

**Redistricting Commission
Applicant Profile**

Applicant #	11348911628
First Name	Diana
Last Name	Miller
District	District 4
Time living in District	10 to 20 years
Time living in Oakland	10 to 20 years
Education	Some graduate school experience
Income	\$125,000 - \$250,000
Voting history	2018 & 2016 elections
Gender	Female
Race/Ethncity	White / Caucasian
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Supplemental Questionnaire

Your response to each of the mandatory following questions is limited to no more than 500 words. Please type in the space provided for each question.

*1. Why do you wish to serve on the Commission and why do you think the work of the Commission is important?

I would like to serve on the Commission because I feel that the work is important and interesting, and because I enjoy problem solving in a team setting. I would like to learn about how the current seven districts were drawn, and I'd like to be part of the team who considers equity to be a top priority in redrawing the boundaries, based on the most current census. The people of Oakland deserve equal representation in the voices of their School Board Members and their District Council Members.

*2. Explain what it means to be impartial and describe your ability to exercise impartiality.

As a high school math teacher, being impartial is part of my daily mindset. I have empathy for my students, but I'm also impartial, as I am a sound listener to students' issues, their perspectives, how they each process information as individuals. I make even-keeled, fair decisions given many facets of information, always with the needs of students and their learning being the top priority.

*3. The Commissioners will need to work collaboratively in redrawing district boundaries. Provide an example from when you had to set aside your own self-interest to achieve a common goal.

I was the Math Department Chair at my high school for 3 years, starting in 2016-2017. As a Chair, I served as a liaison and a communicator to/with the other math teachers and the school administrators. I worked together with my math department colleagues to negotiate an edit to the math pathways. Our math pathways (course selections for four years of high school) had been reconstructed a few years earlier than my tenure. As a team, we felt that adjustments needed to be made in order to help the average student guide themselves into the correct pathway, with just the right amount of challenge. I carefully argued our case to the School Board, who by a narrow margin voted to edit the pathways as we advised. It does make teaching mixed ability classes a bit more difficult for me, and for the other teachers, but we knew that would be the case, and we are doing our best to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. The benefits of having all students sign up for the appropriate courses is worth the extra planning work on our part.

*4. All Commissioners must demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for Oakland's diversity. Describe your knowledge of and appreciation for Oakland's people and places, and how this will enhance your work as a commissioner.

Although I do not work for OUSD, my older son goes to Skyline High School. Our whole family appreciates the diversity at Skyline HS. I was able to observe a series of class presentations in his Chemistry class. There were many different views and experiences in one room -- this is enriching to his (and the whole class') education. For him, being part of Oakland's community every day increases his creativity and opens his mind to how other people experience various parts of life. I feel that his positive experience at school is part of my cultural experience of living in Oakland. Also, for a few consecutive summers, I taught a community service / social justice class at my high school, where we volunteered at West and East Oakland elementary schools in the summer. We played math games with the children, and spent time on the playground enjoying each others' company. This was enriching and joyful for me, and for my high school students. I feel proud to live in Oakland.

*5. Provide an example from when you faced a complex question or situation. What problem solving skills did you use to solve it?

One challenge that I consistently face, and I'm always working on, is how to serve my students who have ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). When students have a difficult time focusing, they still want to learn. They still want to be successful in school, and have positive relationships with their teachers and classmates. For some students, it's helpful to create a code word, which when said, helps them realize that they need to refocus. For others, creating a structure of pre-printed notes gives them an outline to help them follow lessons in real time. Still, others need different types of structure, from specific seating, to frequent check-ins, to a specific classroom job, and/or to extra time to turn in work. These students have either a 504 plan or an IEP, which allows them access to learning the content of the course. It doesn't give them an unfair advantage. It allows them to have equal access to learning. I use my skills in working directly with students, with their assigned Resource Specialists, and with the students' parents to find appropriate accommodations so that these students find success in their learning.

*6. Describe any professional, social, political, volunteer, community activities, and/or causes in which you have been involved or that you have financially supported. If you do not have any activities to report, type N/A in the space provided.

We have supported Joaquin Miller Elementary PTA, Skyline HS PTA, and the Skyline HS Cross Country Team. I was the co-chair of the Joaquin Miller Walkathon for a couple of years. We have contributed in small amounts to the campaigns of a few current Oakland politicians. Those amounts have been under your

limit to apply for this position. We have also donated small amounts to state and federal candidates for political offices.

Additional Information (Optional)

If there is any additional information that was not asked in the Supplemental Questionnaire that you believe would help the Screening Panel in making their nominations, you may enter that information here. Your response here is optional.

*I understand that if selected as a Commissioner, I shall be ineligible, for a period of 10 years beginning from the date of appointment, to hold elective public office for the City of Oakland. Additionally, I shall be ineligible, for a period of four years beginning from the date of appointment, to hold appointive public office for the City of Oakland or Oakland Unified School Board, to serve as paid staff for or as a paid consultant to Oakland City Council, or any member of the City Council or Oakland School Board, to receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Oakland, or to register as a lobbyist. This four-year ban on having a paid consultancy or entering noncompetitively bid contracts applies to myself individually and all entities for which I am a controlling person. Please enter your initials below to confirm your understanding of these statements.

Initials:	DBM
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*I affirm, by entering my name in the space provided, that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name:	Diana B Miller
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