



DATE: February 23, 2021

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Calling For a Transparent, Inclusive, and Equitable 2021 Redistricting Process in Alameda County

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopts the attached resolution (Attachment II) that calls for a transparent, inclusive, and equitable 2021 redistricting process in Alameda County following the completion of the 2020 Census.

SUMMARY

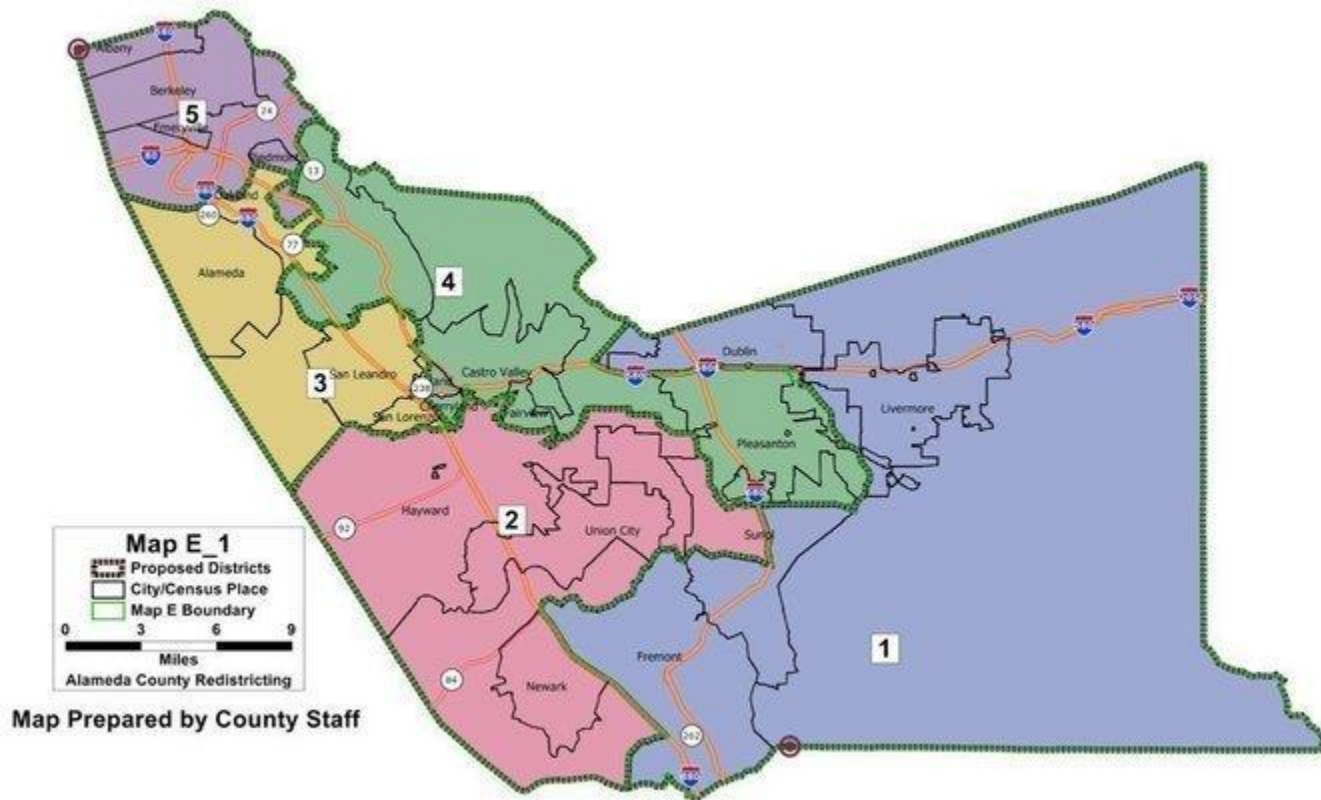
Every ten years, the Federal Government conducts a census to determine the number of individuals living in the United States. Following each census, State law, Section 21500, requires that the Board of Supervisors adjust the boundaries of any or all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that “the districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be.” Councilmembers Lamnin and Wahab have both made requests to staff separately that a resolution be brought forward for Council consideration that calls for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to conduct a redistricting process that is transparent, inclusive, and equitable. Councilmember Lamnin is also a member of the Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting that has outlined a number of recommendations for the County to follow during this process.

BACKGROUND

Every ten years, the Federal Government conducts a census to determine the number of individuals living in the United States. Following each census, State law, Section 21500, requires that the Board of Supervisors adjust the boundaries of any or all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that “the districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be.” In addition, proposed redistricting plans must comply with requirements of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and with the mandate of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, 42 USC § 1973, et seq., to assure fair and effective representation for racial and language-minority groups.

Alameda County last completed this process in 2011. The Board of Supervisors established an ad-hoc committee that did not begin meetings until July 12, 2011. Background on the 2011 process can be found here: [Supervisory Redistricting 2011 - Alameda County \(acgov.org\)](http://www.acgov.org/Supervisors/Redistricting/2011/Background.htm)

The current Supervisorial boundaries as adopted in 2011 are as follows:



DISCUSSION

This year's redistricting process will be delayed slightly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and delays to formal completion of the 2020 Census. The California Supreme Court has extended the deadlines for redistricting for at least four months due to the pandemic and the Federal delays in census reporting. The current timeline for Federal certification of census data is July 31, 2021. It is unlikely that Alameda County will kick off any ad-hoc committee process until the summer of 2021. In addition, new State legislation (AB 849, Bonta) has gone into effect that mandates criteria for standardized and fair redistricting. The law requires local governments to engage communities in the redistricting process, to hold a minimum number of public hearings, and to reach out to non-English speaking communities.

The Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting has been formed with the goal of working with the County to create a transparent and inclusive redistricting process. This is important because the establishment of election districts in the County determines how communities are represented on the Board of Supervisors, how the County's \$3.5 billion annual budget gets allocated, how many votes a particular area has on issues, and how communities might be divided or consolidated. The maps approved this year will be in place for the next ten years,

until completion of the 2030 Census. The Coalition has established a Change.Org petition around this topic: [Petition · Representation Matters · Change.org](#).

Councilmembers Lamnin and Wahab have both made requests to staff separately that a resolution be brought forward for Council consideration that calls for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to conduct a redistricting process that is transparent, inclusive, and equitable. Councilmember Lamnin is also a member of the Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting that has outlined a number of recommendations for the County to follow during this process.

The attached resolution calls on Alameda County to conduct a transparent, inclusive, and equitable redistricting process consistent with AB 849, AB 1276, and the best practice guide of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus¹.

The resolution also calls for the process to be conducted consistent with the following goals:

1. Protects and maintains communities of interest;
2. Includes at least one public hearing regarding the proposed consultant who will develop the proposed map(s);
3. Includes at least one public hearing regarding the proposed outreach plan for the redistricting process;
4. Ensures that the consulting firm and the redistricting process as a whole offer accessible online and in person opportunities to provide input regarding communities of interest, impact of proposed lines, and other comments, questions, concerns, and ideas related to the proposed maps;
5. Includes accessibility approaches that remove physical, technological, language, and other barriers to public participation including work schedules and family commitments;
6. Leverages the trusted messengers and communities of interest infrastructure put in place to ensure a complete Census count, including engaging community volunteers;
7. Includes meetings before and after the maps are created as well as at least two other methods/opportunities for engagement accessible for each of the five districts;
8. Leverages the Municipal Advisory Councils, Interfaith Networks, and other existing network and neighborhood infrastructure to communicate the importance of and opportunity to participate in the redistricting process;
9. Provides adequate funding and personnel to accomplish these goals in partnership with community volunteers; and
10. Provides meeting notices at least two weeks in advance, including notices of Board of Supervisors meetings whenever possible.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

¹ Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus. “Guide to Best Practices in Districting.” Available at: <https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guide-to-Districting-Best-Practices-AAAJ-ALC.pdf>

Ensuring fair representation on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors could ensure that Hayward receives an equitable distribution of County funds moving forward and that Hayward residents are fairly represented during important votes impacting the City.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this action.

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

This report is not directly associated with a project on the Strategic Roadmap but does support the Improve Organizational Health Project 19c. Inform the public about the 2020 Census.

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

None.

NEXT STEPS

If the Council adopts the resolution, staff will draft a letter for the Mayor to send to the Board of Supervisors along with the resolution.

Prepared and Recommended by:

Kelly McAdoo, City Manager

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. McAdoo', is written over a horizontal line.

Kelly McAdoo, City Manager