

City of Hesperia STAFF REPORT



DATE: October 19, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Nils Bentsen, City Manager
BY: Melinda Sayre, Director of Government Services/City Clerk
Erin Baum, Assistant City Clerk
SUBJECT: Second Public Hearing – Redistricting due to 2020 Census

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council 1) Receive a presentation from National Demographics Corporation, the City's redistricting consultant detailing the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to create district boundaries; 2) Conduct the second public hearing to receive public input on the redistricting process and composition of districts; and 3) Provide any additional guidance concerning the drafting of redistricting maps.

BACKGROUND

Redistricting is the process of adjusting City Council voting districts so that each district has substantially the same number of voting-aged residents. Cities with voting districts are required to update district maps following the release of the centennial US Census data. Due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the release of US Census data, which would normally be released in March 2021, is now expected to be released on October 10, 2021. The deadline for the City to adopt new district maps is April 17, 2022.

ISSUES/ANALYSIS

On June 6, 2017 the City Council approved Ordinance 2017-09 establishing a by-district election system including five (5) districts, each having one (1) City Council seat representative and each serving a four (4) year term with a rotating appointed mayor. By-district elections were implemented in a staggered manner with the first by-district election held in 2018 for districts two (2), three (3) and four (4). In 2020, by-district elections were held for districts one (1) and five (5).

In July the City contracted National Demographic Corporation (NDC) to coordinate the City's redistricting process and required community outreach. Assembly Bill 849, known as the "Fair and Inclusive Redistrict for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act in 2019 requires cities to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding a minimum of four (4) public hearings and/or workshops. The purpose of this second public hearing is to inform the public about the redistricting process and allow the public to provide input regarding the composition of one or more council districts. Pursuant to the FAIR MAPS act, no draft map will be presented at the second hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVE(S)

1. Provide alternative direction to staff

ATTACHMENT(S)

None