

**CITY OF YUCAIPA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jennifer Crawford, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk 
Tammy Vaughan, Deputy City Clerk/IS Technician 

FOR: City Council Meeting of November 8, 2021

SUBJECT: 6:03 P.M. TIME CERTAIN - Public Hearing No. 2: Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the Redrawing of Election District Boundaries

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council conduct the second Redistricting Public Hearing and:

1. Receive a report from the City's Consultant, National Demographics Corporation, (NDC) on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and
2. Discuss "neighborhoods" and "communities of interest"; and
3. Receive public input on district boundaries.

DISCUSSION:

Every ten years, local governments use new census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. Assembly Bill 849 (2019) and Assembly Bill 1276 (2020) require cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and doing public outreach. In Yucaipa, the City Council is responsible for drawing council districts and the redistricting process must be completed by April 17, 2022.

On October 11, 2021, the Yucaipa City Council held its first 2021-2022 Redistricting Public Hearing and received a presentation from the City's redistricting consultant NDC. NDC's presentation detailed a tentative schedule which highlighted the requirements of AB 849 and included information regarding redistricting principles and the following criteria that the City must use to redraw the City's district lines:

Federal Criteria:

- Equal Population (based on total population of residents as determined by the most recent federal decennial census and adjusted by the State to reassign incarcerated persons to the last known place of residence)
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- No Racial Gerrymandering

California Criteria for Cities (in the following order of priority):

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

The purpose of this second redistricting public hearing is to inform the public about the districting process and to provide the members of the community an opportunity to voice their opinions about which factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding Communities of Interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps.

A Community of Interest under the relevant Elections Code for cities (Sections 21601(c)/21621(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.” In general, possible features defining a Community of Interest might include, but are not limited to:

1. School attendance areas;
2. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
3. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
4. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
5. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - a. Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - b. Languages spoken at home; and
 - c. Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

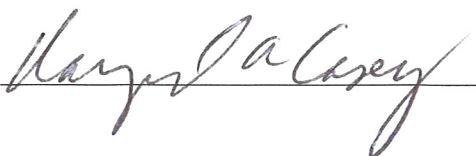
NDC will provide a presentation at this hearing and discuss possible communities of interest in the City of Yucaipa that may be considered during the redistricting process.

Residents are encouraged to visit <https://yucaipa.org/yucaipa-redistricting/> to follow updates on the redistricting process, review data and materials as they become available, and participate in the process by offering comments and submitting maps for consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this public hearing.

Attachment(s): Public Comment Received

Approved by: 

From: tslaick ymra [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:51:04 AM
To: Ray Casey <rcasey@Yucaipa.org>
Subject: Yucaipa redistricting proposal ...

Good morning Ray,

It is my understanding that the city is currently accepting submissions and considering ideas and suggestions regarding city council redistricting. This has been a concern for the mobile home park resident community since the inception of districting in Yucaipa (@ 2016 if I am correct).

Currently, roughly 80 - 85% of the mobile home parks in Yucaipa are represented by one city council member. Folks living in the mobile home park communities have expressed much concern about this over the years, as when it comes to city council representation, there is little to no incentive (other than moral) for the majority of the council to participate actively in supporting this community (considering votes).

Furthermore, there are a number of powerful organizations that oppose rent control, as well as some rights of folks living in our mobile home park communities. As these organizations lobby for their causes, they often support city council members with donations supporting re-election, etc.

We (the people) always hope and believe that the city council will be fair and objective in decision making regarding the mobile home park community, however, with the current districting, the majority of the city council need not concern themselves with the concerns or needs of the people living in these mobile home parks. They can give unbalanced favor to park owners without accountability to park residents, given that the people's votes have little to no impact relative to election/re-election.

On behalf of the Yucaipa mobile home park resident community and based on park resident concerns, as well as my own personal sampling, there is a need to allocate the mobile home park resident community in a more equal distribution between city council members to create or improve a 'check and balance' that extends beyond a moral obligation, and to one that is also backed by fair representation of the people's vote.

Please consider reallocating mobile home parks to include a balanced mix of representation by dividing park resident population as equally as possible between all city council member districts.

Thank you, and thank you for attending and speaking at the last YMRA meeting. I am sure that you are appreciated more than you know. Your consideration and follow up on this issue is also appreciated.

Tony Slaick
Former, YMRA Chairman
(Yucaipa Mobilehome Residents' Association)