



Clerk of the Council Office
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Item # 36

City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
April 5, 2022

TOPIC: City Council Ward Boundaries Map

AGENDA TITLE:

Introduce Ordinance for First Reading and Adopt a Resolution of City Council Ward Boundaries Map

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Accept a report by the City's demographer to provide the metes and bounds description of each City Council ward.
2. Approve first reading of an ordinance establishing new ward boundary lines of the wards of the City of Santa Ana and repealing Ordinance No. NS-2958.
3. Adopt a resolution establishing new boundary lines of the wards of the City of Santa Ana.

DISCUSSION

On December 4, 2018, the City Council transitioned from electing City Councilmembers at-large to electing them by-ward. Pursuant to federal and state law, the City Council must now complete the redistricting process following the 2020 United States Census to ensure each City Council district has a substantially equal population. The City is required by law to complete the redistricting process and all associated administrative tasks by April 17, 2022.

Assembly Bill 849 (Fair Maps Act) requires cities to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding a minimum of four (4) public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach, including to non-English-speaking communities. At the October 5, 2021 City Council meeting, the City Council adopted the amended and restated Resolution of Intent declaring its intention to consider changes to ward boundary lines, and fixing the date, time, and place of said hearings. Resolution No. 2021-053 was published once a week for two weeks in multiple languages in their respective foreign newspaper, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean. The Clerk of the Council staff hosted six (6) in-person and virtual redistricting public input workshops,

providing live translations in Spanish and Vietnamese, with an additional six (6) workshops requested by community groups. The City Council held twelve (12) in-person and virtual redistricting public meetings, providing live translations in Spanish and Vietnamese to seek input in selecting the next ward map.

Pursuant to Charter section 101.2, boundary alterations 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. Following a robust, community-driven process and considerable City Council consideration, the City Council voted on March 11, 2022 to introduce an ordinance to adopt new City Council election ward map N2. Ward map N2 was posted on the City's website on March 14, 2022. If necessary to facilitate the implementation of the ordinance, the Clerk of the Council is authorized to make technical adjustments to the ward boundaries that do not substantively affect the population in the wards, such as changing the ward sequence.

The proposed order or sequence in which voters may vote for their representative will not change. The contest for a City Councilmember in wards 2, 4, and 6 will appear on the November 2022 ballot, and the contest for a City Councilmember in wards 1, 3, and 5 will appear on the November 2024 ballot.

There are two relevant considerations when numbering newly drawn districts, or wards. First, the Fair Maps Act requires that “[a]t the first election for council members in each city following adoption of the boundaries of council districts . . . a council member shall be elected for each district under the new district plan that has the same district number as a district whose incumbent’s term is due to expire.” Elec. Code § 21626(b). Second, a best practice in numbering is to do so in a manner that limits the number of voters who will be “deferred.” Deferral is the unavoidable result when a jurisdiction with staggered terms is redistricted. Deferral occurs when a voter who last voted in 2018 and would naturally vote in 2022 under the old map (because they live in wards 2, 4, or 6) is redrawn into a district that will instead not vote until 2024 (new districts 1, 3, or 5). That voter will not be able to vote in 2022 and will go six years without voting in City Council elections, instead of the usual four years. Although some deferral is inevitable, the proposed sequence for ward map N2 reduces the number wards in a manner that minimizes deferral and have the majority of residents remain in their current wards. A final map needs to be adopted and all associated administrative tasks completed by the April 17, 2022 state-mandated deadline.

If the City Council makes further changes to a ward map plan prior to the ordinance introduction, there will need to be an additional public hearing in order to satisfy the seven-day map posting requirement required by the Fair Maps Act. Further delay to ordinance introduction and adoption of resolution will impede staff's ability to complete all associated administrative tasks and meet the mandated deadline to ensure the final map has been accepted by the Orange County Election Official in time for the November 2022 election.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Ordinance
2. Resolution

Submitted By: Daisy Gomez, Clerk of the Council

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager