

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Criteria for the preparation of maps fall into two categories:

- Required criteria
- Additional criteria

California Elections Code requires that a Charter City include the following criteria:

- Population equality as determined by the federal decennial census in PL 94-171
- Compliance with the U.S. Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965

If the Charter does not include any criteria, the California Elections Code also requires that the criteria include, in order of priority:

- Geographic contiguity
- Geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest
- Boundaries be easily identifiable and understandable
- Encourage geographic compactness

If a Charter City includes at least two criteria, the city is not required to include the four criteria listed immediate above.

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Primary Criteria

The following criteria are recommended to be included as Primary Criteria for consideration when drawing district boundaries.

- Compliance with the U.S. Constitution
- Compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act
- Compliance with the California Constitution
- Each district shall have a reasonably equal population with other districts, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) or as allowable by law.

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Additional Criteria.....

- can be included, as is currently the case in the City Charter.
- are secondary to the Primary Criteria.
- should not be prioritized

Considerations.....

- Additional Criteria would be required to be used equally across the City
- Too many criteria may suggest that the process is too restrictive of the Commission's discretion

Criteria with ** in the following slides are required by State law, though the City can revise the language

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Criteria Commonly Cited

- ** Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by major streets, or by the boundaries of the city.
- To the extent feasible, utilize natural boundaries or street lines.
- To the extent feasible, geographic integrity of Neighborhood Councils shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible.
- ** Districts shall be geographically contiguous; areas that meet only at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous; areas that are separated by water and not connected by a bridge, tunnel, or regular ferry service are not contiguous.
- ** To the extent feasible, be geographically compact.

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Communities of Interest Criteria

- ** A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
- ** Neighborhoods and communities sharing a common language, history, culture and identity should not be divided so as to dilute their voting power.

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Existing Council Members and Districts Criteria

- ** The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.
- Boundary changes should limit voter deferral where possible.
- Preserve population cores that have consistently been associated with each council district.

F. Redistricting Requirements and Criteria

Catch-All Criteria

- A Catch-All provision should be included to provide an opportunity for the Commission to identify additional criteria that may be relevant to the process in any given cycle
- A Catch-All provision would allow the Commission to consider regionally specific criteria

Proposed Language

- Commission may adopt additional criteria that do not conflict with the other requirements and criteria listed in this section or with State or federal law.

F. Numbering of Council Districts

Only two models were identified that guide the Commission's process to number Council Districts.

- State of California requires districts to be numbered sequentially from the north to the south.
- Long Beach requires that districts be numbered "in a manner that for as many residents as possible, the number of the Council District they reside in remains the same."