



CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
Ashley J. Feeney, City Manager

FROM: Amy Van, City Clerk

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing #1 on the Redistricting Process**

Summary and Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council:

1. Hold a public hearing to receive public input on the composition of districts for the purposes of redrawing election district boundaries;
2. Receive a presentation from the City's demographic consulting firm, National Demographics Corporation (NDC); and
3. Set the next public hearing for March 3, 2022

Fiscal Impact

For the 2022 redistricting process, the City Clerk's Office has sufficient funds available in the FY 2021/22 Budget for costs associated with hiring a demographic consulting firm, public outreach, and advertising.

Background and Analysis

Each city with district-based elections is required to update ("redistrict") the district boundaries every ten years, following the receipt of updated population data from each federal decennial census. The City is required to redistrict the district boundaries prior to the next election in November 2022. Although the City recently transitioned to district-based elections in 2019, the boundaries are based on the 2010 federal census, which means the City must now update the boundaries through the redistricting process based on the 2020 federal census.

Overview of the Process

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 21607.1, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable the community to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

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- At least one hearing must occur before the City draws draft maps.
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps.
- At least one public hearing or public workshop shall be held on a Saturday, on a Sunday or after 6 p.m. on a weekday Monday through Friday.
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with a regular or special meeting of the Council, the hearing portion must begin at a pre-designated time.

The City must take steps to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities, to participate in the redistricting public review process. A good faith effort satisfies the requirement and includes:

- Providing information to media organizations that provide City news coverage, including media organizations that serve language minority communities.
- Providing information through local community groups and organizations (including those active in language minority communities, those that are based on good government, civil rights, or civic engagement, and those that have requested to be notified concerning City redistricting).
- Additionally, the City is required, upon request, to conduct the public hearings with live translation in “an applicable language” (i.e., 3% of total population over four years old; which for Citrus Heights, is Spanish language).

The City is required to publish information regarding the redistricting process and draft maps on the City’s website in English and Spanish.

The redistricting process must be completed, and a new district boundary map must be adopted by the City Council no later than April 17, 2022. This hearing is the first of four required hearings. The purpose of this public hearing is focused on receiving public comment and input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A *community of interest* pursuant to Elections Code Section 21601(c) 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.”

Criteria to be Considered in the Drawing of District Maps

In accordance with the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (“FAIR MAPS”) Act, the City Council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the order of priority (Elections Code Section 21601(b),(c)):

1. Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA);
2. Geographically contiguous, to the extent practicable. A district is not contiguous if it includes areas that: (a) meet only at the point of adjoining corners, or (b) are separated by water and not connected by a bridge;

3. Geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local “community of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together) shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division;
4. Boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the City;
5. Districts shall be geographically compact in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations, to the extent practicable; and
6. Districts must not be adopted for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

Demographer and Census Data

NDC will provide a presentation about the overall population changes within the City according to the 2020 federal census data, as well as an overview of the legal requirements under the FAIR MAPS Act that must be considered when drawing districts.

In addition to the first public hearing, NDC will also be available at the remainder of the public hearings to assist with questions and provide guidance to the development of new district boundaries.

Public Outreach

In order to increase public awareness and participation in the redrawing of election district boundaries, the City Clerk’s Office has begun implementing the following community outreach plan.

Public messaging via the City’s website, social media, press releases, newsletters, and other public communications, in English and Spanish, including:

- Dedicated webpage on City’s website for redistricting updates and information <http://citrusheights.net/1159/Redistricting>
- Social media engagement on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and NextDoor
- Information provided via the City’s electronic newsletter
- Press releases
- Public notices posted at City Hall and on the City’s website
- Display advertisements on local public access channel by using Sacramento Metropolitan Cable TV’s Channel 14
- Public Hearing Notices
- Collaboration with Community Partners. For example, Connect Citrus Heights coalition, Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee, REACH, and Neighborhood Associations

Redistricting Timeline

The city has scheduled the required public hearings as follows:

Hearing	Date	Description
1	February 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m.	1 st Public Hearing without maps of proposed district boundaries, to provide information to the public and solicit input from the public and Council on composition of the districts
2	March 3, 2022	2 nd Public Hearing with maps of proposed district boundaries produced by the demographer and published 7 days in advance for consideration and feedback by the public and Council
3	March 10, 2022	3 rd Public Hearing to deliberate on map options. Council vote on preferred map and introduce an ordinance with a final map establishing new district boundaries.
4	March 24, 2022	4 th Public Hearing final adoption of the map via ordinance