



Clerk of the Council Office
www.santa-ana.org/cc
Item # 24

City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
October 5, 2021

TOPIC: First Public Hearing: Redistricting Ward Boundaries

AGENDA TITLE:

Hold First Public Hearing Regarding Redistricting Ward Boundaries

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Open and close the first public hearing seeking input regarding possible changes to the wards boundaries before proposed ward map(s) are drawn.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to Santa Ana Charter Section 101.4, on September 21, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution of Intention No. 2021-053, setting forth public hearing dates to consider changes to boundary lines of wards, and fixing the date, time and place of said hearings thereon.

Pursuant to California Election Code, the process must be completed and the adoption of the new ward boundary map must occur by April 17, 2022, which will be utilized in the November 2022 General Municipal Election. To assist in the redistricting process, demographic and outreach consultants have been secured. The City is working with demographer Paul Mitchell, Redistricting Partners, who also assisted the City during the re-boundary process and first ward-based election in 2020.

Assembly Bill 849 – The Fair Maps Act

The Fair Maps Act, effective January 1, 2020, creates a standardized redistricting criteria aimed to keep communities together and to prohibit partisan gerrymandering. It also contains expanded community outreach and public hearing requirements and timelines.

In the re-drawing of ward boundaries, the City Council must ensure compliance with state and federally mandated criteria by adopting boundaries that contain a nearly equal population, based upon total population of residents of the City as determined by the most recent census, adjusted by California to count state prisoners at their “last known home address” rather than at the prison. The City Council must also adopt maps that comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S.

Constitution. Wards must not be adopted for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party, and are not designed with race as the predominate factor.

Additionally, the Fair Maps Act now requires the City Council to adopt ward boundaries using specific criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:

1. To the extent practicable, City Council wards shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous. Areas that are separated by water and not connected by a bridge are not contiguous.
2. To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A “community of interest” 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. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
3. City Council ward boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, City Council wards shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.
4. To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, City Council wards shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

Procedural Requirements for Redistricting

State law authorizes the City Council to draw its own map. This can include a process of draft map submissions from the public and demographer for City Council review and consideration. In addition, the Fair Maps Act provides specific procedural requirements the City Council must meet before adopting a final map of ward boundaries for the redistricting process. The City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input regarding the composition of the City Council wards. These hearings shall consist of:

- At least one public hearing before the City Council draws draft map(s).
- At least two public hearings after the City Council has drawn draft map(s).
- 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.

The Fair Maps Act also outlines requirements to increase accessibility and participation at the public hearings. A public hearing must be held at its noticed time if it is consolidated with another regular or special meeting, must be held in an accessible facility, and translation services must be provided for “applicable languages” if it is requested at least 72 hours before a public hearing. The California Secretary of State, per the Fair Maps Act, is required to list the applicable languages for all cities. The California Secretary of State listed Spanish and Vietnamese as the “applicable languages” for the City of Santa Ana. The City of Santa Ana will provide Spanish and Vietnamese translation services at all public hearings, as well as at any community redistricting workshops, and translation

services in other languages, upon request to the Clerk of the Council's Office at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in order to make the reasonable arrangements.

Timeline and Next Steps

A timeline of scheduled events is listed below as a reference to engage the community and solicit public input in the redrawing of the City's ward boundaries. This public hearing is for the City Council and the public to receive a report on the redistricting process and the criteria for redistricting boundary lines; and to provide initial input on the ward boundaries. In efforts to fully engage the community, during the next few months, the Clerk of the Council Office is prepared to conduct in-person and virtual community meetings throughout the City, solicit input, educate the community on the redistricting process, and provide training on how to use the mapping tools once the redistricting data is released.

- **Public Input Workshops:**
 - Saturday, September 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. - Delhi Center, 505 E. Central Ave.
 - Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. - Pentecostal Church of God, 1025 W. Memory Lane
 - Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. - Southwest Senior Center, 2201 W McFadden Ave
 - Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. - Salgado Recreation Center, 706 N. Newhope St.
 - Friday, October 29, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. - El Salvador Community Center, 1825 W Civic Center Dr.
 - Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. - Memorial Community Center, 2102 S Flower St.
- **October 5, 2021:** The City will hold its first public hearing before maps are drawn.
- **October 19, 2021:** The City will hold its second public hearing at 7:00 p.m. to present 2020 Census findings to the City Council during a regular meeting, including redistricting process updates.
- **November 2, 2021:** The City will hold its third public hearing at 7:00 p.m. to present staff recommended initial draft map (or maps) and accompanying technical report to 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 at 7:00 p.m. on the draft map.

- **December 7, 2021:** Present staff recommended final map for approval as the fifth public hearing at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Public Outreach and Communication

The Clerk of the Council's Office is committed to taking steps to have a robust and diverse community participation in the process for redrawing ward maps for future City Council elections. The goals in the outreach plan are to educate residents about the redistricting requirements, ensure participation from a wide range of residents, and build community awareness and understanding of the process. During this process, staff seeks public input regarding what communities of interest exist, how to re-draw the ward maps to maintain existing communities, along with suggestions and preferences.

The Clerk of the Council Office is using the following community outreach plan:

- Public messaging via social media, City's website, press releases, newsletters, and other public communications, in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Dedicated webpage for redistricting updates and information: www.santa-ana.org/redistricting
- Press releases sent to various outlets and groups
- Collateral material available at city facilities and other City meetings/events
- Marketing video in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Advertisements on City's local public network channel and YouTube

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. Presentation

Submitted By: Daisy Gomez, Clerk of the Council

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager