In accordance with the current guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the Council Chamber is open for in-person public comment and seating. Masks are required to be worn by all persons in attendance. It is recommended that all citizens practice social distancing to the extent possible while in attendance. Commissioners may choose to participate via conference call.

How to observe the meeting virtually:

1. Spectrum local access Channel 27

How to Submit Public Comments:

VERBAL PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING – (ZOOM Number: US: +1 669 900 9128 Webinar ID: 896 9713 6000 Passcode: 172370 Webinar attendee link https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89697136000?pwd=VzNzcmZIcTRxWFIZSDdTL2pNUDUZMQT09. Verbal comments must be limited to 3 minutes. Public comments submitted will become part of the official meeting record.

The safety and well-being of employees and the public remains the City's top priority. The City of Palmdale appreciates your patience and understanding during these challenging times.
The Advisory Redistricting Commission is making every effort to follow the spirit and intent of the Brown Act and other applicable laws regulating the conduct of public meetings in order to maximize transparency and public access.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (661) 267-5151 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

If you require oral Spanish translation, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (661) 267-5151 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Your courtesy is requested to help our meetings run smoothly. If you'll be kind enough to follow these simple rules, we can make the best possible use of your time and ours:

Please refrain from public displays or outbursts, such as unsolicited applause, comments, cheering, foul language or obscenities.

Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the Advisory Redistricting Commission to carry out its meeting will not be permitted and offenders will be asked to leave the meeting.

Please turn off/mute your cell phones and mobile devices.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

   COMMISSIONERS ANDRE, BUTLER, COULSON, HARRIS, ORTEGA, REILY, REINA, THEDFORD, THORNTON

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
   
   Now is the time for public participation for any person wishing to speak to the Advisory Redistricting Commission on matters listed or not listed on the agenda, within the jurisdiction of the Commission. If you are attending the meeting by phone, please press *9 to "raise your hand." If attending by personal computer, please click the "raise your hand" button. Press *6 to un-mute yourself, state your name and begin speaking.

   PLEASE NOTE: A three-minute limit is imposed on each speaker.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
5.1 Approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on August 23, 2021. (Staff Reference: Staff Secretary Smith)

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.1 Public Hearing to receive input from the community regarding the redrawing of election district boundaries. (Staff Reference: Staff Secretary Smith)

7. ADJOURNMENT
MINUTES
ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
38300 SIERRA HIGHWAY, SUITE B
PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 23, 2021

www.cityofpalmdale.org

1) CALL TO ORDER
   Staff Secretary Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) ROLL CALL
   COMMISSIONERS ANDRE, BUTLER, COULSON, DAVENPORT, HARRIS,
   ORTEGA, REILY, REINA, SADLER, THEDFORD, THORNTON
   PRESENT: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum Harris,
             Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler,
             Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.
   ABSENT: Rochelle Butler.

4) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

   4.1) Adopt Resolution No. ARC 2021-001, a Resolution of the Advisory
        Redistricting Commission of the City of Palmdale for the Election of
        Officers. (Staff Reference: Secretary Smith)

        Motion: Nominate Antonio Ortega as Chair.
        Moved by Antonio Ortega, seconded by Shameka Andre.

        Discussion ensued. After discussion, the following motion was made:

        Motion: Substitute motion to nominate Suzanne Reina
        Moved by Lorraine Sadler, seconded by Vivian Davenport.

        Discussion continued.

        Motion: Substitute motion to nominate Suzanne Reina as Chair and
               Antonio Ortega as Vice Chair.
        Moved by Antonio Ortega, seconded by Lorraine Sadler.

        Vote: Motion carried (10-0)
        Yes: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum
             Harris, Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler,
             Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.
Absent: Rochelle Butler.

This item was taken out of order.

Motion: Appoint City Clerk Smith as staff secretary for the Advisory Redistricting Commission.
Moved by Shameka Andre, seconded by Antonio Ortega.

Vote: Motion carried (10-0)
Absent: Rochelle Butler.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. ARC 2021-001
Moved by Lorraine Sadler, seconded by Avrum Harris.

Vote: Motion carried (10-0)
Absent: Rochelle Butler.

5) ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE
Staff Secretary Smith administered the Oath of Office to all Commissioners in attendance.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS
Mayor Hofbauer, Councilmember Loa, Councilmember Carrillo, City Manager Murphy, and Deputy City Manager Behen introduced themselves to the Advisory Redistricting Commissioners and expressed gratitude for their desire to serve the community.

Xavier Flores, Antelope Valley League of United Latin American Citizens, commented regarding polarized districts, and civil rights.

7) DISCUSSION AND TRAINING ON THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

7.1) Ralph M. Brown Act. (Staff Reference: Deputy City Attorney Pletcher)
Deputy City Attorney Pletcher provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the Ralph M. Brown Act and California Government Code pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of the Commission.

8) PRESENTATIONS

8.1) Doug Johnson, President of National Demographics Corporation ("NDC"), provided a brief background of the company and a detailed overview of the redistricting process to the Advisory Redistricting Commission.
8.2) Sydni Overly, Tripepi Smith, provided a brief overview on the outreach and public engagement efforts to the Advisory Redistricting Commission.

Mr. Johnson commented that NDC, Tripepi Smith and the City are 100% dedicated to total openness and transparency.

Discussion ensued regarding the map submission timeline, review of maps, release of census data, promoting of workshops, social media accounts, and outreach. Deputy City Attorney Pletcher highly recommended that the Commissioners create separate, private and public accounts for social media use. Staff Secretary Smith provided clarification regarding district workshops.

Chair Reina called for a brief recess at 6:45 pm.

9) ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION BYLAWS

9.1) Adopt the Advisory Redistricting Commission Bylaws. (Staff Reference: Secretary Smith)

Motion: Adopt the Advisory Redistricting Commission Bylaws.
Moved by Avrum Harris, seconded by Vivian Davenport.

Vote: Motion carried (8-0)
Yes: Shameka Andre, Patrick Coulson, Vivian Davenport, Avrum Harris, Antonio Ortega, Phyliss Reily, Suzann Reina, Lorraine Sadler.
Abstain: Engel Thedford, Bennie Thornton.
Absent: Rochelle Butler.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Reina adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 38300 Sierra Highway, Suite B, Palmdale, CA 93550.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this September 14, 2021.

Suzann Reina, Chair

ATTEST:

Shanae S. Smith, Staff Secretary
ISSUE
Public Hearing to receive input from the community regarding the redrawing of election district boundaries.

RECOMMENDATION
1) Receive a report from staff on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and
2) Conduct public hearings and workshops to receive public input on district boundaries.

BACKGROUND
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 Palmdale must be completed by April 17, 2022.

DISCUSSION
The City adopted its current district boundaries in 2016 based on 2010 census data as required by law. The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 Census data and in compliance with the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (“FAIR MAPS”) Act, which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

Under the Act, the council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21601(c) for general law cities / 21621(c) for charter cities):
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) Geographic compactness (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

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

1) Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting in 2022 to 2024
2) Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
3) Future population growth

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

- At least one hearing must occur before the city or county draws draft maps
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps
- The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps
- City or county staff or consultants may hold a public workshop instead of one of the
- Required public redistricting hearings

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, cities and counties must take the following steps:

- At least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with another local government meeting, the redistricting hearing portion must begin at a pre-designated time
- Local public redistricting hearings should be made accessible to people with disabilities

The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the districting 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 (Section 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 community of interest might include, but are not limited to:

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

Next Steps:

On November 3, 2021, the City Council will conduct Public Hearing #2 to seek additional public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting district maps. Following that hearing, draft district maps and proposed election sequencing will be posted to the City website and available in the Office of the City Clerk.

The dates for Public Hearings #3 and #4 to consider draft maps are yet to be determined depending on release of the delayed U.S. Census data and state prisoner population adjusted counts.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

City Council has appropriated $150,000 in the FY 2021/2022 mid-year budget adjustments to meet the 2021 Redistricting Program requirements.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal I: Maintain effective public safety and protection for life, property, and the environment.
   C. Use a variety of methods to communicate timely, useful, and trusted information about city programs, services, and policies.

Goal II: Ensure long-term fiscal health of the City and maintain funding for services.
   C. Involve and expand engagement to enhance public oversight and transparency.

Prepared by: Shanae Smith
Certified as to availability of Funds: Keith Kang, Finance Manager
Approved by: J.J. Murphy, ICMA-CM, City Manager
Approved as to form: Christopher Beck, City Attorney
ATTACHMENT

1. Introduction to Redistricting PowerPoint Presentation
City of Palmdale

Introduction to Redistricting
National Demographics Corp.
## Redistricting Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Advisory Redistricting Commission (ARC) holds 1st meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Public hearing #1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20, 2021</td>
<td>California to release official redistricting data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Community Workshops</strong> to demo mapping tools and receive public input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Community Workshops</strong> to demo mapping tools and receive public input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Community Workshops</strong> to demo mapping tools and receive public input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Public hearing #2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12, 2022</td>
<td><strong>Public hearing #3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2022</td>
<td>Deadline for ARC to recommend map to City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td><strong>Public hearing #4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17, 2022</td>
<td>Legal deadline for Council to adopt new district map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2022</td>
<td>First election with new map</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The dates for Public Hearings #3 and #4 to consider draft maps are yet to be determined depending on release of the delayed U.S. Census data and state prisoner population adjusted counts.*
Legal Requirements & Other Goals

1. Federal Law
- Ensure equal population
- Comply with federal Voting Rights Act
- Prevent racial gerrymandering

2. California Law
1. Ensure geographic contiguity
2. Minimize division of neighborhoods & “communities of interest”
3. Create easily identifiable boundaries
4. Maintain compactness
- Do not “favor or discriminate against a political party”

3. Other Goals
- Minimize changes to election cycles
- Respect voters’ choices
- Preserve core of existing districts
- Anticipate future growth
- Do not bypass a nearby population to take in a more distant population
### Demographic Summary of Existing Districts

Each of the 4 districts must contain about 42,362 people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020 Census (Raw)</strong></td>
<td>44,162</td>
<td>41,776</td>
<td>41,403</td>
<td>42,109</td>
<td>169,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deviation from ideal</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>-587</td>
<td>-960</td>
<td>-254</td>
<td>2,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Deviation</td>
<td>4.25%</td>
<td>-1.38%</td>
<td>-2.26%</td>
<td>-0.60%</td>
<td>6.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hisp</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% NH White</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% NH Black</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Asian-American</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Pop</strong></td>
<td>22,828</td>
<td>25,847</td>
<td>21,894</td>
<td>22,798</td>
<td>93,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hisp</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% NH White</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% NH Black</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Asian/Pac.Isl.</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Defining Neighborhoods

What is your neighborhood?
What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition
Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining “Communities of Interest”

Under California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of redistricting:

A “community of interest” 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.

Definitions of “communities of interest” do **not** include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
What Defines My Community?

What brings us together?
- Common interests or experiences
- Similar issues or concern
- Shared culture, language, history

Where are we?
- Areas around parks, schools, or other landmarks
- Bounded by highways, major roads, waterways, hills, etc.

→ Should my community be kept together in ONE council district?
Possible Communities of Interest

Zoning Areas

School Attendance Areas
Public Mapping Tools

Use the tools to draw your community of interest, the district you want for your area, or an entire citywide map

- **DistrictR**: Easy-to-use online map drawing tool
- **Paper Participation Kit**: Simple paper map drawing tool

**Palmdale’s mapping tools launch in October**
# Upcoming Community Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **October 12, 2021**| **District 1** Community Workshop  
Holiday Inn  
38630 5th Street West |
| **October 16, 2021**| **District 4** Community Workshop  
Knight High School  
37423 70th Street East |
| **October 16, 2021**| **District 3** Community Workshop  
Palmdale Oasis Park Recreation Center  
3850 East Avenue S |
| **October 25, 2021**| **District 2** Community Workshop  
Marie Kerr Park Recreation Center  
2723-A West Rancho Vista Blvd. |
Public Hearing & Discussion

- What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?
- What other notable areas are in the City and what are their boundaries?

Discussion on:

- “Neighborhoods”
- “Communities of interest”