



City of Lomita District Formation Process

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Meeting is Being Recorded

Introductions

Today's Goals

- *You* learn from the experts
- Experts listen to *you*
- Mapping Tool Demo
- *You* leave empowered to give effective feedback

Why You Should Care

- Democracy works better when people are engaged.
- You are the experts on the community.
- You are an expert about your neighborhood.
- A once in a decade opportunity.

Today's Schedule

AGENDA: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Process, Legal Criteria and Goals

Mapping Tool Demo

Neighborhoods / Communities of Interest

Next Steps

What are District-based Elections?

- Under a District-based election system, the City would be divided into equally populated election districts.
- A candidate must reside within an election district and is elected only by voters residing within that same election district.

Why are we considering the switch to district-based elections?

- On January 18, 2022, the City received a letter challenging the City's current election system and asserting that the City's at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). In light of the letter, Lomita has taken steps to consider transitioning its at-large election process to district-based elections.

Why does district formation matter to me?

- District formation determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into district for purposes of electing a councilmember
- The Mayor and City Council will seek input in selecting the district map for our City Council. You have an opportunity to share with the Mayor and City Council how you think district boundaries should be drawn to best represent your community.

What are the Legal Criteria for Districting?



Equal Population Principle



U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause



Voting Rights Act of 1965



Traditional Redistricting Criteria

What are the Traditional Districting Criteria?

- **Contiguity** – all parts of a district should connect
- **Existing boundaries** – districts should utilize boundaries such as geographic, street, and political boundaries
- **Communities of Interest** – districts should preserve neighborhoods and communities of people sharing common interests
- **Compactness** – districts should be geographically compact

What type of public input are we seeking from the community?

- What streets, boundaries, or points of interest define your community?
- Does your community have major geographical boundaries?
- Is your community similar to other neighboring communities?
- What are your shared interests?

Why is it important to protect Communities of Interest?

- To preserve communities that share common interests and should be included in a single district in order to have effective and fair representation

Examples of shared interests:

Housing Patterns

Points of Interest

Public Services

Common Culture

Language

How can the Public provide input?



Q&A With Your Hosts

Your Turn – Communities of Interest

- Who is part of your community?
- What are some meaningful places your community recognizes or gathers at?
- What are some common concerns you share with a group?
- What are some common cultural characteristics that unite a community?
- What are common work-related traits that bring a community together?
- What is significant about the physical environment?
- What areas benefit from staying together in a district?

Your thoughts will become part of the record.

Mapping Tool Demonstration



Districting in Lomita

Background

On January 18, 2022, the City received a letter challenging the City's current election system and asserting that the City's at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

The City of Lomita is not unique in this situation. Agencies throughout the State have received similar demand letters prompting a shift from at-large to district-based elections. While it is unclear if the City's current system runs afoul of existing law, the cost of litigation to defend the at-large system, coupled with the track record of other public agencies that have fought similar challenges, poses a significant financial and legal risk to the City.

In light of the letter and to protect the City from financial and legal risks, Lomita has taken steps to consider transitioning its election process to district-based elections.

District Elections

The City of Lomita, like hundreds of cities and school districts across the state, is considering changes in how voters elect its City Council Members. The goal of these changes is, beginning in 2024, to replace the current system of at-large citywide elections in which voters have the ability to vote for all City Council Members seats with a system in which voters will vote for one City Council Member who lives in their specific district.

We need your help to draw City Council districts that reflect the character of our community!

Districting

[> Districting in Lomita](#)

[> Calendar of Districting Public Hearings and Workshops](#)

[> Draw a Map](#)

[> Proposed Maps](#)

[> Districting FAQs](#)

[> Districting Resources](#)

[> Districting Contact](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

- **January 3, 2023** – Deadline to submit maps for consideration at the Third Public Hearing
- **January 10, 2023** – Proposed maps to be posted on the website

Future meeting dates TBD: LomitaCity.com/Districting-Calendar

Contact Us



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