2021 Redistricting
Frequently Asked Questions

What is redistricting?

Every 10 years, districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each Council member represents about the same number of constituents. Redistricting is done using U.S. Census data, which is expected to be released soon.

Why does redistricting matter to me?

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together (aka Communities of Interest) into a district for purposes of electing a Council member. The current Town Council will seek input from the community in selecting the next district map and boundaries. You have the opportunity to share with Council how you think the boundaries should be drawn to best represent your community.

How many districts does the Town of Windsor currently have?

Four Districts:

- District 1, election November 2022 for a four-year term
- District 2, election November 2022 for a four-year term
- District 3, election November 2020 for a four-year term
- District 4, election November 2022 for a four-year term

One directly elected at-large Mayor, two-year term, began November 2020.

What does the current district map look like?

An interactive map of the current district map is here.

What criteria is required in drawing district lines?

The Town will draw district lines following the criteria listed below:

- Geographically contiguous districts (each Council member district should share a common border with the next)
- The geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities, and the Town shall be respected in a manner that minimizes division
- Easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.)
- Lines drawn to encourage geographic compactness. In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

Can the Town implement five districts for consideration on the November 2022 election and remove the directly elected Mayor?

Eliminating the directly elected mayor and establishing 5 districts would require that a ballot measure be submitted to voters and adoption of an Ordinance by the Town Council to change the Town's district-based election system from four districts to five districts. The earliest date to submit a ballot measure to voters is April 2022. Adoption of an Ordinance changing from four to five districts could not occur until the results of the April 2022 election are certified by the County's Registrar of Voters (ROV) – which typically takes about a month following the election date. Because the Town cannot adopt the Ordinance until after certification of the April 2022 election results, it is not possible to meet the ROV's deadline of April 17, 2022 to submit redistricting information for the November 2022 election.

Can the Town consider eliminating the district election system, revert to at-large elections and keep the directly elected Mayor?

Eliminating districts and retaining the directly elected mayor would require adoption of an Ordinance by the Town Council eliminating the Town's district-based election system. Prior to the adoption of such an Ordinance, the Town Council would need to evaluate the 2020 census data in the context of the California Voting Rights Act to determine if this is a viable option. This evaluation is being conducted in concert with the redistricting efforts currently underway.

The Ordinance eliminating the Town's district-based election system would have to be adopted by the Town Council prior to the County Registrar of Voter's deadline of April 17, 2022 to submit redistricting information for the November 2022 election. In theory this option could be implemented in time for the November 2022 election.

Could the Town eliminate the district election system and the directly elected Mayor position?

Eliminating the directly elected mayor and the Town's district-based election system would require that a ballot measure be submitted to voters and adoption of an Ordinance by the Town Council. The earliest date to submit a measure to voters is April 2022. An Ordinance eliminating the Town's district-based election system would have to be adopted by the Town Council prior to the County Registrar of Voter's deadline of April 17, 2022 to submit redistricting information for the November 2022 election. While an Ordinance eliminating districts may be accomplished in time for the November 2022 election, it would take a successful ballot measure eliminating the directly elected mayor in April 2022 to fully implement this option.

What is the schedule for the Town's redistricting process?

The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. - First Public Hearing: Introduction and Overview of the Redistricting Process
- Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. - Second Public Hearing: Overview and Direction on Mapping of Districts
- Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. - Third Public Hearing: Review of Draft Maps

- Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. - Fourth Public Hearing: First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Updated District Maps
- Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. - Second Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Updated District Maps

All meetings will be held in the Civic Center Council Chambers, located at 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 400 in Windsor. The Town requires masks be worn inside Town Hall. As a public service to the community, Town Council meetings are televised on Comcast Cable Channel 27, on AT&T U-verse Channel 99 and via live webcast on Zoom and at http://townofwindsor.com/721/Agendas-Minutes-Videos on the day of the meeting.

For Spanish translation services please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (707) 838-5315 at least 72-hours prior to the meeting date to confirm the service. Additionally, meeting materials will be available online in English and Spanish at: https://www.townofwindsor.com/1300/2021-Redistricting.

How will the Town notify the public about redistricting?

The Town will reach out to local media to publicize the redistricting process. Also, the Town will make a good faith effort to notify community groups of various kinds about the redistricting process. Public hearings will be provided in applicable languages if residents submit a request 72-hours in advance. The Town will also post maps online before adoption and have created a dedicated webpage for all relevant information about the redistricting process.

What is the cost of the current redistricting process?

The anticipated cost for the redistricting process is $47,150, which includes staff time and other related expenses.

What is the cost of holding a special election to dissolve the at-large Mayoral seat in April 2022?

The Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Special Election estimated costs are $50,000 to $85,000.

What is the cost of a second redistricting, if the Mayoral seat is dissolved but the district system is maintained, resulting in five districts?

The anticipated cost would include staff time and other related expenses that are estimated at $47,150, plus the measure to dissolve the Mayoral seat would be an additional estimated Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Regular Election of $30,000 to $50,000 or Special Election of $50,000 to $85,000.

Additional questions?

Please reach out to the Town Clerk's Office at townclerk@townofwindsor.com.