



Clerk of the Council Office  
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Item # 29

**City of Santa Ana**  
**20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701**  
**Staff Report**  
**September 21, 2021**

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**TOPIC:** Redistricting Ward Boundaries

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**AGENDA TITLE:**

Adopt a Resolution Declaring Intent to Change the Ward Boundaries and Consider the Timeline for the Redistricting Process

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt a resolution declaring the City's intention to consider changes to boundary lines of Wards and fixing the time and place of said Hearings to be held on October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, and December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at each hearing.

**DISCUSSION**

Each city with ward-based elections is required to update (redistrict) the ward boundaries every ten years, following the receipt of updated population data from each federal decennial census. It is anticipated that the 2020 federal census will be published and available to the City on September 20, 2021. Since the City of Santa Ana has ward-based elections for six Councilmembers and a Citywide Mayor seat, the City is required to redistrict the ward boundaries prior to the next election of Councilmembers in 2022. Councilmember Wards 1, 3, and 5 were on the ballot on November 3, 2020, and Councilmember Wards 2, 4, and 6 will be on the ballot on November 8, 2022. Although the City recently established the ward boundaries on December 4, 2018 for the November 2020 election, 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.

All city redistricting must follow charter guidelines and current municipal code listed below:  
Charter Article I

Section 101.1 – Wards of the city

Prior to the general election in 1988 the City Council shall divide the City into six (6) wards by ordinance according to the following formula:

Each of the wards is to be as nearly equal in population as possible. The wards shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory and bounded by natural boundaries of street lines wherever possible. Any territory hereafter annexed to

or consolidated with the City shall become a part of the ward to which it is most contiguous, pending any redistricting necessary to promote equality of population among the wards.

(Prop. of 4-9-57, approved on 4-16-57; Prop. of 2-4-63, approved on 4-2-63; Res. No. 63-027; Ord. No. NS-1316, 8-24-76, approved at election 11-2-76; Ord. No. NS-1521, 3-17-80, approved at election 6-3-80; Ord. No. NS-1864, 8-19-86, approved at election 11-4-86)

#### Section 101.2 – Wards, boundary changes

Ward boundaries shall not be altered except as reasonably necessary to promote greater equality of population among the wards when such necessity is shown by the most recent federal decennial census, or by more current census data certified by the City Council as sufficiently reliable and detailed to serve as a basis for ward boundary alteration, or by annexation or consolidation of territory. ***Such boundary alteration shall be made only by ordinance adopted by affirmative vote of at least two-thirds ( 2/3 ) of the full membership of the City Council in accordance with section 101.4.*** Any such ordinance adopted within one hundred twenty (120) days immediately preceding any election of council members shall not become effective until the day following such election.

(Prop. of 4-9-57, approved on 4-16-57; Prop. of 2-4-63, approved on 4-2-63; Res. No. 63-027; Ord. No. NS-1316, 8-24-76, approved at election 11-2-76)

#### Section 101.4 – Notice and public hearing

Before making any change, modification or realignment of ward boundaries or numbers of wards, the City Council **shall** pass a resolution declaring its intention to make such changes. Such resolution shall set forth a convenient day, hour, and place when and where any persons having any interest therein, or any objection to the making thereof, may appear before the City Council and be heard thereon. ***The City Council shall direct the Clerk of the Council to give notice by publishing said resolution once a week for two (2) weeks in the official newspaper prior to the date set for hearing. Said hearing in the event of increasing the number of wards shall be held not less than sixty (60) days prior to the succeeding general municipal election. In any event, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the general municipal election, publication shall be made by map diagram in the official newspaper showing the new boundary lines of each and every ward.***

Charter Article IV – Section 400 – Number, selection and terms of members  
Ordinance No. NS-2958 (2018)

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution of Intention to modify the Ward Boundaries (Exhibit 2). The City's Charter requires that a resolution be approved and published in a paper of general circulation prior to adoption of Ward Boundaries and be adopted by a majority vote.

The Public Hearings scheduled on October 5, October 19, November 2, and November 16, 2021 are required pursuant to Elections Code Section 21627.1. Staff has scheduled two Hearings to receive input from the community about their ideas for potential “communities of interest” and to provide criteria for mapping of new Ward boundaries. The culmination of these two Hearings will result in the development of proposed new Ward map(s) for consideration at the subsequent Hearings scheduled on November 2 and November 16, 2021. The Hearing on December 7, 2021 will be for the City Council to consider the first reading to adopt an ordinance setting new Ward boundaries. A timeline of events is attached as reference in Exhibit 1. The City Charter requires new Ward Boundary Map to be approved by a 2/3 affirmative vote and at least 120 days before an election.

Staff has hired the firm Redistricting Partners to assist the City in conducting the public outreach effort and preparing the maps for consideration that will comply with the Federal and California law. Also, the firm will provide a web-based platform for residents to review proposed maps and engage the community throughout the process.

- **October 5, 2021:** The City will hold its first public hearing before maps are drawn.
- **Updated Public Input Workshops:**
  - Saturday, September 25, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – Delhi Center, 505 E. Central Ave.
  - Thursday, October 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Pentecostal Church of God, 1025 W. Memory Lane
  - Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 10:00a.m. at Southwest Senior Center, 2201 W McFadden Ave
  - Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at Salgado Recreation Center, 706 N. Newhope St.
  - Friday, October 29, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at El Salvador Community Center, 1825 W Civic Center Dr.
  - Saturday, November 06, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at Memorial Community Center, 2102 S Flower St.
- **October 19, 2021:** The City will hold its second public hearing to present 2020 Census findings to the Mayor and City Council during a regular meeting, including redistricting process updates.
- **November 2, 2021:** The City will hold its third public hearing to present staff recommended initial draft map (or maps) and accompanying technical report to Mayor and City Council during a regular meeting, along with public comment and submitted proposed maps analysis, and conduct the first public hearing on the draft map.
- **November 16, 2021:** The City will hold the fourth public hearing on the draft map.

- **December 7, 2021:** Present staff recommended final map for approval. Adoption of final map and first reading of ordinance by the City Council.
- **December 21, 2021:** Adoption of final map and second reading of ordinance by the City Council.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**EXHIBIT(S)**

1. Timeline of Events
2. Resolution of Intent

Submitted By: Daisy Gomez, Clerk of the Council

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager