



# Redistricting Process

February 15, 2011



# Background

- Section 103 of the City Charter requires “approximately an equal number of inhabitants”
- The opportunity for redistricting in Long Beach happens every 5 years
- Last Redistricting was in 2001
- In 2006 the City Council made a finding that redistricting was not necessary



# Charter Provisions

- Requires the Planning Commission to ascertain the number of inhabitants in each District
- Requires the Council to redistrict by ordinance
- Does not allow any other process to redistrict



# California Redistricting Process

- California has a new process for the State Legislature and Congressional district:
  - 14 member Commission
  - Different timeline (August 15, 2011 deadline)
  - Different rules
- Does not directly affect the City of Long Beach process
- Long Beach can participate through comments as individuals or the City as a whole



# Process

- Federal release of Census Data
- Planning Commission
  - Certification of population data
  - Recommendation on need for redistricting
- City Council public meetings on potential scenarios
  - Public input
  - Direction to staff
- LBUSD / City College submits plan
- Final ordinance by the City Council



## 2011 Timeline

- February 15: Council study session
- End of March: Census data released
- April: Planning Commission reviews population and forwards to the Council
- May: Boundary adjustment process begins if districts are out of balance
- June - August: Public input / public hearings / staff submit maps / decision by City Council
- August 31: New boundaries are due to Los Angeles County Registrar - Recorder for 2012 election



## LBUSD / City College

- Both the School District and the City College may need to redistrict
- The City Council makes the ultimate decision on those boundaries
- The City is requesting that each of those entities perform their own process
- Consensus agreements will be forwarded to the Council no later than August 1, 2011



## August 31, 2011 Deadline

- Required to have the second ordinance read and adopted by August 31, 2011
- City Clerk will forward to the LA County Registrar
- Necessary to require enough public notification time prior to 2012 Council election





# Roles

- **Community:** Public input
- **City Council:** Direction to staff and adoption of the final ordinance
- **City Manager:** Staff support for Redistricting process and coordination
- **City Clerk:** Transmittal of ordinance to the County, verification with the County, oversight of election process, consolidation of precincts and voting centers within new district boundaries, reporting of any necessary reconciliations prior to next election, and assisting voters with finding their districts leading up to Election Day



# Roles

- City Attorney: Legal oversight
- Technology Services / Development Services: GIS mapping / boundaries and technical support for census data
- Planning Commission: Certification of the data and need for redistricting
- County of Los Angeles: Provide guidance on submission process, implement new district boundary lines, and voter outreach



# Need for Criteria

- Redistricting Criteria are important to:
  - Ensure a smooth process
  - Provide transparency in the process
  - Allow for meaningful public input
  - Provide direction to staff as they bring options back to the City Council
  - Ensure a legally defensible outcome



# Criteria

- Deviations from mean population should be as small as possible, but not greater than +/- 5%
- Splits in neighborhoods, ethnic communities and other groups having a clear identify should be avoided
- Districts should be as compact as possible, avoiding gerrymandering
- Residences of Councilpersons should remain within their respective districts
- Boundaries should, wherever practicable, follow major roads and other readily identifiable features



# Criteria

- Preservation of communities of interest, where possible
- Boundary adjustments should generally consist of easily identifiable blocks/areas
- Use Census tract boundaries wherever possible;  
Redistricting shall not split a Census block
- Preservation of population cores which have consistently been associated with particular districts
- Avoidance of large scale dislocations of district populations
- Recognition of inevitable and historical topographic and geographic limitations on district boundaries



# Criteria

- Direction to staff on adjustments shall occur in public session of the City Council
- Redistricting should focus on areas of population, and not on areas of non-population (parks, businesses, etc.)
- Requested information will be shared publicly with all members of the City Council and the community
- Staff will receive input from many sources, but formal direction will come from the City Council in open session
- Staff will provide the City Council with several options, and request direction until consensus is reached



# Legal Issues

- The courts will closely review the results if any under-represented minority groups are impacted
- Almost all litigation results in impacts to under-represented minorities
- Redistricting cannot dilute minority-strength (“cracking”)
- Similarly, it cannot over-concentrate minorities (“packing”)



# Public Input

- Public Hearings / Council Meetings
  - Public meetings to discuss population numbers, criteria, preliminary maps and direction to staff on proposed changes
  - Input on the maps at City Council meetings
  - Input on the ordinance
- Redistricting Website
  - Repository for comments and input to staff and City Council
  - Display site for official documents and maps





## Process After Redistricting is Complete

- Los Angeles County will verify the lines and formal boundary descriptions
- City will engage in an outreach process to inform residents that boundaries have changed
  - Press coverage / Videos / Social Media
  - Website database showing new address
- Official notification of their change will come from the County in their sample ballot for registered voters



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