



# CITY OF INGLEWOOD

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



**DATE:** October 12, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** Set Public Hearing to receive public input regarding redistricting

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Mayor and Council Members set a public hearing for October 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. to conduct a public hearing regarding the districting process to hear from the Inglewood community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries.

### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Under the FAIR MAPS Act, following each federal decennial census, council districts must be redrawn so that each council district is substantially equal in population as required by the U.S. Constitution. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each City council member represents about the same number of constituents. The FAIR MAPS Act requires cities to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding at least 4 public hearings, subject to the following:

- At least 1 public hearing shall be held before the council draws a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries;
- At least 2 public hearings shall be held after the council has drawn a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries;
- At least 1 public hearing or public workshop shall be held on a Saturday, Sunday or after 6 p.m. on a weekday;
- Alternatively, 1 or more public workshops may be held in lieu of 1 public hearing; and
- If a public hearing is consolidated with a regular or special meeting that includes other substantive agenda items, the public hearing shall begin at a fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda, except that the council may first conclude any item being discussed or acted upon, including any associated public comment when that time occurs.

In addition, the public hearing and workshops must be accessible to persons with disabilities and public outreach must be conducted in English and any other applicable language identified by the California Secretary of State. For the City of Inglewood, the other applicable language is Spanish.

Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which is normally released around March 31st following each decennial census. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 U.S. Census and the resulting data was significantly delayed. The redistricting data that the City will use to consider changes to the four City Council districts has been made available as of September 30, 2021.

The FAIR MAPS Act provides two deadlines for when the City must complete its redistricting process depending on when the City Council sets its next regular municipal election:

- If the regular election is set for June 7, 2022, the City must finish its redistricting process by December 15, 2022.
- If the regular election is set for November 8, 2022, the City must finish its redistricting process by April 17, 2022.

The FAIR MAPS Act was adopted by the California legislature with the passage of AB 849, and took effect January 1, 2020. Under the Act, the City Council must draw and adopt City Council district boundaries that comply with the U.S. Constitution, California Constitution and federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 using the following criteria in the listed order of priority and to the extent practicable:

1. Geographically contiguous districts (each city council district should share a common border with the next);
2. The geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division;
3. Geographic integrity of a city shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division;
4. Easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.); and
5. Lines shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness. In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

The City of Inglewood will also create a Redistricting page on the City's website, which can be used as a central repository to catalog all information related to the redistricting process. The website must be maintained for at least 10 years after adoption of new council district boundaries. A mapping tool will also be added to the page to assist the community in submitting its own recommendations for City Council districts.

The purpose of the October 26, 2021 public hearing is to obtain public comments before the council draws a draft map or maps of proposed council boundaries as required by state law. At that public hearing, a tentative schedule for future public hearings and/or public workshop(s) will be listed so the City can complete its redistricting process before the April 17, 2022 deadline.

**DESCRIPTION OF ANY ATTACHMENTS:**

Public hearing notice

**APPROVAL VERIFICATION SHEET**

**PREPARED BY:**

Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

**COUNCIL PRESENTER:**

Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

**DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL:**

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Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:**

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Artie Fields, City Manager