STAFF REPORT

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: August 24, 2021

FROM: Joseph Hughes, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Betty Hughes, MMC, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Redistricting Process

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:
1) Receive a report from National Demographics Corporation, Consultant, on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and
2) Receive public input on district boundaries.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The agenda for this item was posted at the three locations per Resolution No. 2011-047 and on the City's website. The Public Hearing Notice was posted on the City's website on the Redistricting webpage on August 11, 2021; published in the Highland Community Newspaper on August 13 & 20, 2021; and published in the El Chicano Newspaper on August 19, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT: No more than $30,000 for the redistricting process.

BACKGROUND: Every ten years, cities with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Highland must be completed by April 17, 2021.

The City adopted its current district boundaries in 2014, based on 2010 census data as required by law. The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 census data and in compliance with the FAIR MAPS Act (the Act), which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

Approved _____	Motion _____	Second _____	Agenda Item No. __1__
Denied _____	Ayes _____		
Continued _____	Noes _____		File No. _____
Tabled _____	Abstain _____		
	Absent _____		

_____
City Clerk

_____
City Manager

Under the Act, the Council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21601(c)) for general law cities:

1. Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act
2. Geographically contiguous
3. Undivided neighborhoods and "communities of interest" (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
4. Easily identifiable boundaries
5. Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)
6. Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

- At least one hearing must occur before the City draws draft maps
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps
- The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps
- City staff or consultants may hold a public workshop instead of one of the required public redistricting hearings

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, cities and counties must take the following steps:
- At least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with another local government meeting, the redistricting hearing portion must begin at a pre-designated time
- Local public redistricting hearings should be made accessible to people with disabilities

The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A community of interest under the relevant Elections Code for cities (Section 21601(c)) 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."
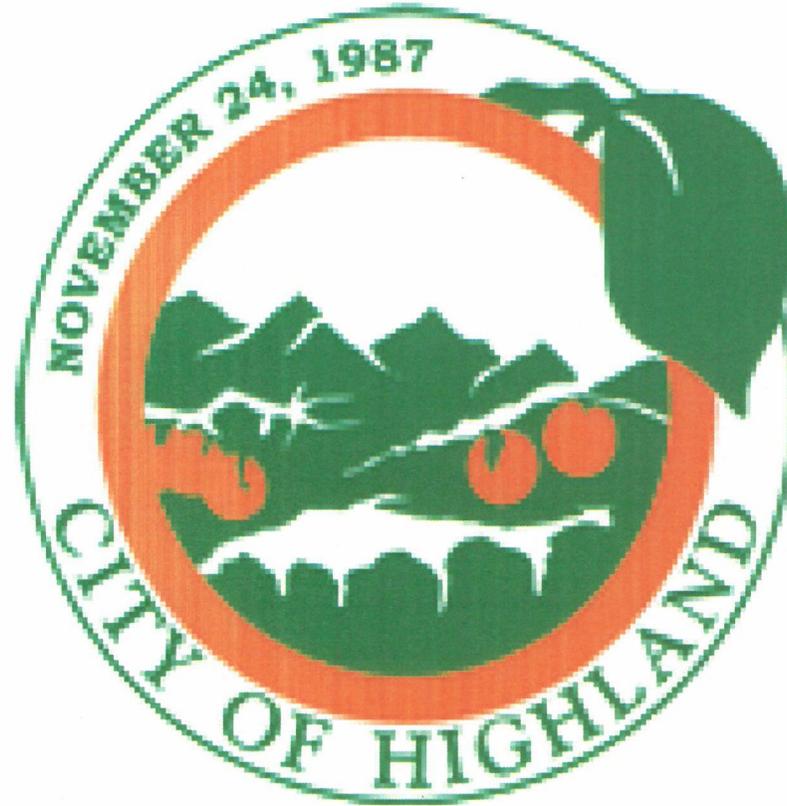
Possible features defining community of interest might include, but are not limited to:

A. School attendance areas;
B. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
C. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
D. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
E. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
  (1) Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
  (2) Languages spoken at home; and
  (3) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

Next Steps:

On October 26, 2021, the City Council will conduct Public Hearing #2 to seek additional public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting district maps. Following that hearing, draft district maps and proposed election sequencing will be posted to the City website and available at City Hall.

The dates for Public Hearings #3 (January 11, 2022) and #4 (February 22, 2022) to consider draft maps are tentative depending on release of the delayed U.S. Census data and state prisoner population adjusted counts.

City of Highland
Introduction to Redistricting 2021

Redistricting Process

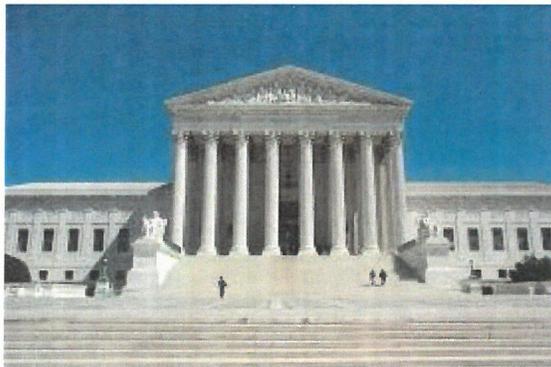| Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings August 24 & October 26	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the Districts.
Census Data Release Mid/Late August	Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data.
California Data Release Early October 2021	California Statewide Database releases California's official 'prisoner-adjusted' 2020 redistricting data.
Two Draft Map Hearings January 11 & February 22	Two Public Hearings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map Adoption By April 17, 2022	Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption. Map adopted via ordinance.*

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*SB 594 would explicitly confirm maps may be adopted by resolution.

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Redistricting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population

Federal Voting Rights Act

No Racial Gerrymandering

2. California Criteria for Cities (rank ordered)

1. Geographically contiguous

2. Undivided 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)

Prohibited:

"Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party."

3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

Minimize voters shifted to different election years

Respect voters' choices / continuity in office

Future population growth

Preserving the core of existing districts

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Demographic Summary of Existing Districts

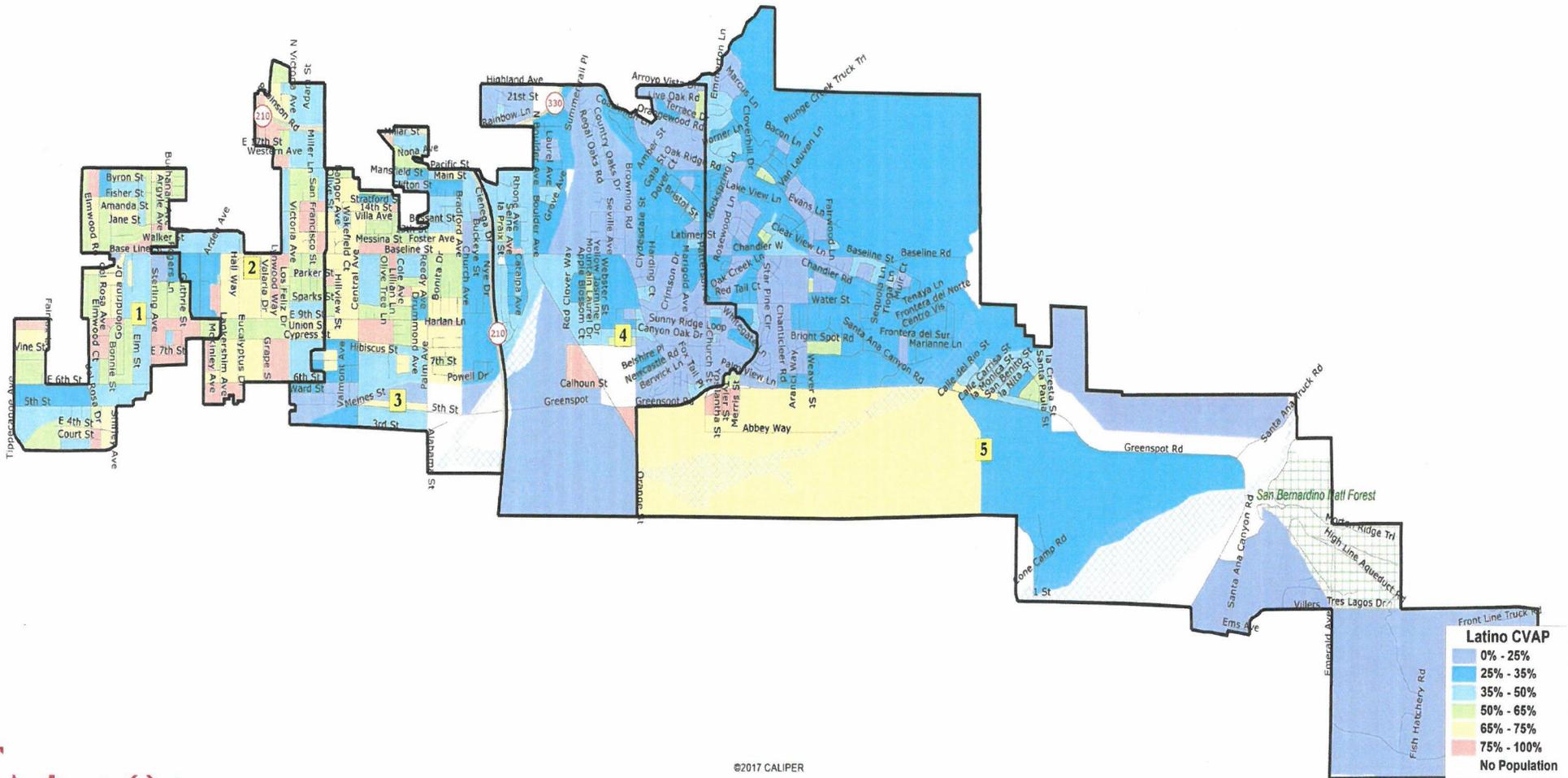## Highland - Current Districts (2020 Census Raw Data)

District		1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020	2020 Est. Total Pop	11,303	11,643	11,750	11,324	10,979	56,999
	Deviation from ideal	-97	243	350	-76	-421	771
	% Deviation	-0.85%	2.13%	3.07%	-0.66%	-3.69%	6.76%
2010 Total Pop	% Hisp	77%	68%	61%	37%	33%	55%
	% NH White	8%	10%	19%	39%	42%	23%
	% NH Black	8%	14%	11%	7%	8%	10%
	% Asian-American	5%	6%	6%	13%	14%	9%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	4,808	5,715	7,580	7,712	6,900	32,715
	% Hisp	58%	56%	52%	30%	31%	44%
	% NH White	20%	18%	30%	51%	47%	35%
	% NH Black	13%	17%	12%	10%	10%	12%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	8%	7%	5%	9%	12%	8%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	4,521	4,435	5,710	7,491	7,575	29,732
	% Latino est.	65%	57%	51%	30%	28%	43%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	58%	51%	46%	27%	25%	38%
	% Asian-Surnamed	4%	3%	3%	5%	5%	4%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%
	% NH White est.	17%	20%	32%	53%	52%	38%
	% NH Black	12%	19%	14%	10%	14%	14%

Estimates using official 2020 demographic data and NDC's estimated total population figures.

Each of the 5 districts must contain about 11,400 people.

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Latino CVAP

There is some concentration of Latinos, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, or Native Americans

Latino CVAP
- 0% - 25%
- 25% - 35%
- 35% - 50%
- 50% - 65%
- 65% - 75%
- 75% - 100%
- No Population

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Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: What is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills

- Areas around parks or schools

- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.

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Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: What defines your community?

- Geographic Area, plus

- Shared issue or characteristic

    - Shared social or economic interest

    - Impacted by county policies

- Tell us "your community's story"

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being "included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation"?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may <u>not</u> include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

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Beyond Neighborhoods: Communities

Under the California Elections Code, "community of interest" has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:

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.
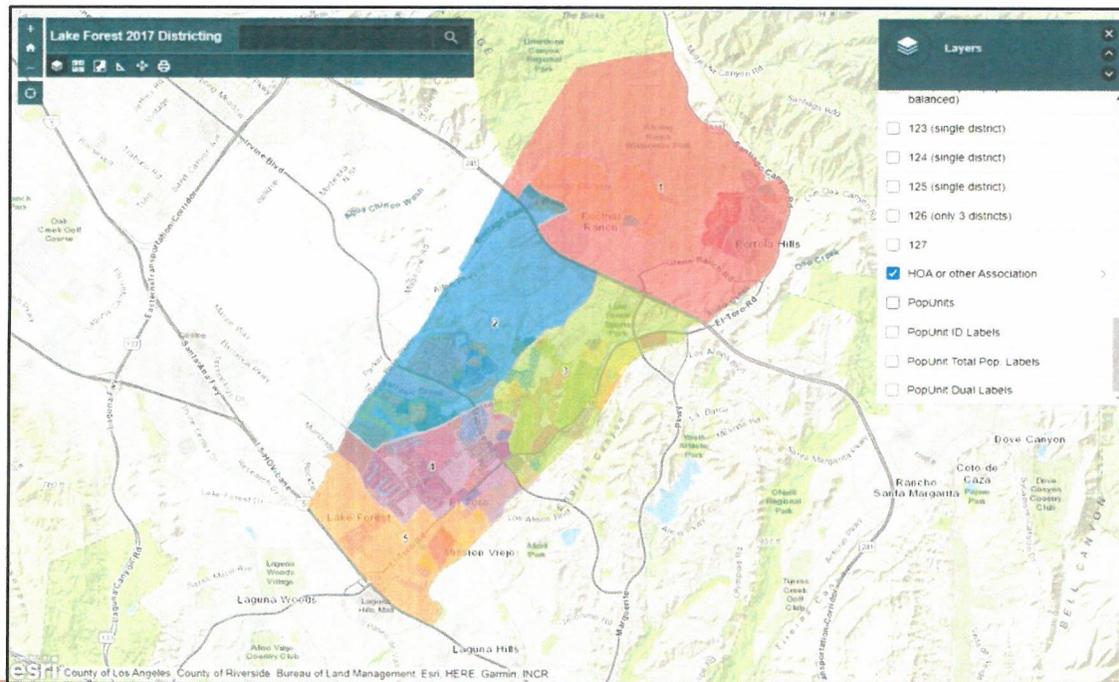
(emphasis added)

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Story Map

□ **Easy to use "story" of demographic and other data**

   ■ Similar to PowerPoint, but interactive

   ■ Used to identify "communities of interest"

   ■ <u>Sample map from Goleta</u>

Simple Map Review Tool

Online Interactive Review Map

- ESRI's "ArcGIS Online" – similar to Google Maps in ease of use

- Used to review, analyze and compare maps, not to create them

- Includes overlays of "community of interest" and other data

Public Hearing & Discussion

What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?

What other notable areas are in the City, and what are their boundaries?

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Share Your Thoughts

Website

https://www.cityofhighland.org/331/Redistricting-Redistritacin

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