

City of Watsonville 2021-22 Redistricting Process

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Summary of Presentation

- ▶ **Overview of Redistricting Process**
 - ▶ Timing
 - ▶ Public participation
 - ▶ Legal criteria
- ▶ **Proposed schedule**

Redistricting Process

- ▶ **Redraw 7 City Council districts to ensure:**
 - ▶ Equal Population based on 2020 census
 - ▶ Compliance with all federal and state laws
- ▶ **2011 Process**
 - ▶ City Council-appointed Advisory Committee
 - ▶ Advisory Committee recommended plan to City Council
 - ▶ City Council amended plan

2021-22 Process

- ▶ **Advisory Committee can be established like 2011**
- ▶ **City Council must make final decision**
- ▶ **New State law - FAIR MAPS Act - imposes additional requirements**

Timing

- ▶ **Census delay**
- ▶ **Current estimate:**
 - ▶ State receives census data: mid-August
 - ▶ Statewide Database available: end of September
 - ▶ Local redistricting: October-March
 - ▶ Deadline for final plan: likely end of March (6 months after getting data)

Public Participation

- ▶ **FAIR MAPS Act requires City to hold at least four public hearings**
 - ▶ Advisory Committee can hold up to two of those hearings if they are both before map drawing
 - ▶ City Council must hold at least two hearings
 - ▶ At least one hearing must be held on weekend or after 6 p.m. on weekday
- ▶ **Purpose of hearings: to receive extensive public input on communities of interest, other criteria**

Public Participation - Continued

- ▶ **City must take steps to encourage residents, including underrepresented and non-English speaking communities, to participate:**
 - ▶ Press releases, community outreach, social media
 - ▶ Translation services upon request
- ▶ **Dedicated redistricting website page**
- ▶ **FAIR MAPS Act requires notice/posting requirements that exceed Brown Act requirements**
- ▶ **Public must be able to submit draft maps, comments electronically and in writing**

Legal Criteria - Federal Requirements

- ▶ **Equal Population**

- ▶ Total deviation less than 10%, and must be justified

- ▶ **Equal Protection**

- ▶ Race cannot be predominant factor

- ▶ **Voting Rights Act**

- ▶ Plan cannot discriminate against racial/language minority, including by diluting voting power of minority group

Legal Criteria - State Law/Charter Requirements

- ▶ **Consider to extent practicable:**
 - ▶ Natural boundaries, street lines, City boundaries;
 - ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Cohesiveness, contiguity, compactness
 - ▶ Communities of interest
- ▶ **Districts cannot favor/discriminate against any political party**

Legal Criteria - Incumbency

- ▶ Incumbent's term of office cannot be shortened
- ▶ District numbers up for election in 2022 must match incumbents who are up (i.e. Districts 3, 4, 5, 7)

Proposed Schedule (Assumes Advisory Committee) May 2021- August 2021

- ▶ **Establish/Appoint Advisory Committee**
- ▶ **Initial organizational/orientation meetings of Committee**
- ▶ **City begins community outreach efforts**

Proposed Schedule - Continued September 2021-October 2021

- ▶ **Committee holds two public hearings**
- ▶ **State releases Statewide database**

Proposed Schedule - Continued

November 2021-December 2021

- ▶ **Committee drafts maps and approves final recommended plan.**

Proposed Schedule - Continued

January 2022-March 2022

- ▶ **City Council holds two to three public hearings:**
 - ▶ 1st hearing: review Committee plan; make possible changes
 - ▶ 2nd hearing: review revised plans; approve plan or make revisions
 - ▶ 3rd hearing (if necessary): review revised plans; adopt final plan