



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2021

TO: Jim Throop, City Manager

FROM: Stacey Haddon, City Clerk
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SUBJECT: Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding District-Based Election Maps for Redistricting Process after 2020 Census

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council conduct a public hearing to receive public input on district boundaries.

Background:

On December 19, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1643(17), establishing a district-based system for elections for members of the City Council commencing with the General Municipal Election in November 2018. With the completion of the 2020 Census, the City is now required to adopt district boundaries based on the 2020 Census information.

Elections Code Section 21607.1 requires the City must conduct at least one (1) public hearing before maps are drawn and at least two (2) public hearings after draft maps are drawn, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts.

Discussion:

The purpose of this second public hearing is to seek public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting district maps. Draft district maps will be posted to the City website and available at City Hall after the July 20, 2021, public hearing, and those maps (and any possible new or revised maps) will be discussed at City Council hearings on February 2, 2022, and February 16, 2022, before the anticipated introduction of an ordinance on March 15, 2022, with second reading and adoption on April 5, 2022.

The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A *community of interest* is

defined as a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates. Possible community features include, but are not limited to:

- 1) School attendance areas;
- 2) Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
- 3) Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
- 4) Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
- 5) Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - a) Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic isolation;
 - b) Languages spoken at home; and
 - c) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

The City must ensure compliance with the following state and federally-mandated criteria:

- Each district shall contain a nearly equal population;
- Each district shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act; and
- Each district shall not be drawn with race as the predominate factor in violation of the principles established by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993), and its progeny.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this public hearing.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends the City Council receive the presentation from staff regarding redistricting as well as comments submitted by members of the public at the public hearing and provide guidance concerning drafting of redistricting maps.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Haddon, City Clerk

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Jim Throop, City Manager