

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Community Services Commission

FROM: Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

DATE: July 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Receive Presentation on Local Redistricting Efforts and Provide General Recommendations Regarding Public Engagement

PREPARED BY: Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on local redistricting efforts and provide general recommendations regarding public engagement.

BACKGROUND: On July 25, 2017, the City of Temecula adopted Ordinance No. 17-04 transitioning the City from at-large to district-based elections. In 2018, district elections were held for Districts 1, 3 and 5. In 2020, district elections were held for Districts 2 and 4.

Every ten years local governments use new census data to redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. The districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population ensuring that each council member represents about the same number of constituents. This process is called redistricting.

In Temecula, the City Council is responsible for drawing local districts. The City will use the services of a consultant demographer. Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which is expected to be received by the State on or before September 30, 2021. The adjusted data to be used by local governments is expected within a few weeks thereafter. For the City of Temecula, which has its next general municipal election in November 2022, the redistricting process must be completed by April 17, 2022.

District lines will be adopted pursuant to federal and State law (Elections Code Section 21601) using the following criteria:

Federal: (1) Equal population (based on total population of residents as determined by the most recent federal decennial census and adjusted by the State to reassign incarcerated persons to the last known place of residence), (2) Federal Voting Rights Act, and (3) no racial gerrymandering.

California (to the extent practicable and in the following order of priority): (1) geographically contiguous districts (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, tunnel, or regular ferry service are not contiguous.), (2) the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division, (3) easily identifiable boundaries that follow

natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.), (4) lines shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness, and (5) boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

In addition, cities are required to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach, including to communities that do not speak English. The City will also be creating a redistricting page on its website with the relevant information, including but not limited to, the process, timeline, notices and agendas, hearing recordings, draft maps, final adopted map, and how to participate via public comment in the entirety of the process.

At this time, staff is kicking off its initial public engagement efforts by making presentations to each of the City's boards and commissions and City Council to bring awareness about the upcoming redistricting and solicit feedback on any local organizations and/or groups to engage in the process.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENTS: None