

Agenda No. _____
Key Words: Redistricting
Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

SUMMARY REPORT

CITY COUNCIL

ITEM INITIATED BY: Douglas L. White, City Attorney

AUTHORIZED BY: Jim Lindley, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Douglas L. White, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION/REQUESTED ACTION

Hold a public hearing for an overview of the redistricting process and hear public input on redrawing City Council district boundaries in response to data received as part of the 2020 census.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On June 14, 2016, the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 16-007, which established a by-district election process for four (4) City Council districts with a mayor elected at-large. Recently, the 2020 federal decennial census was completed. The City of Dixon (the "City") is obligated under Elections Code section 21601, subdivision (a), to complete a redistricting process to reapportion its population between the four (4) City Council districts following each federal decennial census. At the June 1, 2021 City Council meeting, the City Council approved a contract with National Demographic Corporation ("NDC") for demographic services during the redistricting process.

Each City Council district must comply with the Fair Maps Act ("Act"). Under the Act, the City Council must draw and adopt City Council district boundaries so that each City Council district is substantially equal in population as required by the United States



Constitution. City Council districts must be drawn using the following criteria in the listed order of priority¹:

1. Geographically contiguous (each City Council district should share a common border with the next City Council district).
2. Minimize divisions of neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together).
3. Easily identifiable boundaries.
4. Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people).

City Council districts must comply with the United States Constitution, California Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act. Further, City Council districts cannot favor or discriminate against any political party.

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

- Respect voters’ choices/continuity in office.
- Use current City Council districts as a basis for readjusted City Council districts.
- Future population growth.

Public Outreach

The City must take steps to encourage the public to participate in the redistricting process. Accordingly, the City will provide information regarding redistricting to:

- Organizations that provide City news coverage, including organizations that serve language minority communities.
- Good government, civil rights, civic engagement, and community groups or organizations that are active in the City, including those active in language minority communities, and those that request to be notified of redistricting.

The City will also provide information regarding the redistricting process by publication on the City’s website.

¹ Elec. Code, § 21601.

The City will also develop a separate webpage dedicated to the redistricting process, which will include:

1. A general explanation of the redistricting process.
2. The procedures for a member of the public to testify during a public hearing or to submit written testimony.
3. A calendar of all public hearing dates, times, and locations.
4. The notice and agenda of each public hearing.
5. The recording and written summary of each public hearing.
6. Each draft map under consideration.
7. The adopted final map of City Council district boundaries.

A draft map will be published on the webpage for at least seven (7) days before being adopted as a final map. The City's webpage will be maintained for at least ten (10) years after adopting the new City Council district boundaries.

Public hearings will be noticed pursuant to the Brown Act, but to encourage more public participation, the Act requires more than the standard 72-hour notice. Generally, public hearings will be noticed at least five (5) days in advance. Members of the public will be able to testify during public hearings or submit written testimony.

Timeline

The redistricting deadline is April 17, 2022. During the redistricting process, the City Council must hold at least four (4) public hearings that comply with the following:

- One (1) public hearing must be held before publication of the draft maps.
- Two (2) public hearings must be held after publication of the draft maps.

At least one (1) public hearing must be held on a Saturday or Sunday or after 6:00 p.m. on a weekday.

This initial public hearing is the first of four (4) public hearings planned and will provide the City Council and the public an overview of the redistricting process. Additionally, this public hearing serves as an opportunity for the public to begin providing their input regarding the composition and boundaries of their City Council districts, especially the composition of neighborhoods and communities of interest. Redistricting will determine which neighborhoods and communities of interest will be grouped together into one (1)

district for the purposes of electing a City Councilmember. Additional public hearings seeking public input on redistricting are on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 4, 2022.
- Tuesday, March 15, 2022.
- Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A public hearing for an overview of the redistricting process does not constitute a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 21065 and 21080.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the redistricting process have been approved. The cost of primary services for redistricting will be Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$14,500). The City will incur additional costs for the NDC’s attendance at public meetings and other optional services the City wishes NDC to perform.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Redistricting presentation

APPROVALS:

Finance: _____ City Manager: _____ City Attorney: _____