



# CITY OF INGLEWOOD

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



**DATE:** October 26, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing to Receive Public Input Regarding Redistricting

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Mayor and Council Members conduct a public hearing to receive public input regarding the redrawing of City Council district boundaries, in accordance with the Fair Maps Act.

### **BACKGROUND:**

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 shall adopt 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. Council districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous.
2. The geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes 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.
3. Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. Council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers (rivers, highways, light rail, etc.), by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.
4. 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. (Elections Code section 21621(c)(1)-(4).)

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 four (4) public hearings, subject to the following:

- At least one (1) public hearing shall be held before the council draws a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries;
- At least two (2) public hearings shall be held after the council has drawn a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries;
- At least one (1) public hearing or public workshop shall be held on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m., on a weekday;
- Alternatively, one (1) or more public workshops may be held in lieu of one (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 31<sup>st</sup>, following each decennial census. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 U.S. Census and the resulting data were significantly delayed. The redistricting data that the City will use to consider changes to the four (4) City Council districts has been made available as of September 30, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City of Inglewood has created a Redistricting page on the City’s website under the City Clerk’s Office, which will be used as a central repository to catalog all information related to the redistricting process. The website must be maintained for at least ten (10) years after the adoption of new council district boundaries and may be found by visiting the following: <https://www.cityofinglewood.org/1608/Redistricting>

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 this public hearing is to obtain public comments before the City Council draws a draft map or maps of proposed council boundaries, as required by state law.

A tentative schedule for future public hearings and/or public workshop(s) are listed as follows:

- October 26, 2021
- January 29, 2022
- February 22, 2022
- March 15, 2022

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 21622(a)(3), the City must adopt its final map of the council district boundaries by April 17, 2022, as the City's next regular municipal election will be held on November 8, 2022. Adhering to the schedule above will ensure the City has enough time to adopt the final draft map prior to the April 17, 2022 deadline.

**DESCRIPTION OF ANY ATTACHMENTS:**

None.

**FINANCIAL/FUNDING ISSUES AND SOURCES:**

None.

**PREPARED BY:**

Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

**COUNCIL PRESENTER:**

Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

**APPROVAL VERIFICATION SHEET**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Artie Fields, City Manager