

CITY OF WILDOMAR – CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Item #2.1
PUBLIC HEARING
Meeting Date: February 9, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Janet Morales, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Fourth Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community and Introduce an Ordinance Regarding the Redrawing of Election Boundaries

STAFF REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on communities of interest and draft maps;
- 2) Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on proposed map NDC 101b for adoption;
- 3) Introduce first reading of the following Ordinance as presented with preferred Map NDC 101b or any other map previously submitted and posted on the City's website:

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDOMAR,
CALIFORNIA ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES OF CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL
DISTRICTS AND REDEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF ALL CITY COUNCIL
ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF WILDOMAR

BACKGROUND

Every ten years, cities with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Wildomar must be completed by April 17, 2022.

At the January 27, 2016 City Council Meeting, the City Council took action to establish a single member district election system for the City Council. The City adopted its current district boundaries on March 9, 2016, based on 2010 census data as required by law.

The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 census data and in compliance with the FAIR MAPS Act, which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

Under the Act, the council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21601(c) for general law cities / 21621(c) for charter cities):

1. Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act
2. Geographically contiguous
3. Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
4. Easily identifiable boundaries
5. Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
6. Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

1. Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting in 2022 to 2024
2. Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
3. Future population growth

One of the purposes of this public hearing is to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A community of interest under the relevant Elections Code for cities (Section 21601(c) / 21621(c)] 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.”

Possible features defining community of interest might include, but are not limited to:

- A. School attendance areas;
- B. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;

- C. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
- D. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
- E. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - (1) Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - (2) Languages spoken at home; and
 - (3) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps. At least one of these hearings is required to be held prior to any maps drawn.

The City held two public hearings prior to maps being drawn for the purpose of receiving public input on the communities of interest. The City has held one public hearing with drafts maps for the purpose of receiving public input. Video recording of these meetings can be found on the Agenda & Minutes page on the City's website (www.cityofwildomar.org)

DISCUSSION:

The Fourth Hearing is being held to:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on communities of interest and draft maps;
- 2) Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on proposed map NDC 101b for adoption;
- 3) Introduce first reading of an Ordinance as presented with preferred Map NDC 101b or any other map previously submitted and posted on the City's website.

At the January 12th City Council Meeting, the City Council reviewed the draft Maps and requested that Staff bring back an Ordinance for adoption at the February 9, 2022 meeting with the following map:

NDC101 with the change to District 4 near Mission Trail, changing that corner back to District 1; and with the change to District 3 near Almond St. and Walnut St., changing that corner to District 4 or District 1. If those changes do not meet the criteria, then Council directs staff to bring NDC101 without any further changes.

The changes to NDC101 did meet the required criteria and is attached as Exhibit A to the Ordinance.

The City received 1 additional Public Map, attached as Public 102 Map, and 2 comments since the last Public Hearing. Comments and maps received prior to February 2, 2022 at 5pm are included in the attachments to the staff report.

Residents are encouraged to visit www.cityofwildomar.org to follow updates on the redistricting process, review data and materials, and participate in the process by offering comments and submitting maps for consideration. Residents are also encouraged to participate in this public hearing.

Next Steps:

Introduce first reading of the Ordinance as presented with preferred Map NDC 101b or any other map previously submitted and posted on the City's website.

If additional modifications to the maps are requested, the new proposed map and introduction and first reading of the Ordinance can take place at a following Public Hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Submitted by:
Janet Morales
City Clerk

Approved by:
Daniel York
City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

1. Ordinance No. ____
 - Exhibit A: Proposed Map NDC 101b
 - Exhibit B: Proposed Map NDC 101b Demographics
2. Presentation: National Demographics Corporation - City of Wildomar Redistricting
3. Public 102 Map
4. Previously Submitted Draft Maps: NDC 101, 102, 103, Public 101
5. Public Input received though February 2, 2022