



Agenda Item A.1
WORKSHOP
Meeting Date: November 4, 2021

TO: Chair and Members of the Public Engagement Commission

FROM: Kristy Schmidt, Assistant City Manager
Deborah Lopez, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Fourth and Final Public Workshop on the Districting Process and How to Submit a Proposed District Map

RECOMMENDATION:

Host a public workshop about the City's electoral districting process and how the public can use online and paper tools to submit a proposed district map for consideration.

BACKGROUND

This is the fourth in a series of public workshops about the district drawing process. The first was held on June 7, 2021, the second on June 26, 2021, and the third on August 2, 2021. At the third workshop, which was able to be held in person, all of the various mapping tools were live and participants had the opportunity to stay afterward for in-person assistance with using the paper and online mapping tools to draw and submit their own maps. While the third public workshop was initially intended to be the final workshop, due to the continued delay in official 2020 Census data, staff added this fourth workshop.

Due to the delay in the 2020 Census data, agencies throughout California have been using estimates in their districting and redistricting community discussions. On August 12, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau finally released the 2020 Census data to the states, and then on September 20, 2021, the state released California's Official Redistricting Database including: inmate-reallocated data; electoral datasets (Voter Registration and Statement of Vote); and Citizen Voting Age Population tabulations. These numbers were subsequently provided by Goleta's consultants, National Demographics Corporation (NDC), to the providers of our mapping tools. Most of the tools are now updated with the new data (as of the publication of this agenda only the most complicated tool, Maptitude Online Redistricting, had not been updated, but it should be updated by this Workshop date and has not been widely used by Goleta residents)

The total population of the City of Goleta according to the California Statewide Database is 32,754. As such, each of the four City Council districts for November 2022 must have a population close to 8,189, with no more than a difference of 819 between the most populated district and the least populated one.

Staff have been working with the Public Engagement Commission on the redistricting process since February 2021. This has included a great deal of public outreach and

education about the districting process and how the public can be involved in creating Goleta's electoral districts. This involved, for example, holding the public workshops, launching the DrawGoleta.org information site, identifying outreach lists and communities of interest, opening several different mapping tools for public use, and creating and distributing outreach materials through the City's Community Relations division, including a public service announcement video featuring the Public Engagement Commission members.

To date, 21 maps have already been submitted by the public through the DistrictR district drawing tool, with 18 works in progress. One paper map was also submitted. Anyone who already submitted a map before the final adjusted population numbers were added to the tools is now encouraged to go back into the mapping tools to check that their maps are still balanced (i.e., close to 8,189 in each district, with no more than 819 difference between the most populated and least populated districts) and to adjust their maps, if necessary. All proposed maps must be submitted by January 6, 2022, to be considered.

Four official public hearings are required before a final district map is adopted. The August 2, 2021, workshop served as a public workshop in lieu of a public hearing, as permitted under Election Code section 21607.1(e). On August 17, 2021, the City Council held the second of the four required public hearings at its regular meeting. The purpose of that public hearing was to receive public input and testimony regarding the composition of districts and to approve a list of "communities of interest" for consideration by the public and the Council in drawing districts.

It is not until the third public hearing (scheduled for February 2022) that the City Council may consider draft district maps, as well as the sequence of elections in which district-based elections will be implemented. The public will continue to have the opportunity to submit maps through January 6, 2022, and Council will then consider the maps and sequencing at the third and fourth required public hearings, beginning in February 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Tonight's meeting provides an opportunity for staff to give an update to the Commission on the districting process to date and to go over the remaining process and timeline. Dr. Doug Johnson and Daniel Phillips from the National Demographics Corporation (NDC) will present information on the districting process and the updated tools for residents to use in developing or double-checking maps.

There are still months to go before a district map is reviewed by the Public Engagement Commission and adopted by Council, and several steps that will be taken along the way.


Below is an updated tentative list of the next steps in the District Drawing Process.

December 9, 2021	Regular Public Engagement Commission Meeting (if needed).
January 6, 2022	Final date for the public to submit proposed maps.
January 24, 2022	Draft maps will be posted.
January 26, 2022	Public Engagement Commission meeting to consider the maps submitted and to provide input and recommendation to the City Council.

February 1, 2022	City Council will hold the third formal public hearing and will consider all the draft maps as well as the input and recommendations of the Public Engagement Commission.
February 15, 2022	City Council to hold the fourth formal public hearing and will potentially select a district map and conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the draft map. If the Council decides to approve one of the published proposed maps, at this meeting then the City Council may introduce an ordinance approving the map and setting the election sequencing. The ordinance would return to the City Council on March 1, 2022, for adoption.

If the Council decides on February 15, 2022, to revise one of the published proposed maps, then the revised map will need to be published and another public hearing will be scheduled for March 1, 2022, for the introduction of an ordinance adopting the map and setting the election sequencing. There would then be a public hearing on March 15, 2022, for the adoption of the ordinance.

Approved By:



Kristy Schmidt
Assistant City Manager