

District Elections Exploratory Effort

In-Person Workshop - September 7, 2021
6:00pm



Introductions

- Workshop Facilitator
 - Ryder Todd Smith, CEO, Tripepi Smith
- City of Perris Staff Resources
 - Stephen Hale, Public Information Officer
 - Robert Khuu, City Attorney
 - Spanish Interpreter
 - Puede hacer preguntas en español en la barra lateral de Q&A y el intérprete traducirá para que pueda participar



Workshop Overview

- Difference between at large city council elections and district elections
- Benefits of each election process
- District formation logistics and the legal requirements
- District formation timeline
- Feedback from the community/Q&A
- How people can get involved and stay involved



Elections: Why does the process matter

“One of the greatest powers that the people have is the right to elect their own representatives to conduct the business of their government”

– California Redistricting Commission



City of Perris Election Data (2020)

- 32,357 registered voters
- 22,505 registered voters cast votes

- Two items on the local ballot
 1. Mayor – 18,635 voters cast vote
 2. Select two choices out of four for 2 vacant council members – 30,570



At-Large or Citywide Elections in Perris, CA

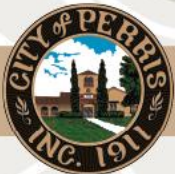
- 4 At-large City Councilmembers each elected to a four-year term
- Citywide Mayor elected for a four-year term
- History of diversity on City Council
- Geographic representation



How Would By-District Elections Change the Current Process

- By-district elections create voting districts in the city
 - Those district have to be generally equal in population
 - City Council would choose how many districts to create

Each City Councilmember would be elected by only the voters in their district



Benefits of Each Election Process



At-Large Elections

- Voters eligible to vote for every member of the City Council
 - Regardless of where a resident resides within the city
- Eligible voters can cast votes every two years
 - Voters can easily understand the timing of elections
- City Councilmembers are focused on overall city success
 - Accountable to all residents throughout the city



By-District Elections

- City Council candidate must be from district
 - Expands opportunity to run for local office
- Councilmember priorities
 - Every neighborhood gets focused attention
- Protects Minority Voting Rights
 - Empowers racial and ethnic population centers
 - Ensures "communities of interest" are respected



Communities of Interest

- Under the California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:
- A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or 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.



Questions on Election Processes

We welcome your
feedback and questions



District Elections Decisions & Timeline



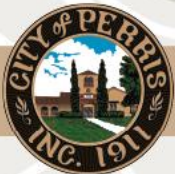
District Elections Decisions

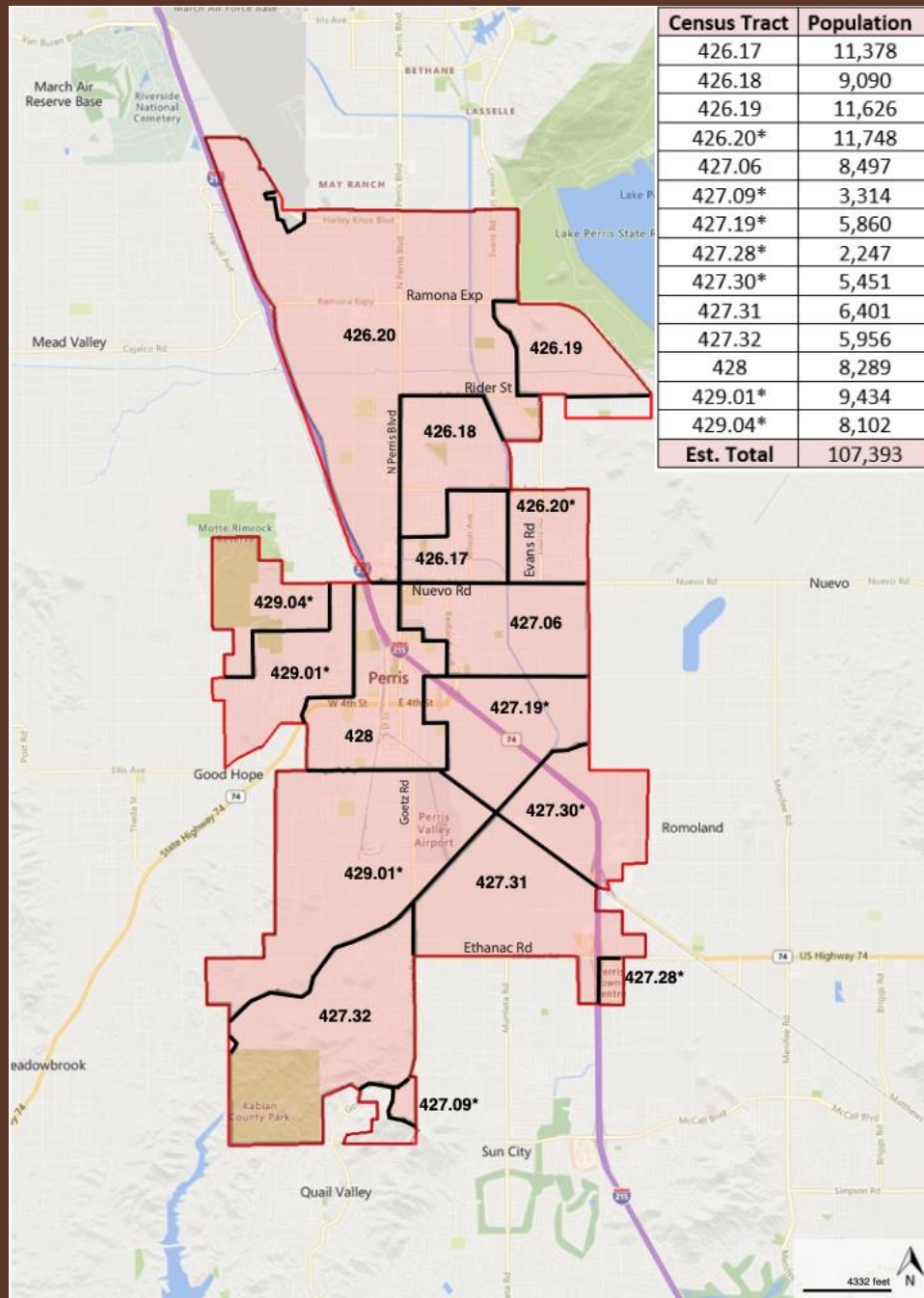
- Number of Districts
 - Made in consultation with a professional demographer (an expert in the study of statistics relating to the changing structure of human populations.)
- Election Cycle (when are each by-district council seat up for election)
- To do's: 4 public hearings (legally required), optional community workshops, mapping tool availability/public review of draft maps



District Elections Timeline

- 2022 November Election
 - Dependent on requirements of Riverside County Registrar of Voters
 - Generally speaking, April 2022
- 2024 November Election
 - Community outreach between now and 2022
 - 2022-2023 Public Hearings to seek community feedback on communities of interest and neighborhood characteristics, to draft maps, and to approve a final map by June 2024





4332 feet N

Community Feedback & Questions

We welcome your
feedback and questions



What's Next

- Report to City Council on District Election Exploratory Effort
 - Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
 - Location: Perris City Council Chambers
- Email thoughts, questions, feedback to:
districtelections@cityofperris.org

