



Item No. 9(F)

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 8, 2022

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: STEVEN ADAMS, CITY MANAGER

RE: CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KING AMENDING TITLE II ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, CHAPTER 2.04, CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF KING MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO DISTRICT ELECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ELECTING CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, ESTABLISHING NEW DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the City Council conduct the second reading by title only and adopt an Ordinance amending Title II Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.04, City Council, of the City of King Municipal Code Relating to District Elections with Respect to Electing City Council Members, Establishing New District Boundaries.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2016, following an extensive public participation process, the City Council adopted an Ordinance establishing a City Council by-district electoral system and the City Council district map. To assist in developing the district boundaries, the City contracted with National Demographics Corporation (NDC). The 2020 Census data is now available. As a result, the City is required to review and update its districts to ensure they continue to comply with State requirements.

The City has contracted with NDC again to assist with the redistricting process. As required by law, four public hearings have been held to obtain public input. The hearings were held on September 28th, October 16th, November 23rd, and February 8, 2022.

The community has been informed and encouraged to participate in the process through a variety of outreach efforts, including the following:

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- Announcements on City Facebook pages
- Press release
- Front page article in the City newsletter distributed to every household and business
- Commercials on KRKC
- Notification by the Chamber of Commerce
- Article in the Rustler

The City has also established a dedicated page in the “Spotlight” section on the City website with information about the process designed to comply with State requirements, which include the following:

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 that satisfies the notice required by the law.
4. The notice and agenda for each public hearing and workshop.
5. The 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.

There is also an interactive mapping tool that enables residents to determine which district they reside in. State law requires the City to maintain the information on the webpage for a period of 10 years.

The City selected the preferred alternative district map at the last public hearing. As a result, approval of the map is being recommended through an Ordinance drafted by the City Attorney. The City Council unanimously introduced the Ordinance at the February 22, 2022 meeting, which is now being presented for adoption.

DISCUSSION:

There are a number of criteria the City is required to follow in forming the districts, which were considered at each of the public hearing. Primary restrictions include the following:

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- The maximum deviation between population in the largest and smallest districts must not exceed 10%.
- Racial gerrymandering is prohibited.
- Districts should be geographically contiguous.
- Neighborhoods and communities of interest should be undivided.
- Boundaries should be easily identifiable.
- Districts should be compact.

In addition, traditional redistricting principles that should be considered after the other requirements are met include the following:

- The number of voters shifted to different election years as a result of changing districts should be minimized.
- Voters' choices for continuity of office of elected officials should be respected.
- Future population growth projections should be considered.
- Changes should attempt to preserve the core of the existing districts.

Each of the five districts will need to contain about 2,666 people with a maximum difference of 10%, or 267 people, between the least and most populated districts. The primary issue with the existing districts is that the deviation between District 1 (largest) and District 2 (smallest) is 42.04%. In addition, District 1 is projected to continue to experience the most growth during the next 10-year period.

The consultant provided three initial alternative district map options for consideration, which were identified as the Green Plan, Yellow Plan and Orange Plan. At the second public hearing, City Council directed the consultant to provide additional variations of the Green and Yellow Plan options to transfer minor areas from the largest to the smallest district without dividing neighborhoods. The objective was to try to reduce the size of the district with the most projected growth in order to prevent the districts from quickly becoming out of balance again.

The Green 2 Plan was selected as the preferred alternative because it meets the requirements outlined above, keeps the districts as close as possible to the current district boundaries, and will better anticipate future growth in the population numbers for each district.

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COST ANALYSIS:

The estimated cost of the contract with NDC was approximately \$20,000. Funds were included in the General Fund FY 2021-22 budget, so no additional appropriation was necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This action is not a "project" for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change to the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. No further action is required under CEQA for City Council action.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for City Council consideration:

1. Adopt the Ordinance;
2. Direct staff to make changes to the Ordinance and reintroduce the Ordinance;
3. Request NCD to make changes or develop other alternative maps for consideration and schedule reintroduction of the Ordinance at the next meeting; or
4. Provide staff other direction.

Prepared and Approved by:



Steven Adams, City Manager