



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Second Public Hearing Regarding the Composition of Council Districts Related to the City's Proposed Transition to District-Based Councilmember Elections

1. Motion Directing Staff Regarding Preparation of Draft District Maps

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Public Hearing

Approved for July 11, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has initiated the process to transition from its at-large council election system to council districts. This matter is the second public hearing to solicit public input on the composition of council districts.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council conduct the second public hearing pertaining to the composition of council districts related to the City's proposed transition to district-based elections and provide any direction regarding draft maps it deems appropriate.

BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2023, the Council adopted Resolution No. 23-55 declaring its intent to initiate the process to transition from at-large to district-based councilmember elections pursuant to Elections Code section 10010. The Council directed staff to commence the process to transition to council districts by way of amendment to the City Charter, to include a proposal to transition to six council districts and a directly elected mayor who would be a voting member of the Council. This hearing is the second public hearing the Council will hold regarding the composition of council districts.

ANALYSIS

Public Hearing

Pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, the Council is required to hold two public hearings before the preparation of draft maps, and then have at least two public hearings after the publication of draft maps. The City intends to have at least five public hearings with the fifth hearing being the adoption of the final map. After this public hearing, the additional public hearings are scheduled for August 15, 2023, October 10, 2023, and October 24, 2023. The principal purpose of this second public hearing is for the City's demographer, National Demographics Corporation (NDC), to provide another overview of the criteria the City must utilize for preparation of the maps and for the public to provide input on the consideration of those criteria in developing maps and the composition of the districts.

District Criteria

In accordance with Elections Code section 21601, the Council must draw districts that satisfy the following criteria:

- Council districts must be substantially equal in population based on the total population of residents of the city as determined by the most recent census with adjustments mandated by the State of California.
- Council district boundaries must comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act.
- The Council shall adopt district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:
 - (i) To the extent practicable, council districts shall be geographically contiguous.
 - (ii) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A "community of interest" 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. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(iii) Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.

(iv) To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria, council districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

- The Council must not draw district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

Feedback and Direction on Draft Maps

After the second public hearing, NDC will commence preparation of draft maps taking into consideration the criteria above as well as public comment provided with respect to these criteria. Those draft maps, along with all draft maps submitted by members of the public, will then be published no later than August 8, 2023, seven days prior to the 3rd public hearing. It is appropriate for Council to provide input at the conclusion of the second hearing regarding the district criteria, including what local neighborhoods or local communities of interest should be preserved in particular districts.

Additionally, although the Council's feedback and direction to date have been to pursue a district plan that include six council districts and a directly elected mayor, the Council has not been unanimous on the type of district plan to pursue and whether or not to include a directly elected mayor. If the Council desires to direct the preparation of draft maps other than an option involving six districts and a directly elected mayor, it should direct the demographer to do so at this second hearing. While having alternative maps and governance plans may add to the complexity of the process, if the Council desires to leave its options open, now is the best time to provide the direction to the demographer to prepare draft maps that consider seven council districts or other alternative plans for public review and feedback.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

The City has commenced an extensive public outreach process in conjunction with the districting process. In addition to at least five public hearings before the Council, the City – with the assistance of outreach consultant Tripepi Smith – is scheduled to hold community workshops, numerous pop-ups at City events, and engage in additional public outreach efforts including issuance of press releases, advertising, social media engagement and mailers. The outreach is being conducted in multiple languages – English, Armenian, Spanish, Korean, and Tagalog. As of the date of this Report, the City will have held four public workshops/pop-ups, of a total of 20 to be held. A listing of the dates, times and locations of the remaining public workshops and pop-ups is set forth in Exhibit 1. A website dedicated to the districting effort, which will include draft

maps, calendar of hearings and workshops dates and pertinent updates, has been established at <https://mapglendale.org>. The website is available in the following languages: English, Armenian, Spanish, Korean, and Tagalog and addresses questions on the frequently asked questions portion of the website. Along with digital outreach and engagement, a banner will be hung on Verdugo Rd. across from the Glendale Community College Campus. Lastly, the outreach team hired Glendale Youth Alliance to distribute outreach packets to Glendale businesses, specifically bakeries and grocery stores across the City. Stakeholders are welcome to submit public comments and share your thoughts throughout the process by attending district formation meetings, sending a direct email to mapglendale@glendaleca.gov, and/or submitting feedback through the contact form on MapGlendale.org.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This activity involves organizational and administrative activities of the government related to election procedures and eligibility requirements, and such internal procedural and eligibility changes have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. As such, this action is not a “project” subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 14 Cal. Code Regs § 15378.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Council can conduct the public hearing and provide the direction for the demographer to prepare draft maps for six council districts.
2. The Council can conduct the public hearing and provide the direction for the demographer to prepare draft maps for six council districts, seven council districts, and/or another alternative.
3. The Council can select an alternative not identified by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

1. Schedule of Remaining Public Hearings, Workshops, and Pop-Ups