

City of _____ Redistricting Process

Every ten years, local governments use new census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. [Assembly Bill 849 \(2019\)](#) requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach, including to non-English-speaking communities.

What is redistricting?

Every ten years, districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each city councilmember represents about the same number of constituents. In [City], the City Council is responsible for drawing council districts. Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which is released around March 31, 2021. For the City of [city], the redistricting process must be completed by [date].

Why does redistricting matter to me?

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a councilmember.

Our independent redistricting commission, which is made up of members of the public, will provide input in selecting the next district map for our council districts. You have an opportunity to share how you think district boundaries should be drawn to best represent your community.

You can contact the City Clerk at _____ to find out more about how the process works.

What do the existing council districts look like?

You can find a map of the City's current council districts here: [link]

What criteria will be used when drawing district lines?

To the extent practicable, district lines will be adopted using the following criteria: (1) geographically contiguous districts (each city council district should share a common border with the next), (2) the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division, (3) geographic integrity of a city shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division, (4) easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.), and (5) lines shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness. In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

How will our City Council notify the public about redistricting?

Our City Council will reach out to local media to publicize the redistricting process. Also, we will make a good faith effort to notify community groups of various kinds about the redistricting process. Our public [hearings] [or] [workshops] will be provided in applicable languages if residents submit a request in advance. Our City will notify the public about redistricting [hearings] [or] [workshops], post maps online before adoption, and create a dedicated web page for all relevant information about the redistricting process.

How can I get involved?

Our redistricting commission will be holding [hearings] [or] [workshops] to receive public input on where district lines should be drawn. Those [hearings] [or] [workshops] will be held on:

[Date, location, time]

You can also submit public comments, including suggested draft maps, by emailing: [email]

Where can I find out more?

The City maintains a webpage on the city's redistricting process here: [link]