



City Council
Agenda Report

DATE: February 22, 2022
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Angela Cortez, City Clerk
SUBJECT: An Ordinance Adopting a District Map for Council Member Elections in El Cajon

RECOMMENDATION:

That Mayor Wells requests the City Clerk to recite the title.

An Ordinance of the City of El Cajon, California, Approving Four Districts Following the 2020 Decennial Federal Census, and Adopting a New Map Describing the Boundaries of Each of the Districts.

Attachments

Ord 5115

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING FOUR COUNCIL DISTRICTS FOLLOWING THE 2020 DECENNIAL FEDERAL CENSUS, AND ADOPTING A NEW MAP DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH OF THE DISTRICTS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CAJON DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 201 of the El Cajon Charter states that not later than December 31st of the year following the year in which the decennial federal census is taken the City Council shall adopt an ordinance to divide the City into four Council districts. The 2020 decennial federal census was not published until August 12, 2021, due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; the federal census data was thereafter adjusted by the California Statewide Database, which was published in its final version on September 27, 2021.

SECTION 2. As a result of delays in publishing the decennial federal census (including delays caused by the adjustments made by the California Statewide Database) the City was unavoidably precluded from meeting the deadline to adopt the Council district map by December 31, 2021, as required by Section 201 of the Charter. These delays were further compounded by the need to follow new public hearing processes as required by California Elections Code sections 21620 et seq., which were originally added to California law by the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions Act, adopted in 2019 (the "FAIR MAPS Act").

SECTION 3. Following the guidelines established by the FAIR MAPS Act, as well applicable City Council resolutions and Section 201, the City has conducted such public hearings and other proceedings to develop draft maps of Council districts that fully comply with State and federal voting rights laws for consideration by the City Council.

SECTION 4. The City Council makes the following findings:

1. The City of El Cajon has conducted a series of public meetings and held at least four (4) properly noticed and conducted public hearings, each in one of the current Council districts, and all in compliance with the FAIR MAPS Act, specifically: on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at the Hillside Recreation Center; on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at the Renette Recreation Center; on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Kennedy Recreation Center; and on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., at the El Cajon Valley High School. The first and second meetings (each a pre-draft map hearing) were to obtain public testimony identifying "neighborhoods," "community of interests," and "secondary areas," as well as to inform the public on the use of mapping tools on the

City's website in order to assist the public in the drafting of potential Council district maps. The third meeting, following the first submission of maps, was to hold a public hearing to present, discuss, and revise draft maps available for review, and to identify focus maps (i.e., those that the City Council identifies as eligible for a final determination). The fourth and final meeting, at which the City Council held a public hearing to review the focus maps, was to identify a map from that group preferred by the City Council to be approved by this ordinance.

2. During each public hearing and public meeting involved in the process, the City Council encouraged the public to participate and assist in the development of Council district maps.
3. The City of El Cajon has provided the public with demographic and voting information, and website tools allowing the public the opportunity to create their own maps for consideration by the City Council. Such information and tools were made available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Dari, and Pashto, and translators for those languages, if requested, were provided at each public hearing.
4. The El Cajon City Council has listened to and reviewed public testimony and comments, both oral and written, and considered districting plans reflected in a total of thirteen proposed maps (identified as Maps 100 through 112). Maps 100 through 112 were created by either the City's consultants or members of the public.
5. That upon consideration of the staff report and all public testimony presented, both oral and written, the City Council finds that the proposed Council districts reflected in the districting plan in Map 100, as set forth in Exhibit A, comply with the criteria set forth in Chapter 1.18 of the El Cajon Municipal Code; Resolution No. 006-17; are as equal as practicable in population as shown by the United States 2020 Census; were drawn to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, the California Voting Rights Act, and the FAIR MAPS Act; are geographically contiguous ; were drawn with respect for the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest; are easily identifiable and understandable by residents; drawn to encourage compactness, were not drawn for the purposes of favoring or discriminating against any race; and were not drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.
6. Delays in publishing the decennial federal census (including delays caused by the adjustments made by the California Statewide Database), which were further compounded by the need to follow new public hearing processes as required by the FAIR MAPS Act, made it legally impossible for the City Council to adopt the Council district map by December 31, 2021,

as required by Section 201 of the Charter. The City Council hereby finds that the deadline established by Section 201 is merely advisory; therefore, the City Council hereby waives any failure to meet the deadline for the Council district map as set forth Section 201.

SECTION 5. The City of El Cajon is hereby divided into four Council districts, and the boundaries of the districts are more particularly depicted in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 6. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion.

SECTION 7. As of the effective date of this ordinance, all ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. As this ordinance relates to an election, it shall be effective upon adoption by the City Council.

SECTION 9. The City Clerk is hereby directed to certify the passage of this ordinance and to cause the same or a summary to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, printed, and published in the City of El Cajon.

02/08/22 CC Agenda – 1st Reading
02/22/22 CC Agenda – 2nd Reading

Ord - Adopt District Map of El Cajon 012522

Map 100

