

Redistricting Public Hearing 08.18.21

STAFF REPORT:

- **Subject:** Riverside County 2021 Redistricting Process Overview
- **Supervisorial District:** All
- **Contact:** Riverside County Executive Office Deputy Director, Rania Odenbaugh at (951) 955-1110 or by email at rodenbaugh@rivco.org
- **Project Description and Location:** Overview of the county's 2021 redistricting process and resources for countywide public participation.
- **Recommendations:**
Receive and file the Executive Office Technical Committee's Recommended 2021 Riverside County Redistricting Process.
- **Background:**
Redistricting is the process by which Supervisorial District boundaries are drawn every 10 years to ensure each district has an equal number of residents.

Under state law, the Board of Supervisors may establish, by resolution, ordinance or charter amendment, an independent redistricting commission, a hybrid redistricting commission, or an advisory redistricting commission composed of residents of the County to change the Board's district boundaries.

Elections Code 23002 applies to Advisory Redistricting Commissions. It states in relevant part, "(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the local jurisdiction may prescribe the manner in which members are appointed to the commission; (c) A person who is an elected official of the local jurisdiction, or a family member, staff member, or paid campaign staff of an elected official of the local jurisdiction shall not be appointed to serve on the commission; (d) A local jurisdiction may impose additional requirements or restrictions on the commission, members of the commission, or applicants to the commission in excess of those prescribed by this section."

On November 17, 2021, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors established the 2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission by resolution, which is the existing Planning Commission for the County of Riverside, who is a Brown Act body of five members selected by the Board of Supervisors. Each of the Planning Commissioners are residents of the County with one Planning Commissioner from each Supervisorial District. The Planning Commission receives support through the County of Riverside Planning Department and meets on Wednesdays within the county.

The 2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission will receive direct support through a Technical Committee established by the Executive Office, which will be comprised by the five Chiefs of Staff for each Supervisorial District, as well as staff from County Counsel, the Executive Office, Riverside County Information Technology Department, Registrar of Voters, and the Transportation Land Management Agency, among others.

Since the last update to the Advisory Redistricting Commission on January 20, 2021, the state and federal governments announced timing for the release of census data

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which provided additional clarity for the County's redistricting efforts and timeline. On April 26, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau provided apportionment counts to the President. The federal government announced that it will release the Legacy-format Redistricting Data file by August 16, 2021. This legacy data requires substantive additional processing for use. The state has announced that the Statewide Database will process and release Redistricting Data, adjusting for incarcerated individuals to counties, and it is expected to be released to local jurisdictions the end of September 2021.

In prior census years, data collection was complete by July of the census year. However, due to challenges in collecting data posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau extended data collection to October 2020. In addition, during prior census and redistricting cycles, the Census Bureau has released data to the states by April of the year following the census, this year, the Redistricting Data is expected to be released by September 2021, nearly five months later than prior redistricting cycles. The significant delays on the release of data by both the federal and state governments have created a very tight timeline for local jurisdictions to complete the redistricting process, which by law must be complete by no later than December 15, 2021, to allow for those districts to be ready for use in the June 7, 2022 primary election.

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