



CITY OF POMONA

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION REPORT

July 28, 2021

To: Chairperson and Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission

From: Rosalia A. Butler, City Clerk

Submitted By: Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY
REGARDING THE REDRAWING OF ELECTION DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Independent Redistricting Commission take the following actions:

- 1) Receive and file a report from staff on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and
- 2) Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on district boundaries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Both the City Charter and State Law require the City to review and potentially realign its Council districts every ten years after the completion of the census. Urgency Ordinance No. 4297 (Attachment No. 1), adopted by City Council on February 1, 2021, created an Independent Redistricting Commission to perform this responsibility based on the 2020 census data in time for the election in November 2022. By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of maps. This is the first in the series of public hearings held before the release of the draft maps designed to solicit public input on district boundaries.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact at this time.

DISCUSSION:

Every ten years, cities with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Pomona must be completed by April 17, 2022.

On October 1, 1990, the City adopted Ordinance No. 3563, establishing its current district boundaries using data compiled by The Rose Institute, with input from the public at various meetings. The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 census data and in compliance with the FAIR MAPS Act, which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

Under the Act, the Council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21621(c) for Charter cities):

- 1) Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act
- 2) Geographically contiguous
- 3) Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
- 4) Easily identifiable boundaries
- 5) Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
- 6) Should not favor or discriminate against a political party

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

- 1) Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting from 2022 to 2024
- 2) Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
- 3) Future population growth

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

- At least one hearing must occur before the city or county draws draft maps
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps
- The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps

- City staff or consultants may hold a public workshop instead of one of the required public redistricting hearings

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, cities and counties must take the following steps:

- At least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with another local government meeting, the redistricting hearing portion must begin at a pre-designated time
- Local public redistricting hearings should be made accessible to people with disabilities

The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. 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* under the relevant Elections Code for cities [Section 21621(c)] is “a population that shares common social or economic representation.”

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

NEXT STEPS:

On August 25, 2021, the Independent Redistricting Commission will conduct Public Hearing #2 to seek additional public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting district maps. Following that hearing, draft district maps and proposed election sequencing will be posted to the City website and available at City Hall.

The dates for Public Hearings #3 and #4 to consider draft maps are yet to be determined depending on the release of the delayed U.S. Census data and state prisoner population adjusted counts.

Prepared by:

Alison Glynn
Deputy City Clerk

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment No. 1 – Urgency Ordinance No. 4297