

CITY OF WILDOMAR – CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Item #2.1
PUBLIC HEARING
Meeting Date: January 12, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Janet Morales, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Third Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the Redrawing of Election District Boundaries

STAFF REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review the demographer's preliminary analysis; review the public mapping tool and invite the community to submit maps; review maps prepared utilizing the discussed criteria; and conduct a public hearing to receive public input on communities of interest and potential district boundaries.

BACKGROUND

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 Wildomar must be completed by April 17, 2022.

At the January 27, 2016 City Council Meeting, the City Council took action to establish a single member district election system for the City Council. The City adopted its current district boundaries on March 9, 2016, based on 2010 census data as required by law.

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 21601(c) for general law cities / 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. Shall 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 in 2022 to 2024
2. Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
3. Future population growth

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 21601(c) / 21621(c)] is "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."

Possible features defining community of interest might include, but are not limited to:

- 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:
 - (1) Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - (2) Languages spoken at home; and
 - (3) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

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 of these hearings is required to be held prior to any maps drawn.

The City held two public hearings prior to maps being drawn for the purpose of receiving public input on the communities of interest. Video recording of these meetings can be found on the Agenda & Minutes page on the City's website (www.cityofwildomar.org)

DISCUSSION:

The Third Public Hearing is being held to:

- 1) Review preliminary analyses.
- 2) Review public mapping tools and encourage the public to submit maps.
- 3) Review maps prepared utilizing the discussed criteria.
- 4) Conduct a public hearing to receive input on the communities of interest and potential district boundaries.

Since the last hearing, four draft maps have been developed and posted to the City's website for consideration. Three of those maps were developed by the demographer. One of those maps was submitted from the public using the online mapping tool.

The City has received 10 comments since the last Public Hearing. Comments received prior to January 5, 2022 at 5pm are included in the attachments to the staff report.

Residents are encouraged to visit www.cityofwildomar.org to follow updates on the redistricting process, review data and materials, and participate in the process by offering comments and submitting maps for consideration. Residents are also encouraged to participate in this public hearing.

Next Steps:

Confirm the fourth Public Hearing date which is tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2022.

Provide direction on what map the Council prefers a or provide input for the demographer to create a new map to review at the next public hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Submitted by:
Janet Morales
City Clerk

Approved by:
Gary Nordquist
City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

1. Presentation: National Demographics Corporation - City of Wildomar Redistricting 2021

2. Public Input received though January 5, 2022.