



## Fremont City Council

3300 Capitol Avenue  
Fremont, CA 94538

**SCHEDULED**

Meeting: 12/07/21 07:00 PM  
Div/Dept: City Manager's Office  
Category: Plans, Policies and Studies

### STAFF REPORT (ID # 4501)

Sponsors:  
DOC ID: 4501

## City of Fremont 2021 Redistricting Process - Redistricting Public Hearing #2, Start time - 7:15pm

### Contact Persons:

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**Executive Summary:** Every ten years, following each federal census, cities that use district-based election systems must review the boundaries of voting districts and re-adopt district boundaries based on current census data to ensure that voting districts remain substantially equal in population. The districts must be redrawn using 2020 census data and follow the Fair Maps Act, adopted by the California legislature in 2019.

Under the Fair Maps Act, the City is required to hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps. This hearing is the second of four redistricting public hearings. The purpose of this public hearing is to (1) receive and file a report on the public input received regarding communities of interest and district boundaries and (2) conduct a public hearing to receive additional public input on communities of interest and district boundaries. The U.S. Census Bureau has now released the latest round of information from the 2020 federal census. The Demographic Summary of the City's existing districts, attached to this report, utilizes the Census Bureau and official 2020 state adjusted Census Data. The City will utilize this data throughout the redistricting process, which must be completed by April 17, 2022.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2017, the City began the transition from at-large to district-based elections. The district-based maps were adopted on June 13, 2017 by the City Council with an ordinance approving six new Council districts and a phase-in schedule from 2018-2020. The change from at-large to by-district elections requires the City to conduct a redistricting process every ten years.

On July 13, 2021, Council was provided an informational overview of the redistricting process with a presentation by National Demographics Corporation, Inc., who is assisting the City in managing the redistricting process to ensure overall compliance with data analysis, map creation, website administration, timeline and noticing requirements. On September 21, 2021, the City held its first redistricting public hearing to receive public input on communities of interest and reviewed the permissible criteria to be considered to redraw City Council election district boundaries. These criteria are also outlined in this report.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** Under the redistricting process, districts must be redrawn using 2020 census data and in compliance with the Fair Maps Act, which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

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

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

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

1. Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting in 2022 to 2024
2. Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
3. Future population growth

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

Hearing Requirements	Date Held or Scheduled to be Held	Status	
		Held	To be Held
At least one hearing must occur before the city draws draft maps	September 21, 2021, 7:15pm	X	
At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps	December 7, 2021, 7:15pm February 15, 2021, 7:15pm	X	X
The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps	April 5, 2022, 7:15pm		X

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, at least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday, have a pre-designated start time, and must be made accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, the City must provide live translation to attendees that make such request within 72 hours notice prior to the meeting. The City of Fremont has scheduled all meetings to meet these requirements and has prepared arrangements in the event of translation requests.

The purpose of Public Hearing #2 is to receive and file public input regarding communities of interest and district boundaries that was received by the City by November 22, 2021, and to conduct a public hearing to receive additional public input. A *community of interest* under the relevant Elections Code for cities (Elections Code 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.

#### *Public Outreach*

An important requirement of the redistricting process is extensive public outreach. The City has completed numerous community engagement activities, well beyond the base requirements, and will continue to do so throughout the process.

Information regarding public hearings held thus far has been posted in TriCity Voice (English), WorldJournal SF (Chinese), La Opinon de Bahia (Spanish), Vietnam Daily News (Vietnamese), and India Post (English, Punjabi, Hindi). Additionally, public hearing documents have been translated and are posted on the City’s redistricting website, [www.redistrictfremont.org](http://www.redistrictfremont.org). On October 28, 2021, the City released a press release regarding Census 2020 data, the redistricting schedule and information on how residents can become involved. Redistricting information has also been included in the City’s weekly online newsletter, The Fremont Connection, and numerous informational posts have been shared on the City’s social media platforms. Staff has also conducted outreach to Fremont community-based organizations.

On October 28, 2021, the City launched an online survey to receive input from the public regarding their communities of interest and current district boundary lines. The survey will remain open through January 30, 2022, and can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Fremontredistricting>. Survey responses and emails submitted to the City by November 22, 2021 are attached to this report.

On November 3, 2021, the City hosted a community workshop to explain the usage of the public participation mapping tool, District R. District R allows residents to “paint” their neighborhood, community of interest, or a map of all 6 council districts electronically to be listed in the public record. The recording and presentation from this workshop are available on the City’s redistricting website. For those who do not have access to the internet, paper maps have also been made available in English and Chinese for pick up and submittal at City Hall, Fremont libraries, and community centers. Electronic and paper draft maps submitted to the City by November 22, 2021 can be found on the City’s redistricting website, <https://redistrictfremont.org/draft-maps/>.

National Demographics Corporation has developed a proposed Minimal Change map for review, based on changes to the City’s population reflected in Census 2020 data. The Minimal Change map is attached to this report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** None.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Fremont Census 2020 Adjusted Demographics
- City of Fremont Redistricting Survey Responses, Received Emails
- National Demographics Corporation Minimal Change Map

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Receive and file a report on the public input received by the City of Fremont by November 22, 2021, regarding communities of interest and district boundaries.
2. Review and discuss public input received by the City of Fremont by November 22, 2021, regarding communities of interest and district boundaries.
3. Conduct a public hearing to receive additional public input on communities of interest and district boundaries.