asked how the RFPs are advertised. Mr. Braun answered that the RFPs would be posted on the state's procurement website and the Commission's website. He added that it would also be possible to send solicitations to specific firms if necessary.

Mr. Amigo Wade then provided an overview of a draft working budget document. He noted that the budget document is offered as a draft to allow the Subcommittee to develop cost estimates and spending priorities with the ultimate objective of recommending a budget. The line items in the draft document include the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee's request for a minimum of \$250,000 to cover the costs of public hearings and associated advertising, the estimated costs for Commission member training and meetings, and line items for consultants previously discussed by the Subcommittee. Mr. Wade stressed that the draft budget document is a starting point and all final determinations are left to the Subcommittee.

### Next Meeting

Staff will poll the Subcommittee to establish the next meeting date and time, tentatively proposed for June 2, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., to take place ahead of the next meeting of the Commission on June 7, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

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For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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