



DATE: July 27, 2021
TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Veronica Nebb, City Attorney
Dawn G. Abrahamson, City Clerk
SUBJECT: SECOND PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE REDRAWING OF ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES -THIS PUBLIC HEARING WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 8:00 P.M.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council: 1) receive a report from staff and the demographer on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and 2) conduct a public hearing to receive input from the community regarding the redrawing of election district boundaries.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Tonight is the second of two pre-map Public Hearings. Every ten years, cities with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Vallejo must be completed by April 17, 2022.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this second public hearing is to inform the public about the redistricting process and to hear from the community on what 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."

Possible features defining a community of interest might include, without limitation:

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.

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Language Requirements for Redistricting

Per Elections Code Section 21608, the City must provide language services in applicable languages, as provided by the Secretary of State. Pursuant to Elections Code Section 21608(h) applicable language requirements for city redistricting purposes include any language that is spoken by a group of city residents with limited English proficiency who constitute 3 percent or more of the city's total population over four years of age for whom language can be determined.

On June 11, 2021, the Secretary of State released guidance for cities regarding these language requirements. In addition to English, the City of Vallejo is required to provide qualifying materials and "live translation" (interpretation) services in Spanish and Tagalog/Filipino upon a request made at least 72 hours in advance of a hearing or workshop. The City of Vallejo is committed to ensuring transparency and reaching our Spanish and Filipino community members. Interpretation services at all council hearings and workshops will automatically be available and provided. Any member of the public requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), is asked to notify the City Clerk via email dawn.abrahamson@cityofvallejo.net at least 72 hours prior to the hearing or workshop.

Publication and Noticing Requirements for Redistricting Public Hearings

Per Elections Code Section 210608(c) and 21608(g)(3), the City is required to "publish" the hearing date, time, and location 5 days in advance on the internet and a website calendar satisfies this publishing requirement. In addition, these notifications will also be published in the Vallejo Times Herald. On July 6, 2021, the public hearing information for this item was published on the City's 2021 Redistricting webpage calendar <https://mapvallejo.org/schedule/> and published in the Vallejo Times Herald on July 15, 2021.

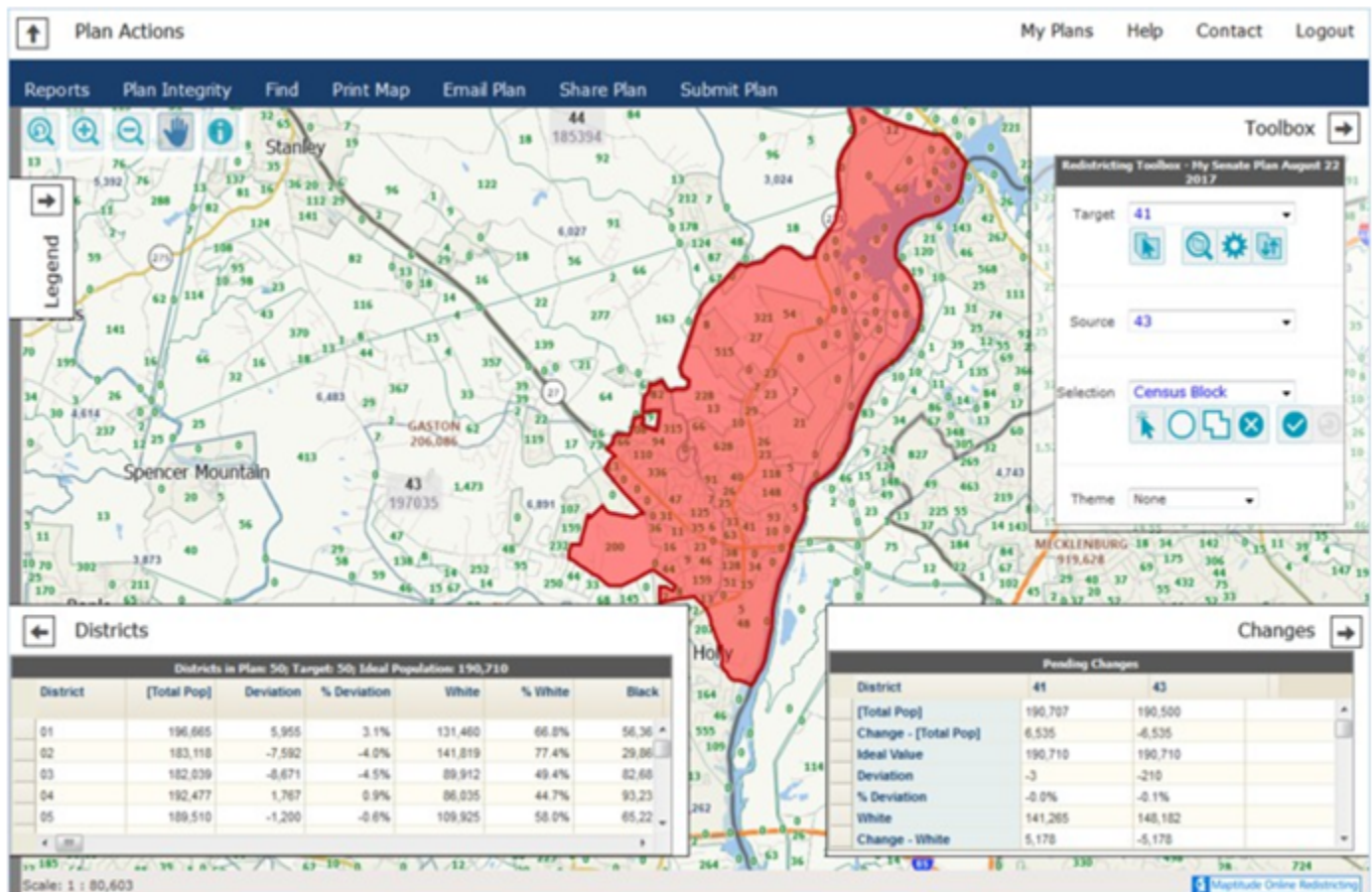
Additionally, to increase public participation, the City has done the following:

- The City has, and continues to post redistricting information to its various social media platforms in English, Spanish, and Filipino, utilizing a number of different engagement tools, including events, static posts, stories, hashtags, and calls to action
- The City posted a Notice of Public Hearing on July 6, 2021 on the dedicated redistricting webpage as noted in the paragraph above and subscribers who signed up to receive redistricting updates were notified via email as well as those who signed up to receive notification of Council meeting agendas via Constant Contact.

Mapping Tools and Public Participation Kits

California's new "Fair Maps Act" has significantly changed the criteria for mapping compared to the rules when Vallejo went through the transition from at-large to by-district elections. The City's demography consultant, National Demographics Corporation (NDC), will provide the mapping tools needed to empower residents to review draft maps and to develop and submit their own map proposals. The Public Participation Kit (paper kits) will be available in English, Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog.

Caliper Corporation's "Maptitude Online Redistricting" (MOR) tool is a professional and powerful online mapping tool allowing residents to develop and submit detailed district map proposals. The MOR screen contains the plan map, a dataview listing the existing districts and their statistics, and a dataview of pending changes based upon the user's current actions. Anyone can create one or more redistricting plans, which will be transmitted to NDC for further analysis.



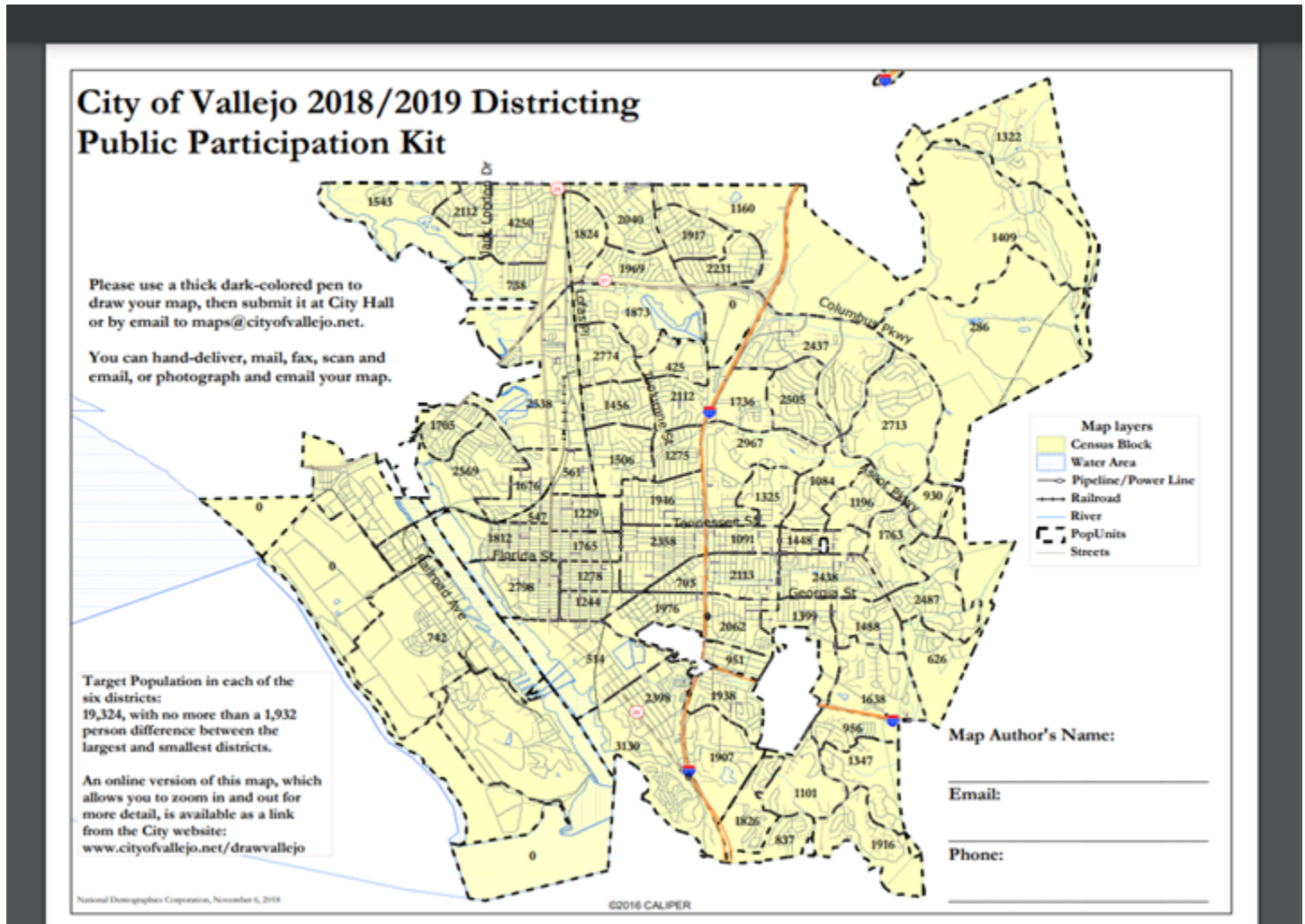
(SAMPLE VIEW OF MAPTITUDE ONLINE REDISTRICTING TOOL)

Paper-and Excel-based Public Mapping Tools, also known as "Public Participation Kits," will also be available as an avenue for public participation. While online mapping tools are very popular, the City does not want to forget those residents who do not have internet access or who simply prefer to not draw maps online. The first, and simplest, Kit is a one-page map showing streets, city borders, and population counts for NDC-created "Population Unit" geographic areas. Residents draw the map they wish to propose and add up the population counts by hand until they get the right population count in each district. All of the directions needed are right on the single-page form.

The second form of offline mapping tool is for those residents who do not want to deal with an online mapping tool, but who are already comfortable with Microsoft Excel. NDC provides a similar simple one-page map of

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those same "Population Units," but this time the map shows the Unit ID number rather than the population count in that Unit. Residents then enter their preferred district assignment for each Population Unit into the preformatted Excel spreadsheet, and Excel calculates the total population and demographics of each District. When the resident has the map the way they like it, they simply email in the Excel file to mapvallejo@cityofvallejo.net



(SAMPLE VIEW OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION KIT FROM 2018/2019)

Next Steps

The dates for Public Hearings Nos. 3 and 4 to consider draft maps are scheduled for January 8, 2022 and February 8, 2022.

A virtual workshop will be held on Saturday, August 7 starting at 10a.m. In addition, workshops in each of the current 6 Districts will be held in the month of August 2021. The timeline with all of the information needed to participate in the virtual or in-person workshops will be updated on the City's 2021 Redistricting webpage at

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www.mapvallejo.org. In order to continue efforts to increase public participation, the City will leverage its social media platforms, various outlets for advertising, and post Press Releases on the 2021 Redistricting webpage and in the Vallejo Times Herald.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with holding this Second Hearing.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

ATTACHMENTS

1.	June 22, 2021 1st Pre-Map Public Hearing Staff Report
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CONTACT

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