

City of Lake Forest Redistricting Process

Frequently Asked Questions

Every ten years, local governments use new census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. [Assembly Bill 849 \(2019\)](#) requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach, including to non- English-speaking communities.

What is redistricting?

Every ten years, districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each city councilmember represents about the same number of constituents. In the City of Lake Forest, the Mayor and City Council are responsible for drawing council districts. Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which was released in August, 2021.

Why does redistricting matter to me?

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a councilmember.

The Mayor and City Council will seek input in selecting the next 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 do the existing council districts look like?

You can find a map of the City's current council districts [here](#).

What criteria will our City Council use when drawing district lines?

To the extent practicable, district lines will be adopted using the following criteria: (1) geographically contiguous districts, (2) the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division, (3) geographic integrity of a city shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division, (4) easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.), and (5) lines shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness. In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

How will our City Council notify the public about redistricting?

The City Council will reach out to local media to publicize the redistricting process. Also, we will make a good faith effort to notify community groups of various kinds about the redistricting process. Our public workshops and public input hearings will be provided in applicable languages (e.g., Spanish) if residents submit a request 72 hours in advance. The City Council will notify the public about redistricting public workshops and public input hearings, post maps online before adoption, and create a dedicated web page for all relevant information about the redistricting process.

How can I get involved?

The City Council will be holding public hearings and public input workshops to receive public input on where district lines should be drawn.

You can contact the City Clerk's Office at (949) 461-3420 or redistricting@lakeforestca.gov to submit public comments or to submit draft maps.