



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Elizabeth Shavelson, Assistant to the City Manager

Reviewed by: Lisa Soghor, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: October 6, 2021

Meeting date: November 2, 2021

Subject: Redistricting

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Receive update on the current redistricting processes currently being conducted on the County and State levels; 2) Direct the Mayor to submit a letter to the Citizens Redistricting Commission identifying the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments cities and the unincorporated area from Topanga to the Ventura County line as a community of interest and requesting that it remain together in one supervisorial district; and 3) Direct the Mayor to submit a letter to the California Redistricting Commission identifying the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments cities and the unincorporated area from Topanga to the Ventura County line as a community of interest and requesting that it be included in the same district for congressional and state representation.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact as a result of this recommended action.

WORK PLAN: This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This project is part of normal staff operations.

DISCUSSION: Every 10 years, after the federal government publishes updated census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts, so that the districts correctly reflect the state's population. The California Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing these new district boundaries. Similarly, Los Angeles County must redraw the supervisorial districts so that each district is substantially equal in population.

State of California Redistricting

In November 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11, the Voters FIRST Act. The Act authorized the creation of the Citizens Redistricting Commission responsible for drawing the district lines for the State Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization. In November 2010, California voters approved Proposition 20, the Voters FIRST Act for Congress, which added the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.

In general, districts are to have reasonably equal population, comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, be geographically contiguous, respect the geographic integrity of any city, county, city and county, local neighborhood, or local community of interest in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible, and encourage geographical compactness.

The Commission is currently soliciting public comment on the proposed districts and communities of interest. The Commission is holding a series of public input meetings and line drawing sessions for regions throughout the state in October and November 2021. The Commission will release the Preliminary Draft District Maps for public review no later than November 15, 2021 and approve and certify final statewide maps to the Secretary of State no later than December 27, 2021.

Los Angeles County Redistricting

In the past, the Board of Supervisors appointed an advisory Boundary Redistricting Committee (BRC) to study proposed changes to the boundaries and the Board of Supervisors could make revisions before adopting the final redistricted boundaries. In 2016, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 958 requiring Los Angeles County to assemble an independent commission to draw the supervisorial districts using U.S. Census data independent of the Board of Supervisors.

Per the County Charter, there are five Board of Supervisors. The five districts must comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act and be drawn in such a way that they are reasonably equal in total resident population (approximately two million people), geographically connected and minimize dividing cities, neighborhoods, or communities of interest.

The Citizens Redistricting Commission has been soliciting public input on the redistricting plan. The Commission has held a series of public hearings and recently launched an updated online mapping tool for members of the public to create and submit proposed supervisorial maps. According to the Citizens Redistricting Commission's timeline, the Commission will identify several map options for public review in late October 2021. It will then conduct a series of public hearings to solicit public feedback on the maps in November 2021. The maps will be refined based on the public comment

received and the Commission will vote on the adoption of the final maps by December 15, 2021.

City of Malibu's Community of Interest

The Voters FIRST Act defined a community of interest as a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. The City of Malibu has long been a member of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (LVMCOG) along with the neighboring cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village to address shared environmental, transportation and public safety concerns related to the area's unique geography. Adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area, most of the LVMCOG is located in Very High Fire Severity Zone and is served by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The region's shared rural characteristics, wildfire threat, mobility challenges and ongoing collaborative planning efforts to address transportation, watershed management, disaster preparedness, emergency response and homelessness serve to demonstrate that it is a community of interest.

Many of the shared common interests of the LVMCOG cities extend to the unincorporated Los Angeles County area from Topanga to the Ventura County line. In addition, the City of Malibu shares educational interests with many residents in this unincorporated area served by public schools in Malibu.

In April 2021, the LVMCOG voted unanimously to send a letter to both the Citizens Redistricting Commission and the California Redistricting Commission requesting that its member cities (Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu and Westlake Village) remain together in same districts.

On September 29, 2021, the City of Calabasas submitted a letter to the Citizens Redistricting Commission citing a multitude of reasons that the LVMCOG and the surrounding unincorporated areas are a natural community of interest and should not have divided representation on the Board of Supervisors. On October 7, 2021, the City of Agoura Hills submitted a similar letter to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Staff recommends that the Council direct the Mayor to submit a letter to the Citizens Redistricting Commission and the California Redistricting identifying the LVMCOG cities and the unincorporated area from Topanga to the Ventura County line as a community of interest and requesting that it remain together in one district for the purposes of congressional, state and county represent similar to the letter submitted.

ATTACHMENTS: None.