

Date: July 21, 2021

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



Subject: Update on the Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission

This report provides an update on the City's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) process and activities.

Background

On November 6, 2018, Long Beach voters approved Measure DDD – City of Long Beach Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Measure DDD amended the City Charter providing requirements in Article XXV for a commission of Long Beach residents with exclusive authority to determine Council Districts boundaries every 10 years after the national census through an open and transparent process.

As provided in City Charter Section 2505, the IRC consists of 13 Commissioners and two alternates. The Ethics Commission randomly selected the initial nine Commissioners, one from each City Council District, in October of 2020. Subsequently, the initial nine Commissioners selected the remaining four commissioners and two alternates on November 20, 2020, establishing the full commission before the City Charter-required December 1st deadline. Alternate Commissioners can deliberate in all matters before the Commission, but cannot vote.

As provided in the IRC bylaws, regular IRC meetings occur on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.. The IRC can also schedule special meetings as necessary to fulfill the City Charter requirements. Since November of 2020, the IRC has held 18 meetings. The IRC held its first hybrid meeting on July 14, 2021.

City staff from the City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, and Technology and Innovation Departments provide primary staff support IRC. Other City departments are engaged as necessary to support the work of the IRC. The City Manager's Office provides overall coordination of the IRC process, and in addition to internal staff support, the IRC receives support from a professional redistricting consultant. City Council approved a contract with Redistricting Partners, Inc. on November 17, 2020, to assist City staff with technical consulting services for the IRC throughout the redistricting process.

The redistricting process and timeline is dependent upon the release of the U.S. 2020 Census data. The U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau) estimates a release date of September 30, 2021 for the final 2020 Census Redistricting tabulated data files as required by Public Law 94-171, which is six months later than the usual deadline of March 31st. However, the Bureau will provide "legacy format summary data files" to states in mid-August. These data files will require tabulation by the states for use in the redistricting process.

It is anticipated that the California Statewide Database, using converted legacy data, could release complete redistricting data files ahead of the Bureau by September 23rd, 2021. The California Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions Act (FAIR MAPS) requires a 21-day waiting period after the data release date before any line drawing can occur. Therefore, the IRC may not be able to begin line drawing until at least mid-October. City Charter Section 2502 requires the IRC to approve a final map at least six months in advance of the next primary election for it to apply in the next election cycle.

Using the State primary election date of June 7, 2022, the IRC would have to approve a final map by December 7, 2021. Following this schedule, the IRC would have approximately six weeks to develop proposed draft maps, recommend a draft final map, comply with public comment-period requirements, and approve a final map. Despite the challenge of an abbreviated schedule for reviewing map alternatives and approving a final map, the delayed release of the Census data has provided the IRC with more time than previously anticipated to conduct public outreach and comply with the City Charter requirement of holding at least one public hearing in each City Council District.

Since its initial meeting as a full Commission on January 6, 2021, the IRC has undertaken various training and business activities to prepare for the inaugural independent redistricting process. The IRC began conducting Communities of Interest (COI) Outreach meetings in each City Council District on June 2, 2021 and are scheduled to continue through August 18th. Communities of Interest outreach will conclude with a citywide meeting on September 8th, providing all City residents an additional opportunity to learn about redistricting and share Communities of Interest testimony. Comprehensive information on the activities of the IRC can be found on the City's website at <https://www.longbeach.gov/redistricting/>.

IRC Community of Interest (COI) Outreach

As part of its public engagement plan, the IRC is conducting outreach meetings in each City Council District to introduce the IRC to the Community, educate and receive feedback from the Community on the proposed redistricting process, provide training to residents on the use of the online mapping tool, and obtain Community of Interest input from residents via written and/or oral public comments, online or hardcopy COI forms, and online or hardcopy COI maps. These Council District meetings are open to all residents regardless of where they reside.

Below is the schedule for all IRC COI Outreach meetings. Due to the shift from virtual to community-based, hybrid-meetings and the scale of logistical planning for supporting technologies, scheduling of facilities for two meetings is still underway. As each location is confirmed, updates will be available on the IRC website and added to all promotional materials.

Community of Interest Outreach Meeting Schedule			
Date	Time	Location	Type
June 2, 2021	6:00 p.m.	District 1	Virtual
June 23, 2021	6:00 p.m.	District 2	Virtual
July 7, 2021	6:00 p.m.	District 3	Virtual
July 14, 2021	6:00 p.m.	District 7 - Cabrillo High School	Hybrid
July 21, 2021	6:00 p.m.	District 6 - Poly High School	Hybrid
July 28, 2021	6:30 p.m.	District 8 - Longfellow Elementary School	Hybrid
August 4, 2021	6:30 p.m.	District 5 - McBride High School	Hybrid
August 11, 2021	6:30 p.m.	District 9 - Location Pending Confirmation	Hybrid
August 18, 2021	6:30 p.m.	District 4 - Location Pending Confirmation	Hybrid
September 8, 2021	6:30 p.m.	Citywide Meeting - City Council Chambers	Hybrid

Public Map Submissions

The IRC has established and initiated implementation of a process for receiving partial and full maps from the public as required by City Charter Section 2507. Two types of maps (COI maps and District plan maps) can be submitted for IRC consideration until the redistricting process concludes. An online mapping tool with a video tutorial has been provided on the IRC website for electronic submissions. Maps can also be printed from the IRC website allowing members of the public to hand-draw COI maps, which can be submitted via email, mail, or in person to the City Clerk or at IRC meetings.

District plan maps submitted electronically via the online mapping tool will be based on 2010 data until the release of the Census 2020 Redistricting data in September. COI and District plan maps will be accepted from the public in any alternative formats. All map submissions will be posted on the IRC website. The IRC will refrain from drawing any maps until 21 days after the Census 2020 Redistricting data is released.

Mapping Hearings

The IRC, among other related requirements of the California FAIR MAPS Act, will have to conduct at least four map hearings, including one before releasing any draft maps and two after releasing any draft maps. As a baseline, the IRC, with assistance from Redistricting Partners Inc., has developed a draft outline of the following sequence of hearings for the line drawing process (Draft Redistricting Process and Methods). Review of proposed maps will be guided by the redistricting criteria enumerated in City Charter Section 2506.

1. Analysis of Existing Districts with New Population Hearing: Comparison of Council District lines with the 2010 Census data and 2020 Census data.
2. Initial Draft Map Selection Hearing: Selected draft map(s) and related data tables posted to the IRC website seven days prior to any further action.

3. Community Feedback Hearing: Public to comment on draft plan(s). Modified draft plan(s) posted to the IRC website for seven days.
4. Proposed Final Map Selection Hearing: If adopted by the IRC, proposed final map posted to the IRC website for seven days. Final report prepared on proposed district lines.
5. Vote on Final Map and Report Hearing: Up or down vote on final map with no changes. Map and data submitted to the County and is effective immediately for the next election if done by the December 7, 2021 deadline.

Next Steps

After the final COI Outreach Meeting on September 8, 2021, the IRC will finalize its proposed methods and procedures for reviewing proposed District maps prior to the release of the Census 2020 Redistricting data and the start of mapping hearings. Staff and Redistricting Partners Inc. will also begin offering map training workshops before the mapping hearings begin. Staff will provide Mayor and City Council with another update on the status of the redistricting process following the conclusion of the COI Outreach.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager, at (562) 570-5028.

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