

Public Submission Packet

Council District Maps & Community of Interest Testimony



INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION

BERKELEY

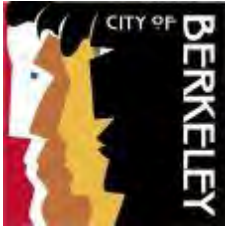
*Mapping Berkeley Communities:
Redistricting by the People*



City Council Redistricting Public Submission Packet

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October 2, 2021

Dear Berkeley Residents,

Every ten years, we Berkeley residents have the opportunity to adjust our eight City Council District boundaries to account for changes in Berkeley's population. This process is called "redistricting" and is based on the latest Census. This year, for the first time, the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) manages redistricting. The IRC comprises volunteers who live in Berkeley and were selected through an open and rigorous process. **The City Council's only role in redistricting is to adopt the map approved by the IRC.**

While U.S., State, and City laws apply, the basic goal of redistricting is simple: redraw the Berkeley City Council District boundaries so that Berkeley residents are fairly represented in our City Council. **The IRC needs the public's input to create a fair, people's map.** The IRC is committed to ensuring an open and transparent redistricting process that welcomes public comment on the drawing of district boundaries, is conducted with integrity, fairness, without personal or political considerations, and creates a fair, people's map.

Public participation is essential to a successful redistricting process. Please provide your input to the IRC by submitting Community of Interest Forms, Proposed Maps, or public comments. A packet of instructions to submit these is available at www.CityofBerkeley.info/redistricting and in paper format at the Berkeley City Clerk Department, 2180 Milvia Street 1st Floor Berkeley, CA 94704. The IRC will analyze, synthesize, and balance the public's input so that the final people's map is the fairest, most compliant map possible.

Key dates for the redistricting process are:

- October 2nd: IRC Public Hearing to Request Proposed Maps
- November 15th: Deadline to Submit Proposed Maps

Please send the IRC your Proposed Maps, Community of Interest Form, or comments to www.CityofBerkeley.info/redistricting or the Berkeley City Clerk Department, 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. **The deadline for Proposed Maps is November 15th, 2021. You may submit COI Forms and comments any time during the redistricting process.**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Watson, Chair, IRC

PROCESO DE REDISTRIBUCIÓN DE DISTRITOS DE LA CIUDAD DE BERKELEY

Cada diez años los gobiernos locales hacen uso de los datos procedentes del censo para volver a trazar las líneas de sus distritos con fines de reflejar el cambio en las poblaciones locales. El Proyecto de Ley 849 de la Asamblea les exige a las ciudades y condados la participación de sus comunidades en el proceso de redistribución de distritos mediante audiencias públicas y talleres al igual que actividades de alcance público que incluyan a comunidades que no hablen inglés.

¿Qué es la redistribución de distritos?

Cada diez años es necesario volver a trazar las líneas distritales con el fin de que cada distrito sea esencialmente igual en términos de población. Este proceso, llamado redistribución de distritos, es importante para asegurar que cada concejal municipal represente aproximadamente el mismo número de pobladores representados. En Berkeley, una Comisión Independiente de Redistribución de Distritos se encarga de trazar los distritos del Concejo municipal. La redistribución de distritos se efectúa haciendo uso de los datos del Censo estadounidense que se publicarán alrededor del 30 de septiembre de 2021.

¿Cómo puedo participar?

La Comisión Independiente de Redistribución de Distritos celebrará reuniones destinadas a recibir aportes públicos referentes a dónde han de trazarse las líneas de los distritos. Las reuniones tomarán lugar distintos días entre semana y los fines de semana a varias horas del día para acomodar la más amplia participación posible.

Usted además podrá presentar modelos de mapas propuestos enviándolos:
redistricting.cityofberkeley.info/berkeley

Usted además podrá presentar comentarios públicos por correo electrónico al:
redistricting@cityofberkeley.info
[Comunidad de Interés \(Español PDF\)](#)

El formulario web está disponible en línea visitando www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/

¿Dónde puedo averiguar más detalles?

La Ciudad mantiene una página web referente al proceso de redistribución de distritos municipales aquí: www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST (COI)

The Berkeley City Charter sets specific criteria for redistricting, which are explained in the following instructions for Proposed Maps. Communities of Interest are specifically referenced in the Charter, and the IRC will consider this in the redistricting process.

A Community of Interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its **effective and fair representation**.

Such shared interests include but are not limited to those common to areas in which the people share **similar living standards**, use the **same transportation** facilities, have **similar work opportunities**, or have access to the **same media** of communication relevant to the election process, as well as **neighborhoods**, **students**, organized student housing, shared age, and **racial demographics**.

Communities of Interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Public input is essential in cataloging and understanding the Communities of Interest within Berkeley. You know the most about your Community of Interest!

Please note that the COI Forms are not an effective way to communicate service requests to the City of Berkeley. While the IRC will take into account issues raised about city services, the IRC does not have the authority to dispatch public services. If you have specific issues for which you seek city services, then please call the City's Hotline, 311 or 510-981-2489.

Instructions for telling the IRC about your Community of Interest are at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting>. A paper Community of Interest Form with instructions is available at the Berkeley City Clerk Department, 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

You do not have to use the COI Form. You can mail or email a description of your Community of Interest in any format and language to the Berkeley City Clerk Department, 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, or redistricting@cityofberkeley.info. The IRC will analyze, synthesize, and balance the public's input so that the final people's map is the fairest, most compliant map possible.

Submitted Community of Interest Forms and Proposed Maps are available for public viewing at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting>.

You may submit COI Forms and comments any time during the redistricting process.

Thank you for contributing to a fair people's map.

Tell us about your community!



Help shape the future of Berkeley's Council districts

Every ten years after the Census, the City Council district boundaries are redrawn to ensure the districts are balanced for changes in population. **Complete this form to tell the Independent Redistricting Commission about your community of interest so it can be considered in the redistricting process.**

What is a “community of interest”?

A community of interest is a group of people in the same geographic area who share common social and economic interests.

Are there things that make your community unique when compared to surrounding areas? What characteristics do you share with your neighbors? How would you describe the area to a friend?

For example, some characteristics a community can share are:

- Identity
- Business districts
- Education
- Ancestry
- Shared transportation
- Cultural centers
- History
- Economic interests
- Language
- Neighborhoods

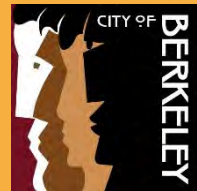
Redistricting laws also prohibit a few things from being included when drawing district boundaries – such as political parties and candidates, or where current councilmembers live.

Use our “Community of Interest Form” on the next page to describe your community. You can add more pages if needed.

Online web form available at: cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/

You can attend public meetings to give more input on this topic. Visit our webpage for dates and times: cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/. You can also email the Commission at redistricting@cityofberkeley.info.

To provide feedback on City services or to request specific City services for your neighborhood, please call 311 or contact your Councilmember.



Community of Interest Form

Optional – Name / Email:

Which district do you live in? If you're not sure, write your address and we'll look it up:

- District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4
 District 5 District 6 District 7 District 8

What are the common interests in your community? Describe how they are important:

Explain the geographical location of your community of interest. What are the boundaries?
Does your community/neighborhood have a name?

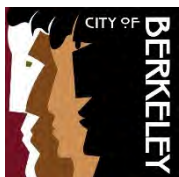
How is your community impacted by the City and the actions of the City Council?

What else would you like to tell us about your community? Add more pages if you need to.

Online web form available at cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/

Questions or comments?

Email the Independent Redistricting Commission:
redistricting@cityofberkeley.info



INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION

BERKELEY

Mapping Berkeley Communities: Redistricting by the People.

Submit this form by:



Email:

redistricting@cityofberkeley.info



In person: City Clerk Department,
2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor



Mail: City Clerk Dept., 2180 Milvia
Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

¡Cuéntenos de su comunidad!



Ayúdenos a definir el futuro de los distritos del Concejo de Berkeley

Cada diez años, tras el Censo se vuelven a trazar los límites distritales para asegurar un equilibrio debido al efectuarse cambios en la población. **Se le invita a llenar este formulario para informarle a la Comisión Independiente de Redistribución de Distritos sobre su comunidad de interés con el fin de ser considerada en el proceso de redistribución de distritos.**

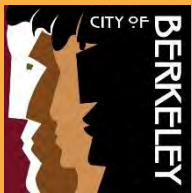
¿Qué es una “comunidad de interés”?

Una comunidad de interés se refiere a un grupo de individuos que compartan una región geográfica al igual que intereses comunes sociales y económicos.

¿Hay elementos que determinen una singularidad en su comunidad al compararse con regiones cercanas? ¿Qué características comparte usted con sus vecinos? ¿Cómo le describiría la región a un amigo?

Por ejemplo, algunas características que podría compartir una comunidad son:

- Identidad
- Distritos comerciales
- Educación
- Ascendencia
- Transporte compartido
- Centros culturales
- Historia
- Intereses económicos
- Idioma
- Vecindarios



Las leyes referentes a la redistribución de distritos prohíben que se incluyan ciertas cosas al trazar los límites distritales – tales como partidos políticos y candidatos o donde viven los concejales actuales.

Use nuestro “Formulario de Comunidad de Interés” en la página siguiente para describir a su comunidad. Puede agregar más páginas si fuera necesario.

El formulario web está disponible en línea visitando:
cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/

Si desea aportar más al respecto, se le invita asistir a las reuniones públicas. Para información referente a fechas y horarios, favor de visitar nuestra página web: cityofberkeley.info/redistricting. También puede comunicarse con la Comisión por correo electrónico redistricting@cityofberkeley.info.

Para ofrecer comentarios referentes a servicios municipales o para solicitar servicios específicos de la Ciudad para su vecindario, favor de llamar al 311 o comunicarse con su concejal.



Formulario de Comunidad de Interés

Opcional – Nombre / Correo electrónico:

¿En qué distrito vive usted? Si no está seguro, indíquenos su dirección y nosotros lo averiguaremos:

- Distrito 1 Distrito 2 Distrito 3 Distrito 4
 Distrito 5 Distrito 6 Distrito 7 Distrito 8

¿Cuáles son los intereses comunes de su comunidad? Describa cómo es que son importantes:

Explique la ubicación geográfica de su comunidad de interés. ¿Cuáles son sus límites o confines?
¿Tiene nombre su comunidad /vecindario?

¿Como le afectan las medidas del Concejo Municipal y la Ciudad en sí a su comunidad?

¿Que más le gustaría comentarnos con respecto a su comunidad? Agregue más paginas si fuera necesario.

El formulario web está disponible en línea visitando cityofberkeley.info/redistricting/

¿Tiene preguntas o comentarios?

Comuníquese a la Comisión Independiente de Redistribución de Distritos por correo electrónico al: redistricting@cityofberkeley.info.

**INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION** **BERKELEY**

Mapeo de las comunidades de Berkeley: Redistribución de Distritos efectuada por el pueblo.

Entregue este formulario por:



Correo electrónico:
redistricting@cityofberkeley.info



En persona: Secretaría Municipal
[City Clerk Department]
2180 Milvia Street, 1er Piso



Por correo: City Clerk Dept., 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

PROPOSED MAPS

The Berkeley City Charter sets out the following criteria for redistricting:

...the [IRC] shall take into consideration topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory of the districts, as well as existing **communities of interest** ... and shall utilize easily understood district boundaries such as major traffic arteries and geographic boundaries to the extent they are consistent with communities of interest. The geographic integrity of a neighborhood or **community of interest** shall be respected to the extent possible. ... Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party. ... The [IRC] shall not consider the residence of sitting Councilmembers.

Below are some definitions to help guide you in creating your Proposed Map.

- Nearly Equal Population: Acceptable difference between the smallest and largest district is no more 1,556 people or 10% of the equal district population number.
- Cohesiveness: When a neighborhood has defined territory and interests.
- Contiguity: All parts of a district are connected to one another.
- Compactness: Not bypassing nearby populated areas in favor of more distant populated areas.
- Integrity: Keep neighborhoods in one district.
- Census Block: Smallest unit of area for which Census population data exists; district boundaries cannot split a Census block.

Your Proposed Map does not have to meet all criteria. The IRC will accept every Proposed Map. The IRC will analyze, synthesize, and balance the public's input so that the final people's map is the fairest, most compliant map possible.

Your Proposed Map can include all districts, some districts, or just your district!


Create your Proposed Map based on the 2020 US Census data using the Maptitude online mapping tool: redistricting.cityofberkeley.info/berkeley


You also can draw your own map or pick up a paper Berkeley redistricting map at the Berkeley City Clerk Department, 2180 Milvia Street 1st Floor Berkeley CA 94704, and return it to that office or email an image to redistricting@cityofberkeley.info.


Link to file of [Official Berkeley Dataset](#) for population and census block data.


Submitted Proposed Maps and Community of Interest Forms are available for public viewing at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting>.


The deadline for Proposed Maps is November 15, 2021.

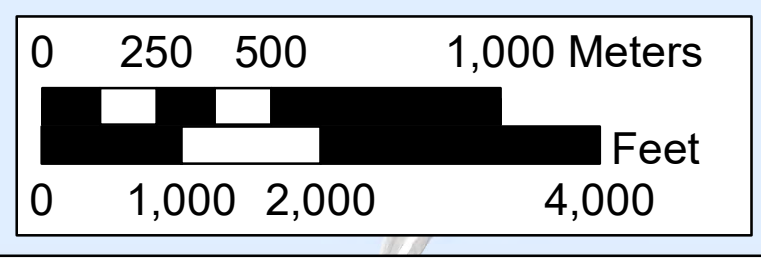
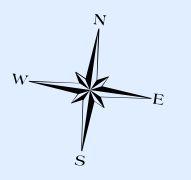
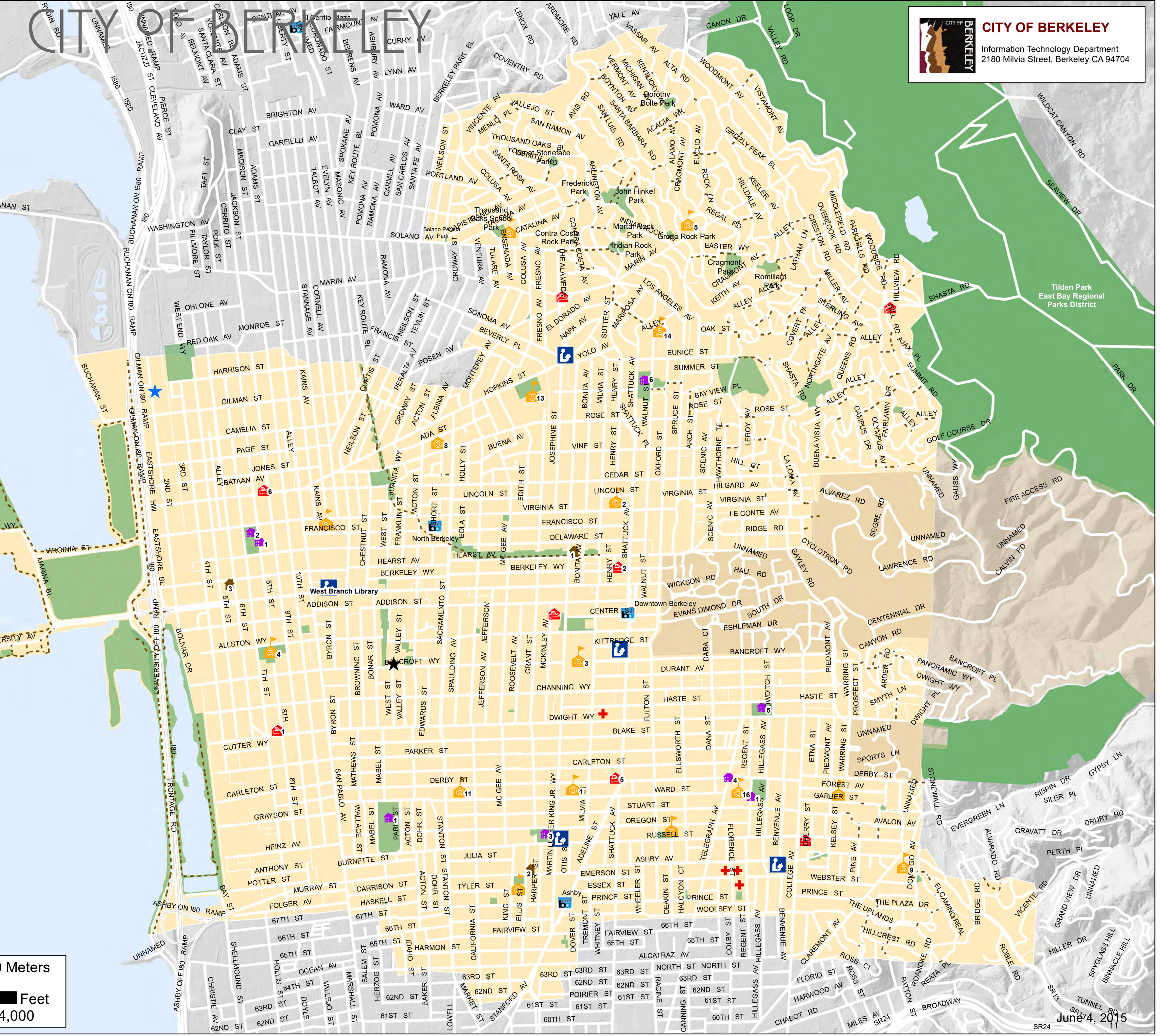
-  **Schools**
- 1. Berkeley Alternative High School
- 2. Berkeley Arts Magnet/Whitter
- 3. Berkeley High School
- 4. Rosa Parks Elementary School
- 5. Cragmont Elementary School
- 6. Emerson Elementary School
- 7. Berkeley Adult School
- 8. Jefferson Elementary School
- 9. John Muir Elementary School
- 10. LeConte Elementary School
- 11. Longfellow Magnet Middle School
- 12. Malcolm X Elementary School
- 13. Martin Luther King Middle School
- 14. Oxford Elementary School
- 15. Thousand Oaks Elementary School
- 16. Willard Middle School

-  **Libraries**
- 1. North Branch Library
- 2. Claremont Library
- 3. South Branch Library
- 4. West Branch Library
- 5. Central Public Library

-  **Senior Centers**
- 1. North Berkeley Senior Center
- 2. South Berkeley Senior Center
- 3. West Berkeley Senior Center

-  **Recreation Centers**
- 1. Francis Albrier Community Center
- 2. James Kenney Community Center
- 3. MLK Jr. Youth Services Center
- 4. Willard Park Clubhouse
- 5. People's Park Facility
- 6. Live Oak Community Center

-  **Fire Stations/Administration**



HOW TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE IRC

Community of Interest Forms

A **community of interest** is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/redistricting>

Or send your input on what your community of interest is to the City Clerk Department:

City Clerk Department
2180 Milvia Street,
1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

Or email it to: redistricting@cityofberkeley.info

You may submit COI Forms and comments any time during the redistricting process.

Proposed Maps

Use our online tool: redistricting.cityofberkeley.info/berkeley

Pick up a paper map from the City Clerk Department:

City Clerk Department
2180 Milvia Street,
1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

Return it in-person, via mail, or email it to: redistricting@cityofberkeley.info

The deadline for Proposed Maps is November 15th, 2021

General Public Feedback

Send your feedback to the City Clerk Department:

City Clerk Department
2180 Milvia Street,
1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

Or email it to: redistricting@cityofberkeley.info

You may submit comments any time during the redistricting process.

Redistricting Resources

Below are additional resources and tools for redistricting. Please be aware that these resources are in addition to the regulations that guide the City of Berkeley's redistricting process and should be used in conjunction with the [Berkeley Charter Article V Section 9.5](#) and [Municipal Code Chapter 2.10](#).

Redistricting Data by City

Contains datasets for the reallocated incarcerated persons, Citizen Voting Age Populations adjusted for reallocated incarcerated persons, and voter registration information on 2020 Census blocks. This is the official population data for redistricting purposes in Berkeley. <https://statewidedatabase.org/redistricting2021/cities.html#>

Census Bureau Data

Census Data, maps and tools for all the data across the United States <https://www.census.gov/data.html>

Census Bureau Data Tutorials

Training modules for comparing Census data over time and accessing demographics <https://www.census.gov/data/academy.html>

California Redistricting Commission

Data and information on the California State redistricting process <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/>

Fair Maps Act (AB 849 and AB 1276)

State Assembly bills that create standardized, fair redistricting criteria that keeps communities together, prohibits partisan gerrymandering for local districts, and adjusts timing of map adoption so they fit with the California election cycle. Please be advised that only certain portions of these bills apply to Charter Cities such as Berkeley.

[Assembly Bill 849](#)

[Assembly Bill 1276](#)

Redistricting Regulations

Berkeley Charter Article V

Section 9.5. Independent Redistricting Commission

The purposes of this Section are to: 1) establish a redistricting process that is open and transparent and allows public comment on the drawing of district boundaries; 2) ensure that City Council district boundaries are drawn according to the redistricting criteria set forth in this Charter and applicable State and Federal laws; and 3) ensure that the redistricting process is conducted with integrity, fairness, and without personal or political considerations. In order to accomplish these purposes, an Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) is hereby created.

(a) Duties and authority of Commission and City Council.

(1) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall be solely responsible for drawing City Council district boundaries in accordance with state and federal law and this Charter, and shall make adjustments as appropriate, taking into consideration public comment at public meetings and public hearings. The City Council shall have no role in developing or adopting a redistricting plan, and its sole responsibilities in redistricting shall be to: adopt an ordinance establishing procedures to implement this Section; adopt a redistricting ordinance as set forth in subdivision (d)(3); submit a final redistricting plan to the voters as set forth in subdivision (d)(4); submit a redistricting ordinance that is the subject of a referendum to the voters as set forth in subdivision (d)(5); and to adopt the redistricting plan determined by a special master as set forth in subdivision (d)(4).

(2) The City Council, as part of the adoption of the City Budget, shall allocate sufficient funds to support the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission, including funds necessary for community outreach, costs for city staff time associated with supporting the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission, and the hiring of any necessary consultants or outside counsel.

(3) The City Clerk or their designee shall serve as Secretary to the Commission.

(4) The City Council, by a two-thirds vote, shall adopt an ordinance establishing procedures to implement this Charter section. An implementation ordinance cannot be modified by the Council for a period of five years after initial adoption, and without a two-thirds vote of the Council, unless adoption of an amendment to the Charter, a change in applicable state or federal statute, or court decision necessitates an earlier modification.

Redistricting Regulations

(b) Appointment of Commission.

(1) Membership. The Commission shall consist of thirteen members, each of whom is a resident of the City of Berkeley. The application and selection process set forth below and by ordinance is intended to produce an Independent Redistricting Commission that is independent from legislative and political influence, and reasonably representative of the City's population.

(2) Term. Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission shall be appointed following each decennial federal census as set forth below. The term of office of each member of the Commission shall expire upon the effectiveness of a redistricting plan for that decennial federal census period.

(3) Qualifications and eligibility. All Berkeley residents who are 18 years of age or older at the time their application is submitted, are eligible for membership on the Independent Redistricting Commission, subject to the following limitations.

(i) The following individuals are prohibited from serving on the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

(A) any individual who currently holds, has held, or who has been a qualified candidate for the office of Mayor or City Councilmember within the two years preceding the date of application;

(B) any other individual who holds or has held any City of Berkeley elective office identified in this Charter within the two years preceding the date of application;

(C) the immediate family of the Mayor or any Councilmember, as well as immediate family of staff to the Mayor or Councilmember;

(D) any employee of the City of Berkeley;

(E) any person performing paid services under a contract with the City of Berkeley, including employees of subcontractors;

Redistricting Regulations

(F) any individual who has served as an officer, paid staff, or paid consultant of a campaign committee of a candidate for Mayor or City Council within the two years preceding the date of the application;

(G) any individual who is currently, or within the two years preceding the date of application, has been a paid staff member or unpaid intern to the Mayor or any Councilmember;

(H) any individual ineligible to serve in public office under Government Code sections [1021](#), [1021.5](#), [1770](#), or the Constitution and laws of the State of California.

(ii) If an applicant currently serves on a City of Berkeley board or commission whose members are appointed by the Mayor, a City Councilmember, or the full City Council, they may serve on the Independent Redistricting Commission if selected, provided they resign from the board or commission and they agree not to serve on another City of Berkeley board or commission during their term of office on the Independent Redistricting Commission.

(iii) If an applicant has made a disclosable monetary or non-monetary contribution to a candidate for Mayor or Councilmember, they shall be permitted to serve on the Independent Redistricting Commission if selected, under the condition that they disclose under penalty of perjury all monetary and non-monetary contributions made within the four years prior to the date of application to a candidate for Mayor or Councilmember in the City of Berkeley.

(iv) No person, within two years after the termination of their service on the Commission, will be eligible for employment as a paid staff member for the Mayor or any Councilmember or to serve on a City of Berkeley board or commission.

(4) Outreach. The City shall widely publicize the fact that an Independent Redistricting Commission will be appointed during the following year, the date by which applications for appointment to the Commission must be received, and such other information as will adequately inform potentially interested residents of the Commission. The City shall conduct outreach throughout the City of Berkeley in order to solicit a large pool of applicants and applicant diversity by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography.

Redistricting Regulations

(5) Application process. The City Clerk shall initiate and advertise a 30-day nomination period for appointment to the Independent Redistricting Commission. The nomination process shall be open to Berkeley residents who are 18 years of age or older at the time their application is submitted, and be conducted in a manner that promotes a diverse and qualified applicant pool.

(6) Selection process.

(i) The City Clerk shall screen all applications submitted to ensure that each applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria of subsection (b)(3)(i). Procedures to implement the nomination and screening process that are not specified in this Section will be specified in the implementing ordinance adopted by Council.

(ii) At a time and place open to the public, and subject to at least ten days' public notice, the City Clerk shall select the initial eight members of the Independent Redistricting Commission. The City Clerk shall randomly select one person from each of the eight council districts. The first person chosen from each pool shall be appointed to the Independent Redistricting Commission. The City Clerk shall then randomly select one additional individual from each of the eight council districts to serve as an alternate for the individual who has been appointed from that district. To implement this paragraph, the City Clerk shall determine a randomized method that meets professional standards and best achieves a random selection.

(iii) The Independent Redistricting Commission, consisting of the initial eight (8) members, shall then convene within ten days for the purpose of selecting the remaining five members and five alternates from the pool of eligible applicants. In appointing the remaining ("at-large") five members, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall attempt to achieve community representation by taking into consideration geographic diversity, race, age and gender. At-large alternates shall be appointed as voting members as the at-large commissioners leave office for any reason. The order in which the alternates shall be seated on the Commission as voting members shall be established by a random method at the time they are selected. All appointments under this paragraph shall be at a noticed meeting of the Independent Redistricting Commission open to the public.

Redistricting Regulations

(c) Commission procedures.

(1) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall establish and implement an open process for public input and Commission deliberation that shall be promoted through a thorough outreach program to solicit broad public participation in the redistricting process. All Independent Redistricting Commission meetings shall be open to the public unless necessary to convene in closed session under California Government Code sections [54950](#) et seq. Members of the public shall have the opportunity to provide written and oral comments to the Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commission's process must be designed to provide the widest public access reasonably possible to draft redistricting maps and to provide ample opportunity for the public to observe and participate in the redistricting process.

(2) The City Manager shall produce redistricting plans and maps based on specific direction from the Commission. The Commission shall also accept and consider maps that are submitted by the public.

(d) Commission redistricting proceedings.

(1) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall adopt City Council district boundaries no later than February 1st of the second year after the year in which each decennial federal census is taken, or nine months after final adjustments are made to the census data, whichever is later. The boundaries shall be effective until the adoption of new district boundaries following the next decennial federal census. The City Council may not rescind, supersede or revise the district boundaries adopted by the Independent Redistricting Commission.

(2) Decisions by the Independent Redistricting Commission to adopt a redistricting plan shall be by seven votes of the Commission.

(3) Concurrently with its adoption of a redistricting plan, the Commission shall issue a report that explains its decisions in achieving compliance with the criteria listed in this Section and shall include definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing the final City Council districts map. The redistricting plan adopted by the Commission shall be submitted to the City Council at its next regular or special meeting consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter [2.06](#), and the City Council shall at that meeting adopt a redistricting ordinance that implements the redistricting plan without change.

Redistricting Regulations

(4) Impasse procedure. If the Commission is unable to achieve seven affirmative votes to adopt a redistricting plan, then the Commission shall submit to the City Council the map which received the most votes of the Commission to be placed on the ballot. In the event that redistricting plan is rejected by the voters, the Commission shall have 30 days to adopt a new redistricting plan by seven affirmative votes. If the Commission, after rejection of the map by the voters, cannot adopt a final redistricting plan by seven affirmative votes, then the Commission shall request that the City Clerk recommend a list of at least three special masters to develop a redistricting plan. The Commission shall consider the recommendations of the City Clerk and select a special master, by majority vote, to develop a redistricting plan. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance the redistricting plan determined by the special master.

(5) A redistricting ordinance adopted by the City Council shall be subject to referendum in the same manner that an ordinance is subject to referendum pursuant to state law and Article XIV of the City Charter. The date of final adoption of the ordinance by the City Council shall be deemed the date of final passage for the purposes of Section 93 of the Charter. The procedures of Section 93 shall apply to a referendum of a redistricting ordinance, except that if a referendum petition is signed by the requisite number of qualified electors the City Council shall submit the ordinance to the voters at the next General Municipal Election.

(e) Removal of Commissioners.

(1) Commissioners should apply the law in a manner that is impartial and reinforces public confidence and integrity in the redistricting process.

(2) In the event of substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office or inability to discharge the duties of office, or if it is determined that a commissioner is ineligible under subdivision (b)(3), a Commissioner may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Independent Redistricting Commission, after having been served written notice and provided with an opportunity to respond.

(3) Any vacancy, whether created by removal, resignation, or absence pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code Section [3.02.020](#) or its successor, shall be filled by the alternate for that Commission seat selected at the time of the original selection. If the alternate is unable to serve, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall fill the vacancy by selecting an applicant from the original pool of applicants by a two-thirds vote at a noticed

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meeting open to the public. If the seat to be filled is one representing a specific City Council district, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall appoint an individual who resides in that City Council district.

(4) No disqualification of a commissioner shall have any effect on the validity of any action by the Commission or any redistricting map it may adopt.

(f) Criteria for redistricting.

(1) The Commission shall adjust the boundaries of City Council districts in a manner that complies with the Constitution and statutes of the United States and the State of California, in order that the eight City Council districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be according to the most recent decennial federal census, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.

(2) In establishing and modifying district boundaries, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall take into consideration topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory of the districts, as well as existing communities of interest as defined below, and shall utilize easily understood district boundaries such as major traffic arteries and geographic boundaries to the extent they are consistent with communities of interest. The geographic integrity of a neighborhood or community of interest shall be respected to the extent possible without violating State or Federal law or the requirements of this Section. For purposes of this subsection “communities of interest” shall mean the following: A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Such shared interests include but are not limited to those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process, as well as neighborhoods, students, organized student housing, shared age, and racial demographics. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(3) Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

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(4) The Independent Redistricting Commission may consider existing district boundaries as a basis for developing new district boundaries. Should the Commission deviate substantially in its redistricting plan from the previous district boundaries in order to reflect population growth, protect communities of interest or better comply with the redistricting criteria in the Charter, it shall issue a report explaining its reasons for doing so.

(5) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall not consider the residence of sitting Councilmembers.

(6) If the Independent Redistricting Commission adopts a redistricting plan that removes the residence of a sitting Councilmember from their then-current district, that Councilmember shall continue to serve on the City Council until the expiration of their term.

(g) Severability. Should any provision of this Section be held invalid, the remainder of this Section shall not be affected thereby, and such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this Section shall remain in full force and effect. The voters hereby declare that they would have passed this Section and each subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid

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Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 2.10

Citizens Redistricting Commission

2.10.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to implement Article V, Section 9.5 of the Charter, which provides for the decennial establishment of a Citizens Redistricting Commission in order to ensure an open and transparent redistricting process that allows public comment on the drawing of district boundaries and is conducted with integrity, fairness, and without personal or political considerations. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.020 Definitions.

- A. “Commission” means the Citizens Redistricting Commission.
- B. “Immediate Family” means a spouse, domestic partner, cohabitant, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, great grandparent, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepsibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or first cousin (that is, a child of an aunt or uncle).
- C. “Special Master” means an individual with the requisite expertise and qualification on the subject of redistricting that is appointed by the commission to create a council district map pursuant to the impasse procedures of the City Charter. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.030 Commission Composition.

- A. The Commission shall consist of eight (8) District Commissioners (one (1) for each Council district) and five (5) At-Large Commissioners.
- B. There shall be eight (8) Alternate District Commissioners and five (5) alternate At-Large Commissioners. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.040 Duties of the City Clerk.

- A. Beginning no later than September 1st of the year in which the decennial federal census is taken, the City Clerk shall conduct public outreach as specified in Charter Section 9.5(b)(4).

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- B. No later than February 1st of the year after the decennial federal census is taken, the City Clerk shall initiate the nomination process as specified in Charter Section 9.5(b)(5).
- C. The City Clerk shall develop and recommend a budget for the Commission sufficient to carry out the requirements of the City Charter and this Chapter.
- D. The City Clerk or City Clerk's designee shall serve as Secretary to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.
- E. At each meeting or public hearing of the Commission, the City Clerk shall make available for public viewing copies of each Commissioner's application to serve on the Commission as well as copies of all political, financial or other disclosures required of each Commissioner by Section 9.5 of the Charter or any other provision of City or state law, including but not limited to each Commissioner's Statement of Economic Interests and any disclosures under Charter Section 9.5(b)(3)(iii). (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.050 Application and Selection of Commissioners.

- A. All applicants shall submit their application on a form provided by the City Clerk, which shall include a declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Charter Section 9.5 and this Chapter, has made all required disclosures, and that the statements they are making are true and correct.
- B. The Commission application shall include questions asking if an applicant falls into one or more of the prohibited categories set forth in Charter Section 9.5(b)(3)(i).
 - 1. If an applicant discloses that they fall into any of the prohibited categories set forth in Charter Section 9.5(b)(3)(i), the applicant shall be removed from the applicant pool and shall not be considered for appointment.
 - 2. If it is determined at any point during the selection process that an applicant falls into one or more of the prohibited categories as set forth in Charter Section 9.5(b)(3)(i) then that applicant shall be disqualified.
 - 3. If, after being selected and appointed to the Commission, it is determined that a Commissioner falls into one of the prohibited categories set forth in Charter

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Section 9.5(b)(3)(i), the Commissioner shall be immediately removed from the Commission, as provided for in Charter Section 9.5(e) and this Chapter.

C. All applicants shall affirm that, if selected, they shall comply with all requirements of the Charter and this Chapter applicable to members of the Commission.

D. Applicants shall file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), provide a written statement of qualifications not longer than three hundred (300) words expressing why they believe they are qualified to serve on the Commission, and consent to a background check if appointed. Promptly after reviewing the background check to determine eligibility, the City Clerk shall either return it to the applicant or destroy it.

E. To the extent permitted by law, all application forms, materials and disclosures shall be kept confidential, and shall not be released to the public until all thirteen (13) Commissioners have been appointed.

F. After closure of the 30-day nomination period provided for in Charter Section 9.5(b)(5), the City Clerk shall remove from the applicant pool any applicants who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria set forth in Charter Section 9.5(b)(3), and shall divide the remaining applicants into separate pools, one for each then-existing City Council district in which the applicants reside. If there is an insufficient number of applicants in the pool of eligible applicants to fill a district seat or an alternate seat, the Commission may request, by a majority vote, that the City Clerk conduct a new, accelerated nomination and selection process to add additional applicants to the pool of eligible applicants.

G. The selection process for District Commissioners and At-Large Commissioners shall be conducted in accordance with Section 9.5(b)(6) of the City Charter and this Chapter.

H. When selecting the five (5) At-Large Commissioners, if there is an insufficient number of applicants in the remaining pool of eligible applicants to fill five (5) at-large seats and five (5) alternate at-large seats, the Commission may request, by a majority vote, that the City Clerk conduct a new, accelerated nomination and selection process to add additional applicants to the remaining pool of eligible applicants.

1. Once the pool of eligible applicants has a sufficient number of applicants to fill five (5) at-large seats and five (5) alternate at-large seats, the Commission shall, by a majority vote, select five (5) additional individuals from the remaining pool to serve

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as At-Large Commissioners and five (5) more individuals to serve as alternate At-Large Commissioners.

I. All commissioners and alternate commissioners shall swear or affirm the oath for public officials prescribed by the California Constitution. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.060 Commission procedures.

A. The Commission shall operate under the provisions of the Commissioners' Manual, as adopted by resolution of the City Council, except when superseded by the City Charter or the provisions of this Chapter.

B. After selection of the five (5) At-Large Commissioners pursuant to Charter Section 9.5(b)(6)(iii), the Commission shall elect one (1) of its members to serve as Chair and one (1) to serve as the Vice-Chair. The term of the Chair and Vice-Chair is the term of their service on the Commission as defined in Charter Section 9.5(b)(2), unless the Chair or Vice-Chair resign the position or is removed from the position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Commission. The Commissioner selected by the body to fill a vacancy in the position of Chair or Vice-Chair shall serve the remainder of the term.

C. Once all commissioners and alternate commissioners have completed training related to their service on the Commission, the Commission shall convene for the purpose of drawing City Council district boundaries.

D. For the purpose of selecting the At-Large Commissioners and At-Large Alternates, a quorum of the eight (8) District Commissioners is always five (5), and five (5) affirmative votes are always needed to take action unless otherwise specified by statute.

E. A quorum of the full thirteen (13) member Commission is always seven (7), and seven (7) affirmative votes are always needed to take action unless otherwise specified by statute.

F. Commissioners may make a request for a Leave of Absence from a Commission meeting, or for a period of time not to exceed three (3) months, by submitting a written request to the City Clerk by 5:00pm on the business day prior to the Commission meeting. The temporary vacancy will be filled as specified in Charter Section 9.5(e)(3).

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G. The Commission shall comply with all relevant provisions of the Open Government Ordinance (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter [2.06](#)).

H. The Commission shall hold at least three (3) public hearings, each at a different location, to solicit public input on redistricting priorities and allow for submission of redistricting proposals by members of the public and public review of and input on any map proposed to be adopted by the Commission. The Commission shall display draft redistricting maps for public comment in a manner designed to achieve the widest public access reasonably possible and shall provide ample opportunity for public input.

I. Commissioners are strictly prohibited from communicating with or initiating or receiving communications about redistricting matters from anyone outside of a public meeting or hearing; however, communications outside of a meeting between Commissioners, staff, legal counsel, and consultants retained by the City, that are otherwise permitted by the Brown Act (California Government Code Section [54950](#) et seq.) or its successor, are not prohibited. The receipt of written communications (whether through paper or electronic format) from the public submitted at a public meeting of the Commission or submitted prior to a Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting to the Secretary and made part of the public record are not prohibited. Any communication received by a Commissioner inconsistent with this subsection shall be promptly disclosed to the Secretary for the public record. Failure to disclose received communications or a Commissioner's response to such communications may be considered gross misconduct and grounds for removal from the Commission.

J. Alternate commissioners may attend Commission meetings, other than closed session meetings under the Brown Act, and may give public comment to the Commission. Unless appointed to serve on the Commission, Alternate Commissioners may not vote in Commission meetings or hearings.

K. Upon the expiration of thirty (30) days after the Council's final approval by ordinance of the Commission's redistricting plan, the City Clerk shall submit the new district boundaries to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for implementation starting with the next General Municipal Election. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.070 Removal of Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners.

If a Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner is eligible to be removed pursuant to Charter Section 9.5(e), the Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner shall be provided

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written notice. The vote to remove the Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner shall appear on the next Commission agenda for which no posting or publication deadline has passed, occurring not more than thirty (30) days from the date the notice was mailed. The Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner may provide a written response or may provide a verbal response at the meeting of the Commission where the vote for removal will occur. The Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Commission. A Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner subject to removal may vote on their own removal. The decision of the Commission is final and may not be appealed. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.080 Selection of Special Master.

In the event of an impasse in which the City Clerk is required to recommend, and the Commission is required to select, a Special Master pursuant to Charter Section 9.5(d)(4), the City Clerk and Commission shall consider retired judges, professors with knowledge about redistricting and reapportionment law, experts with experience advising government agencies on redistricting, and other persons with appropriate knowledge, expertise and experience. The Commission must select a Special Master within thirty (30) days of the City Clerk presenting their recommendations. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

2.10.090 Compensation.

A. Voting members of the Commission shall be compensated at a rate of one hundred dollars (\$100) per meeting for attendance at a regular meeting of the full Commission to compensate for the time the Commissioner is engaged in Commission business.

B. The rate of compensation for Commissions seated after each of the subsequent federal decennial censuses will be calculated based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index over the compensation provided for in paragraph (A) of this section.

C. Members of the Commission who meet eligibility requirements may also receive reimbursement for expenses for child care, dependent care, or disabled support services in the same manner as members of City boards and commissions. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

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2.10.100 Severability.

Should any provision of this Chapter be held invalid, the remainder of this Chapter shall not be affected thereby, and such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this Chapter shall remain in full force and effect. The voters hereby declare that they would have passed this Chapter and each subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases had been declared invalid, and that each subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or other portion is therefore explicitly severable, part-by-part, phrase-by-phrase, and word-by-word, and that if any portion is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable, or otherwise void, voidable, or invalid, that the least amount of language possible shall be severed from the Chapter. (Ord. 7699-NS § 1 (part), 2020)

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Fair Maps Act (AB 849)

SECTION 1.

This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Fair And Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities And Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act.

SEC. 28.

Section 21620 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21620.

(a) This article applies to charter cities that elect members of the charter city's legislative body by districts or from districts, as defined in Section 34871 of the Government Code.

(b) This article shall not be interpreted to limit the discretionary remedial authority of any federal or state court.

SEC. 29.

Section 21621 of the Elections Code is repealed.

SEC. 30.

Section 21621 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21621.

(a) Following each federal decennial census, and using that census as a basis, the council shall, by ordinance or resolution, adopt boundaries for all of the council districts of the city so that the council districts shall be substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution.

(1) Population equality shall be based on the total population of residents of the city as determined by the census.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an incarcerated person, as that term is used in Section 21003, shall not be counted towards a city's population, except for an incarcerated person whose last known place of residence may be assigned to a census block in the city, if information about the last known place of residence for incarcerated persons is included in the computerized database for redistricting that is developed in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 8253 of the Government Code, and that database is made publicly available.

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(b) The council shall adopt council district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.).

(c) The council shall adopt district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:

(1) To the extent practicable, council districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous. Areas that are separated by water and not connected by a bridge, tunnel, or regular ferry service are not contiguous.

(2) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. 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. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(3) Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.

(4) To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, council districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

(d) The council shall not adopt council district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

SEC. 31.

Section 21622 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21622.

(a) The boundaries of the council districts shall be adopted by the council no earlier than August 1, 2021, and August 1 in each year ending in the number one thereafter, but no later than 151 days before the city’s next regular election occurring after March 1, 2022, and after March 1 in each year ending in the number two thereafter. However, this

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subdivision does not prohibit the council from holding public hearings or workshops on the placement of council district boundaries before August 1.

(b) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted a different redistricting deadline by ordinance or in its city charter before October 1, 2021, and October 1 of each year ending in the number one thereafter.

SEC. 32.

Section 21623 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21623.

(a) If the boundaries of a city expand by the addition of new territory, including through annexation of unincorporated territory or consolidation with another city, the council shall add that new territory to the nearest existing council district without changing the boundaries of other council district boundaries.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the council may adopt new boundaries for each council district if both of the following conditions are met:

(1) There are more than four years until the council is next required to redistrict pursuant to Section 21621.

(2) The population of the new territory being annexed or consolidated is greater than 25 percent of the city's population as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

(c) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted, by ordinance or in its city charter, a different standard for adding new territory to existing council districts.

SEC. 33.

Section 21625 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21625.

(a) After redistricting or districting pursuant to Section 21621 or 21623, a council shall not adopt new council district boundaries until after the next federal decennial census, except under the following circumstances:

(1) A court orders the council to redistrict.

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(2) The council is settling a legal claim that its council district boundaries violate the United States Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.), or this article.

(3) The boundaries of the city expand by the addition of new territory pursuant to Section 21623.

(b) This section does not prohibit a council from adopting council districts between federal decennial censuses if the council is adopting council districts for the first time, including when a city adopts council districts for the purpose of transitioning from electing its council members in at-large elections to elections by districts or from districts.

(c) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted different rules for mid-cycle redistricting in its city charter.

SEC. 34.

Section 21626 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21626.

(a) The term of office of any council member who has been elected and whose term of office has not expired shall not be affected by any change in the boundaries of the district from which the council member was elected.

(b) At the first election for council members in each city following adoption of the boundaries of council districts, a council member shall be elected for each district under the new district plan that has the same district number as a district whose incumbent's term is due to expire.

(c) The successor to the office in a council district for which the boundaries have changed shall be a resident and voter of that council district.

SEC. 35.

Section 21627 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21627.

Before adopting the boundaries of a council district pursuant to Section 21621, 21623, or 21624, or for any other reason, the council shall hold public hearings on the proposal, in accordance with Section 21627.1. This section does not apply when a city transitions from at-large to district-based elections.

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SEC. 36.

Section 21627.1 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21627.1.

(a) Before adopting a final map, the council shall hold at least four public hearings at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of one or more council districts.

(1) At least one public hearing shall be held before the council draws a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries.

(2) At least two public hearings shall be held after the council has drawn a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries.

(b) At least one public hearing or public workshop shall be held on a Saturday, on a Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday Monday through Friday.

(c) Public hearing buildings shall be accessible to persons with disabilities.

(d) If a public hearing is consolidated with a regular or special meeting of the council that includes other substantive agenda items, the public hearing shall begin at a fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda, except that the council may first conclude any item being discussed or acted upon, including any associated public comment, when that time occurs. The time of the public hearing shall be noticed to the public.

(e) The council may have city staff or a consultant conduct one or more public workshops in lieu of holding one of the public hearings required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(f) The council may establish an advisory redistricting commission pursuant to Section 23002 to hold the public hearings required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

SEC. 37.

Section 21628 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21628.

(a) The council shall take steps to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities, to participate in the redistricting public review process. These steps shall include a good faith effort to do all of the following:

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- (1) Providing information to media organizations that provide city news coverage, including media organizations that serve language minority communities.
- (2) Providing information through good government, civil rights, civic engagement, or community groups or organizations that are active in the city, including those active in language minority communities, or that have requested to be notified concerning city redistricting.
- (b) The council shall arrange for the live translation of a public hearing or workshop held pursuant to this article in an applicable language if a request for translation is made at least 72 hours before the hearing or workshop, unless less than five days' notice are provided for the hearing or workshop, in which case the request shall be made at least 48 hours before the hearing or workshop.
- (c) Notwithstanding Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, the council shall publish the date, time, and location for any public hearing or workshop on the internet at least five days before the hearing or workshop. However, if there are fewer than 179 days until the city's next regular election, the council may publish the agenda on the internet for at least three days before the hearing or workshop.
- (d) (1) A draft map shall be published on the internet for at least seven days before being adopted as a final map by the council provided that, if there are fewer than 179 days until the city's next regular election, the draft map may instead be published on the internet for at least three days.
- (2) Each draft map prepared by a member of the council or by employees of the city shall be accompanied with information on the total population, citizen voting age population, and racial and ethnic characteristics of the citizen voting age population of each proposed council district, to the extent the city has that data.
- (e) The council shall allow the public to submit testimony or draft maps in writing and electronically.
- (f) The city shall either record or prepare a written summary of each public comment and council deliberation made at every public hearing or workshop held pursuant to this article. The city shall make the recording or written summary available to the public within two weeks after the public hearing or workshop.
- (g) The council shall establish, and maintain for at least 10 years after the adoption of new council district boundaries, an internet web page dedicated to redistricting. The web

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page may be hosted on the city’s existing internet website or another internet website maintained by the city. The web page shall include, or link to, all of the following information:

- (1) A general explanation of the redistricting process for the city in English and any applicable language.
- (2) The procedures for a member of the public to testify during a public hearing or to submit written testimony directly to the council in English and any applicable language.
- (3) A calendar of all public hearing and workshop dates. A calendar listing that includes the time and location of the public hearing or workshop satisfies the notice required by subdivision (c).
- (4) The notice and agenda for each public hearing and workshop.
- (5) The recording or written summary of each public hearing and workshop.
- (6) Each draft map considered by the council at a public hearing.
- (7) The adopted final map of council district boundaries.
- (h) For purposes of this section, “applicable language” means 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. Before January 1, 2021, and before January 1 in every year ending in the number one thereafter, the Secretary of State shall post the applicable languages for each city in a conspicuous location on the Secretary of State’s internet website. To determine the applicable languages for each city, in 2020 and in each year ending in the number zero thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Statewide Database, shall request a special tabulation from the United States Bureau of the Census of the most recent data on limited English proficiency from the bureau’s American Community Survey that satisfies this subdivision. If the bureau is unable to produce that data, the Secretary of State shall base the Secretary of State’s determination on the table from the American Community Survey enumerating the number of residents with limited English proficiency that has the largest number of languages included, that is publicly available, and that was produced within the previous ten years.
- (i) This section does not apply when a city transitions from at-large to district-based elections.

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(j) Before January 1, 2021, and before January in each year ending in the number one thereafter, the Secretary of State shall publish on the internet a template explaining the city redistricting process that meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2), inclusive, of subdivision (g). The Secretary of State shall publish the template in all of the languages into which ballots are required to be translated in the state pursuant to subdivision (h). The template shall be published in the same conspicuous location on the Secretary of State's internet website that is described in subdivision (h).

SEC. 38.

Section 21629 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21629.

(a) If the council does not adopt council district boundaries by the deadlines set forth in Section 21622 or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 21624, the council shall immediately petition the superior court in the county in which the city is located for an order adopting council district boundaries. If the council does not petition the superior court within five days after the deadline, any resident of the city may file that petition and shall be entitled to recover the resident's reasonable attorney's fees and costs from the city for doing so.

(b) (1) Upon finding that a petition filed pursuant to this subdivision is valid, the superior court shall adopt council district boundaries in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 21621, which shall be used in the city's next regular election. The superior court may also order the adjustment of electoral deadlines as necessary to implement the new council district boundaries in the next regular election.

(2) The superior court may appoint a special master to assist the court with adopting the council district boundaries. The city shall pay the cost for the special master and associated costs.

(3) The superior court or the special master shall hold one or more public hearings before the superior court adopts the council district boundaries.

(4) Subject to the approval of the superior court, the special master may employ redistricting experts or other consultants or counsel, independent experts in the field of redistricting and computer technology, and other necessary personnel to assist them in their work. In addition, the special master may seek the full cooperation of the city in producing and using whatever data, computer models and programs, and technical assistance that was made available to the council and city personnel who are

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knowledgeable in the mechanics of drafting redistricting legislation. The superior court may assist the special master in securing the necessary personnel and the physical facilities required for their work, and to prepare for the prompt submission to the city of a request for city funding for the necessary expenses of the special master and the special master's staff.

(5) The council district boundaries adopted by the superior court shall be immediately effective in the same manner as if the court's order were an enacted resolution or ordinance of the city council.

(c) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted in its city charter a different method for adopting city council district boundaries when a redistricting deadline is missed.

SEC. 39.

Section 34874 of the Government Code is amended to read:

34874.

(a) An amendatory ordinance altering the boundaries of the legislative districts established pursuant to this article shall not be submitted to the registered voters until the ordinance has been submitted to the planning commission of the city or, in absence of a planning commission, to the legislative body of said city for an examination as to the definiteness and certainty of the boundaries of the legislative districts proposed.

(b) An amendatory ordinance altering the boundaries of legislative districts shall comply with the requirements and criteria of Section 21601 or 21621 of the Elections Code, as applicable.

SEC. 40.

Section 34877.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

34877.5.

(a) After an ordinance is passed by the voters pursuant to Section 34876.5, or after an ordinance is enacted by the legislative body pursuant to Section 34886, the legislative body shall prepare a proposed map that describes the boundaries and numbers of the districts for the legislative body. In preparing the proposed map, the legislative body shall comply with the requirements and criteria of Section 21601 or 21621 of the Elections

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Code, as applicable, and shall seek public input, including accepting proposed maps submitted by the public.

(b) If the legislative body is changing from an at-large method of election to a district-based election, as those terms are defined in Section 14026 of the Elections Code, the legislative body shall hold public hearings pursuant to Section 10010 of the Elections Code. If the legislative body is otherwise adjusting the district boundaries, the legislative body shall hold public hearings on the proposed district boundaries pursuant to Section 21607 or 21627 of the Elections Code, as applicable.

SEC. 41.

Section 34884 of the Government Code is amended to read:

34884.

(a) If, at the time a vote is held on the subject of incorporation of a new city, a majority of the votes cast is for incorporation and, if, in accordance with Section 57116, a majority of the votes cast on the question of whether members of the city council in future elections are to be elected by district or at large is in favor of election by district, all of the following procedures apply:

(1) Before the first day on which voters may nominate candidates for election at the next regular municipal election, the legislative body shall, by ordinance or resolution, establish the boundaries of the districts of the legislative body. The districts shall be substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution. The districts shall comply with the requirements and criteria of Section 21601 or 21621 of the Elections Code, as applicable.

(2) The terms of office of the two members elected with the lowest vote shall expire on the Tuesday succeeding the next regular municipal election. At that election, members shall be elected by district in the even-numbered districts and shall hold office for four years.

(3) The terms of office of the three members elected with the highest vote shall expire on the Tuesday succeeding the second regular municipal election following the incorporation. At that election, members shall be elected by district in the odd-numbered districts and shall hold office for four years.

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(b) The result of the vote cast on the question of whether members of the city council in future elections are to be elected by district or at large shall not preclude the submission to the voters at any future election of a measure in accordance with Section 34871.

SEC. 42.

Section 34886 of the Government Code is amended to read:

34886.

Notwithstanding Section 34871 or any other law, the legislative body of a city may adopt an ordinance that requires the members of the legislative body to be elected by district or by district with an elective mayor, as described in subdivisions (a) and (c) of Section 34871, without being required to submit the ordinance to the voters for approval. An ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements and criteria of Section 21601 or 21621 of the Elections Code, as applicable, and include a declaration that the change in the method of electing members of the legislative body is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 14025) of Division 14 of the Elections Code).

SEC. 43.

The district boundary criteria specified in this act apply to supervisorial and council district boundaries that are adopted or readopted on or after January 1, 2020. Supervisorial and council district boundaries adopted before January 1, 2020, shall comply with the applicable district boundary criteria in effect at the time of their adoption.

SEC. 44.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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Fair Maps Act (AB 1276)

SEC. 17.

Section 21620 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21620.

(a) This article applies to a charter city that elects members of the city's legislative body by districts or from districts, as defined in Section 34871 of the Government Code.

(b) This article shall not be interpreted to limit the discretionary remedial authority of any federal or state court.

SEC. 18.

Section 21621 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21621.

(a) Following a city's decision to elect its council using district-based elections, or following each federal decennial census for a city whose council is already elected using district-based elections, the council shall, by ordinance or resolution, adopt boundaries for all of the council districts of the city so that the council districts shall be substantially equal in population as required by the United States Constitution.

(1) Population equality shall be based on the total population of residents of the city as determined by the most recent federal decennial census for which the redistricting data described in Public Law 94-171 are available.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an incarcerated person, as that term is used in Section 21003, shall not be counted towards a city's population, except for an incarcerated person whose last known place of residence may be assigned to a census block in the city, if information about the last known place of residence for incarcerated persons is included in the computerized database for redistricting that is developed in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 8253 of the Government Code, and that database is made publicly available.

(b) The council shall adopt council district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.).

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(c) The council shall adopt district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:

(1) To the extent practicable, council districts shall be geographically contiguous. Areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous. Areas that are separated by water and not connected by a bridge, tunnel, or regular ferry service are not contiguous.

(2) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. 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. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(3) Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.

(4) To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, council districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

(d) The council shall not adopt council district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

(e) Subdivision (c) does not apply to a charter city that has adopted comprehensive or exclusive redistricting criteria in its city charter. For purposes of this subdivision, “comprehensive or exclusive” means either that the city’s charter excludes consideration of redistricting criteria other than those that are identified in the city charter or that the city’s charter provides two or more traditional criteria for redistricting other than the requirement that districts be equal in population.

SEC. 19.

Section 21622 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

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21622.

(a) (1) For redistricting occurring in 2031 and thereafter, the boundaries of the council districts shall be adopted by the council not later than 205 days before the city's next regular election occurring after January 1 in each year ending in the number two.

(2) For redistricting occurring before 2031 and where a city has a regular election occurring after January 1, 2022 and before July 1, 2022, the boundaries of the council districts shall be adopted by the council not later than 174 days before that election. For cities that charge candidates a filing fee, notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 8106, the forms required under that subdivision shall not be made available until at least 28 days after the adoption of a final map. The elections official shall reduce the required number of signatures for the in-lieu-filing-fee petition, as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 8106, by the same proportion as the reduction in time for the candidate to collect signatures.

(3) For redistricting occurring before 2031 and where a city does not have a regular election occurring after January 1, 2022 and before July 1, 2022, the boundaries of the council districts shall be adopted by the council not later than 205 days before the city's next regular election occurring on or after July 1, 2022.

(b) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted a different redistricting deadline by ordinance or in its city charter.

(c) This section does not apply when a city transitions from at-large to district-based elections.

SEC. 20.

Section 21623 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21623.

(a) If the boundaries of a city expand by the addition of new territory, including through annexation of unincorporated territory or consolidation with another city, the council shall add that new territory to the nearest existing council district without changing the boundaries of other council district boundaries.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the council may adopt new boundaries for each council district under the circumstances described in subdivision (a) if both of the following conditions are met:

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(1) There are more than four years until the council is next required to redistrict pursuant to Section 21621.

(2) The population of the new territory being annexed or consolidated is greater than 25 percent of the city's population as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

(c) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted, by ordinance or in its city charter, a different standard for adding new territory to existing council districts.

SEC. 21.

Section 21625 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21625.

(a) After redistricting or districting pursuant to Section 21621 or 21623, a council shall not adopt new council district boundaries until after the next federal decennial census, except under the following circumstances:

(1) A court orders the council to redistrict.

(2) The council is settling a legal claim that its council district boundaries violate the United States Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.), or this article.

(3) The boundaries of the city change by the addition of territory pursuant to Section 21623 or by the subtraction of territory.

(b) This section does not prohibit a council from adopting council districts between federal decennial censuses if the council is adopting council districts for the first time, including when a city adopts council districts for the purpose of transitioning from electing its council members in at-large elections to elections by districts or from districts.

(c) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted different rules for mid-cycle redistricting in its city charter.

SEC. 22.

Section 21626 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

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21626.

(a) The term of office of any council member who has been elected and whose term of office has not expired shall not be affected by any change in the boundaries of the district from which the council member was elected.

(b) At the first election for council members in each city following adoption of the boundaries of council districts, excluding a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall election, a council member shall be elected for each district under the new district plan that has the same district number as a district whose incumbent's term is due to expire. This subdivision does not apply when a city transitions from at-large to district-based elections.

(c) For a city employing both a primary and a general election, a change in the boundaries of a council district shall not be made between the direct primary election and the general election.

(d) Except as provided in subdivision (a), a person is not eligible to hold office as a member of a city council unless that person meets the requirements of Section 201 of the Elections Code and Section 34882 of the Government Code.

SEC. 23.

Section 21627 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21627.

Before adopting the boundaries of a council district pursuant to Section 21621 or 21623, or for any other reason, the council shall hold public hearings on the proposal in accordance with Section 21627.1. This section does not apply when a city transitions from at-large to district-based elections.

SEC. 24.

Section 21627.1 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21627.1.

(a) Before adopting a final map, the council shall hold at least four public hearings at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of one or more council districts.

(1) At least one public hearing shall be held before the council draws a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries.

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(2) At least two public hearings shall be held after the council has drawn a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries.

(b) At least one public hearing or public workshop shall be held on a Saturday, on a Sunday, or after 6 p.m. on a weekday Monday through Friday.

(c) Public hearing buildings shall be accessible to persons with disabilities.

(d) If a public hearing is consolidated with a regular or special meeting of the council that includes other substantive agenda items, the public hearing shall begin at a fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda, except that the council may first conclude any item being discussed or acted upon, including any associated public comment, when that time occurs. The time of the public hearing shall be noticed to the public.

(e) The council may have city staff or a consultant conduct one or more public workshops in lieu of holding one of the public hearings required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(f) The council may establish an advisory redistricting commission to hold the public hearings required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

SEC. 25.

Section 21628 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21628.

(a) The council shall take steps to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English speaking communities, to participate in the redistricting public review process. These steps shall include a good faith effort to do all of the following:

(1) Providing information to media organizations that provide city news coverage, including media organizations that serve language minority communities.

(2) Providing information through good government, civil rights, civic engagement, and community groups or organizations that are active in the city, including those active in language minority communities, and those that have requested to be notified concerning city redistricting.

(b) The council shall arrange for the live translation in an applicable language of a public hearing or workshop held pursuant to this article if a request for translation is made at least 72 hours before the hearing or workshop, unless less than five days' notice are

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provided for the hearing or workshop, in which case the request shall be made at least 48 hours before the hearing or workshop.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, the council shall publish the date, time, and location for any public hearing or workshop on the internet at least five days before the hearing or workshop. However, if there are fewer than 28 days until the deadline to adopt boundaries, the council may publish the agenda on the internet for at least three days before the hearing or workshop.

(d) (1) A draft map shall be published on the internet for at least seven days before being adopted as a final map by the council provided that, if there are fewer than 28 days until the deadline to adopt boundaries, the draft map may instead be published on the internet for at least three days.

(2) Each draft map prepared by a member of the council or by employees or contractors of the city shall be accompanied by information on the total population, citizen voting age population, and racial and ethnic characteristics of the citizen voting age population of each proposed council district, to the extent the city has that data.

(3) (A) The council and employees or contractors of the city shall not release draft maps of council districts earlier than three weeks after the block-level redistricting database required by subdivision (b) of Section 8253 of the Government Code is first made publicly available. This subparagraph does not prohibit the council from holding public hearings or workshops on the placement of council district boundaries before the earliest date that draft maps of council districts may be released.

(B) If the period of time between the date that the redistricting database is made publicly available and the map adoption deadline is fewer than 90 days and more than 59 days, then the waiting period required by subparagraph (A) is reduced to one week. If the period of time between the date that the redistricting database is made publicly available and the map adoption deadline is fewer than 60 days, then the waiting period required by subparagraph (A) is waived.

(e) The council shall allow the public to submit testimony or draft maps in writing and electronically.

(f) The city shall either record or prepare a written summary of each public comment and council deliberation made at every public hearing or workshop held pursuant to this

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article. The city shall make the recording or written summary available to the public within two weeks after the public hearing or workshop.

(g) The council shall establish, and maintain for at least 10 years after the adoption of new council district boundaries, an internet web page dedicated to redistricting. The web page may be hosted on the city's existing internet website or another internet website maintained by the city. The web page shall include, or link to, all of the following information:

(1) A general explanation of the redistricting process for the city in English and applicable languages.

(2) The procedures for a member of the public to testify during a public hearing or to submit written testimony directly to the council in English and any applicable language.

(3) A calendar of all public hearing and workshop dates. A calendar listing that includes the time and location of the public hearing or workshop satisfies the notice required by subdivision (c).

(4) The notice and agenda for each public hearing and workshop.

(5) The recording or written summary of each public hearing and workshop.

(6) Each draft map considered by the council at a public hearing.

(7) The adopted final map of council district boundaries.

(h) For purposes of this section, "applicable language" means 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. Before January 1, 2021, and before January 1 in every year ending in the number one thereafter, the Secretary of State shall post the applicable languages for each city in a conspicuous location on the Secretary of State's internet website. To determine the applicable languages for each city, in 2020 and in each year ending in the number zero thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Statewide Database, shall request a special tabulation from the United States Bureau of the Census of the most recent data on limited English proficiency from the bureau's American Community Survey that satisfies this subdivision. If the bureau is unable to produce that data, the Secretary of State shall base the Secretary of State's determination on the table from the American Community Survey enumerating the number of residents with limited

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English proficiency that has the largest number of languages included, that is publicly available, and that was produced within the previous ten years.

(i) This section does not apply when a city transitions from at-large to district-based elections.

(j) Before January 1, 2021, and before January in each year ending in the number one thereafter, the Secretary of State shall publish on the internet a template explaining the city redistricting process that meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2), inclusive, of subdivision (g). The Secretary of State shall publish the template in all of the languages into which ballots are required to be translated in the state pursuant to subdivision (h). The template shall be published in the same conspicuous location on the Secretary of State's internet website that is described in subdivision (h).

SEC. 26.

Section 21629 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

21629.

(a) If the council does not adopt council district boundaries by the deadlines set forth in Section 21622, the council shall immediately petition the superior court in the county in which the city is located for an order adopting council district boundaries. If the council does not petition the superior court within five days after the deadline, any resident of the city may file that petition and shall be entitled to recover the resident's reasonable attorney's fees and costs from the city for doing so.

(b) (1) Upon finding that a petition filed pursuant to subdivision (a) is valid, the superior court shall adopt council district boundaries in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 21621, which shall be used in the city's next regular election. The superior court may also order the adjustment of electoral deadlines as necessary to implement the new council district boundaries in the next regular election.

(2) The superior court may appoint a special master to assist the court with adopting the council district boundaries. The city shall pay the cost for the special master and associated costs.

(3) The superior court or the special master shall hold one or more public hearings before the superior court adopts the council district boundaries.

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(4) Subject to the approval of the superior court, the special master may employ redistricting experts or other consultants or counsel, independent experts in the field of redistricting and computer technology, and other necessary personnel to assist them in their work. In addition, the special master may seek the full cooperation of the city in producing and using whatever data, computer models and programs, and technical assistance that was made available to the council and city personnel who are knowledgeable in the mechanics of drafting redistricting legislation. The superior court may assist the special master in securing the necessary personnel and the physical facilities required for their work, and to prepare for the prompt submission to the city of a request for city funding for the necessary expenses of the special master and the special master's staff.

(5) The council district boundaries adopted by the superior court shall be immediately effective in the same manner as if the court's order were an enacted resolution or ordinance of the city council.

(c) This section does not apply to a charter city that has adopted in its city charter a different method for adopting city council district boundaries when a redistricting deadline is missed.

SEC. 27.

Section 21630 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21630.

If a council assigns the responsibility to recommend or to adopt new district boundaries to a hybrid or independent redistricting commission as defined in Section 23000, the charter city remains subject to the redistricting deadlines, requirements, and restrictions that apply to the council under this article, unless otherwise exempted by law. A redistricting commission described in this section may perform the duties required of a city council under this article.

SEC. 28.

Section 23000 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

23000.

For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

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- (a) “Advisory redistricting commission” means a body that recommends to a legislative body placement of the district boundaries for that legislative body.
- (b) “Family member” means a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or in-law.
- (c) “Hybrid redistricting commission” means a body that recommends to a legislative body two or more maps for the placement of the district boundaries for that legislative body, where the legislative body must adopt one of those maps without modification, except as may be required to comply with state or federal law.
- (d) “Independent redistricting commission” means a body, other than a legislative body, that is empowered to adopt the district boundaries of a legislative body.
- (e) “Legislative body” means a county board of supervisors, a city council of a general law city, a governing board of a school district, a governing board of a community college district, or an elected governing board of a special district.
- (f) “Local jurisdiction” means a county, general law city, school district, community college district, or special district. “Local jurisdiction” does not include a charter city.
- (g) “Redistricting” means either districting or redistricting.
- (h) “Spouse” means a spouse or registered domestic partner.

SEC. 29.

This act and Division 21 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Elections Code shall not be construed as limiting the ability of a charter city to create an advisory, hybrid, or independent redistricting commission. The amendment of Section 23000 of, and the addition of Section 21630 to, the Elections Code made by this act do not constitute a change in, but are declaratory of, existing law.

SEC. 30.

The amendment of Sections 21500 and 21601, and subdivision (a) of Section 21621, of the Elections Code made by this act do not constitute a change in, but are declaratory of, existing law.