



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021

PREPARED BY:
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APPROVED BY: City Manager

RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING PROPOSED DRAFT DISTRICT MAPS SUBMITTED AND COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Open and close the public hearing.

Estimated Time: 45 Minutes

COUNCIL PRIORITIES, GOALS & STRATEGIES

City Council Ongoing Priorities

Supporting our Youth, Seniors, and Entire Community
Fostering a Positive Organizational Culture
Preserving and Cultivating Public Trust
Enhancing Diversity and Inclusiveness

2020-2021 Strategic Priorities

Community Engagement and Messaging

REPORT NARRATIVE:

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 a nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Morgan Hill must be completed by April 15, 2022.

The City adopted its current district boundaries on September 6, 2017, 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, adopted by the California legislature as AB 849, which took effect January 1, 2020.

Under the Act, the City Council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21601(c)):

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

Elections Code Section 21607.1 directs that the City must conduct at least four (4) public hearings throughout the redistricting process; one (1) Public Hearing before maps are drawn, at least two (2) Public Hearings after draft maps are drawn, and one (1) public hearing scheduled on an evening or weekend, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts.

The purpose of this public hearing is to consider and discuss draft Council District Maps submitted, receive public input on composition of Council District boundaries and draft maps, and provide direction on any revisions to draft maps (see attached maps).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Collaborate

The City Clerk’s Office and Communications Team have developed the following community outreach plan:

Public Messaging via Social Media, City’s Website, Press Releases, newsletters, and other public communications, in English and Spanish, including:

- Social media engagement on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and NextDoor
- Updated webpage on City’s website for redistricting updates and information
- Information provided via website newsflashes, eblasts, “Morgan Hill Weekly 411,” and print
- Press releases sent to various outlets and groups, including individuals and churches who have connections to our Spanish speaking community
- Public notices posted at City facilities
- Display advertisements on local public access network by using Channel 17
- Informational tables at the Farmer’s Market, Friday Night Music Series, local coffee shops, and other public spaces
- Virtual Town Halls

- **Online Interactive Tools:**

- Updated online interactive mapping tools are available to allow residents to draw their district boundary lines. The City's consulting demographer will provide training for the public on how to use the new online mapping tools.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

Not Applicable

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION ACTIONS:

January 29, 2021, Annual Goal Setting Workshop - City Council received a presentation outlining the requirements and process for redistricting.

[May 5, 2021](#), City Council Meeting - the City Council voted to move forward with a staff-led redistricting process.

August 6, 2021, Mid-Year Goal Review Workshop - City Council received an update on the redistricting process.

[August 18, 2021](#), City Council Meeting- The City Council held the first of four required public hearings in the redistricting process to receive an update on the process and request feedback on Communities of Interest.

[October 20, 2021](#), City Council Meeting- The City Council held the second of four required public hearings in the redistricting process to receive an update on the state-adjusted Census data, and receive a demonstration on available mapping tools.

FISCAL AND RESOURCE IMPACT:

For the FY 2021-2022 redistricting process, staff estimates that the currently budgeted funds will be sufficient.

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act):

Not a Project

The reformatting of electoral districts is not a project as defined in Section 15060(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines.