

City Council Redistricting

City of Hanford

June 1, 2021

Redistricting – State Law

- **Deadline for Redistricting:** *April 17, 2022* (205 days prior to November 8, 2022 election)
- **General Requirement:** Following each federal decennial census, the Council shall, by resolution or ordinance, adopt boundaries that create districts of ***substantially equal population***.
- Population equality shall be based on total City population, not population of voters.
 - A deviation of ten percent (10%) or less will be assumed to be constitutional.

Redistricting – State Law

- To the extent practicable, the following criteria shall apply in the following order of priority:
 - ***Geographically contiguous:*** *A district's perimeter can be traced in one, unbroken line.*
 - ***Geographic integrity:*** Respect integrity of local neighborhoods or local communities of interest.
 - Community of interest: A population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included in a single district for purposes of effective and fair representation.
 - Racial and ethnic compositions and languages.
 - Similar socio-economic factors (e.g., income and education levels)
 - Does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
 - ***Easily identifiable and understandable boundaries:*** Districts should be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or other boundaries of the City.
 - ***Geographical compactness:*** Nearby areas of population should not be bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

Redistricting – Federal Law

Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA):

- VRA Section 2 prohibits districts that intentionally or unintentionally dilute racial, ethnic, or language minority voting rights by denying equal opportunity to nominate and elect desired candidates.
- U.S. Supreme Court has declared that districting may be performed “with consciousness of race.”
- But, the Supreme Court does not allow racial gerrymandering. To avoid gerrymandering, a map must seek to keep politically cohesive communities of interest together that share similarities in addition to their race and ethnicity.
- Gerrymandering: Manipulation of district lines to improperly affect political power.
- 14th Amendment restricts use of race as the “predominant” factor in drawing districts, but it does not prohibit the consideration of race in redistricting.

Public Hearings

- At least four (4) hearings.
 - At least one (1) hearing before draft maps are prepared.
 - At least two (2) hearings after draft maps are drawn.
 - At least one (1) hearing held on Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday.
- Hearings must begin at a fixed time regardless of its order on an agenda.
- Staff or a consultant may conduct one (1) or more workshops in lieu of holding one (1) of the four required hearings.
- Council may establish an advisory commission to hold hearings.

Public Outreach

- Must take steps to encourage residents, including underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities, to participate. These steps shall include a good faith effort to do the following:
- **Media:** Provide information to media organizations, including media that serves language minority communities.
- **Community Groups/Organizations:** Provide information through good government, civil rights, civic engagement, and community groups.
- **Translation:** Arrange for live translation if a request is received at least seven-two (72) hours prior to hearing/workshop.
- **Hearing Publication:** Publish date, time, and location of public hearing/workshop on internet at least five (5) days prior to event.
- **Record or Prepare Written Summary:** Record or prepare written summary of each public comment and Council deliberation occurring at every hearing/workshop. The recording or summary must be made available to public within two (2) weeks of the event.

Public Outreach (cont.)

- **Map Publication:** Draft map shall be published on internet at least seven (7) days prior to adoption.
- **Map Information:** To the extent information is possessed, each draft map prepared by the City must include information on total population, citizen voting age population, and racial and ethnic characteristics of citizen voting age population of each proposed district.
- **Release of Draft Maps:** Must not release draft maps earlier than three (3) weeks after block-level redistricting database required under Gov. Code § 8253(c) is made public.
- **Testimony:** Must allow public to submit testimony on drafts maps in writing and electronically.

Redistricting Webpage

Maintain redistricting web page for at least ten (10) years containing the following:

- General explanation of redistricting process in English and “applicable language.”
- Procedures for public to testify at hearings or to submit written testimony to Council in English and “applicable language.”
 - Note: Templates created by CA Secretary of State satisfy the “general explanation” and hearing “procedures” requirements.
 - “Applicable language”: Any language that is spoken by a group of residents with limited English proficiency who constitutes three percent (3%) of the total population over four (4) years of age. Secretary of State will post applicable languages for each city on its website.
 - Note: As of May 10, 2021, the Secretary of State has not posted applicable language information due to delays in receipt of data due to COVID.
- Calendar of hearings/workshops.
- Notice and agenda for each hearing/workshop.
- Recording or written summary of each hearing/workshop.
- Each draft map considered by Council.
- Adopted final map.

Redistricting Commission

- ***Establishment:*** Council may establish a redistricting commission by resolution or ordinance.
- ***Types:***
 - ***Advisory Commission:*** Body that recommends district boundaries to Council.
 - ***Hybrid Commission:*** Body that recommends to Council two (2) or more district maps, where the Council must adopt one (1) of the maps without modification.
 - ***Independent Commission:*** A body, other than the Council, that has authority to adopt a district map.

Questions and/or Comments

Direction From Council