

**City of Carpinteria
Special Meeting of the
Ad Hoc District Elections Committee**

**Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Notice of Virtual Meeting and Agenda**

**THE CITY OF CARPINTERIA HAS DETERMINED THIS MEETING TO BE AN
ESSENTIAL PUBLIC MEETING THAT WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE
PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-29-20 AND N-33-20
AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER**

In response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Governor Newsom has temporarily suspended the requirement for local agencies to provide a physical location from which members of the public can observe and offer public comment, and has ordered all Californians to stay home except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of certain critical infrastructure.

In compliance with these orders, and to minimize the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City of Carpinteria is not permitting public access to the City Council Chambers for this meeting. Instead, you are strongly encouraged to participate in the alternative methods explained below:

VIRTUAL VIEWING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

This meeting is available to view live. Instructions and links are provided below.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

If you wish to make a general public comment or to make a comment on a specific agenda item, via the **eComment** link on the City's agenda website the following methods are available. Please note that the **eComment** link does not become active until an agenda is posted.

- Distribution to Board Members. If you wish to submit a hard copy of written comments to board members (as either general public comment, as applicable, or on a specific agenda item), please submit your comment via the **eComment** link on the City's agenda website (<https://carpinteria.ca.us/city-hall/agendas-meetings>) at least **three (3) hours prior to the start time of the meeting**. Please note that these comments will not be read into the record during the meeting.
- Read Into the Record During Meeting. If you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting (as either general public comment, as applicable, or on a specific agenda item), please specify this in your comment. Please submit your comment of less than 250 words via the **eComment** link on the City's agenda website (<https://carpinteria.ca.us/city-hall/agendas-meetings>) at least **three (3) hours prior to the start time of the meeting**. Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Please also note that if you submit a written comment *that is over 250 words or do not specify that you would like this comment read into the record* during the meeting, consistent with the City's

practice when it receives written public comments on agenda items, your comment will be forwarded to board members for their consideration.

- Real-Time Public Comment Through Zoom Webinar. Members of the public attending the public meeting through the City's Zoom Webinar platform (see link provided below) have the option of providing real-time public comments on agenda matters. To make public comments through this platform please use the "raise your hand" feature to notify staff that you would like to make a public comment during designated public comment times. Once it is your turn to provide a public comment, staff will unmute your microphone and you will be given a designated amount of time to provide your comment (typically, the practice has been up to three (3) minutes per speaker on each item). At the end of your comment, staff will once again mute your microphone.

The situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving and the City will provide updates to any changes to this policy as soon as possible. The public is referred to the City's web at www.carpinteria.ca.us for the latest COVID-19 policies and information. The City of Carpinteria thanks you in advance for taking all precautions to prevent spreading the COVID-19 virus.

ZOOM WEBINAR LINK: This meeting is available to view live via Zoom Webinar by [CLICKING HERE!](#) Alternatively, you can join by following one of these methods: (1) log on to www.zoom.us, download the application, select "Join Meeting", and enter Webinar ID 820 5388 5801; OR (2) call +1 (669) 900-9128 and enter Webinar ID 820 5388 5801.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.
2. Public Comment: This is a time for public comments on matters not otherwise on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District Elections Committee.
3. Approval of meeting minutes of June 8, 2021.
4. Discuss and recommend the option for four districts with an at-large elected Mayor or five districts.
5. Discuss and recommend a process for City Council to determine which three districts will be a part of the November 2022 election.
6. Discuss and recommend which mapping tools will be made available to the public.
7. Scheduling of next meeting.
8. Adjournment.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 755-4403 or the California Relay Service at (866) 735-2929. Notification one business day prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements for accessibility to this meeting.

This agenda was posted on Friday, July 9, 2021, on the City Hall Public Notices Window and on the Internet.

**City of Carpinteria
Ad Hoc District Elections Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Councilmember Alarcon called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

Committee Members present: Councilmember Natalia Alarcon
Vice Mayor Al Clark

Staff members present: Dave Durlinger, City Manager
Brian C. Barrett, Acting City Clerk

Others present: Paul Mitchell, Redistricting Partners
Sophia Garcia, Redistricting Partners
Chris Chafee, Redistricting Partners
Gail Marshall
Russell Ruiz

Acting City Clerk Barrett noted for the record that this meeting would be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20 and Santa Barbara County Health Officer's Order in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and provided the protocols by which the public would be participating and stated that members of the Committee, staff and any presenters would be participating by video conference.

2. Public Comment: This is a time for public comments on matters not otherwise on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District Elections Committee.

There was no public comment

3. Continue discussion regarding an updated public hearing schedule and process for Transitioning to District-Based City Council Elections.

City Manager Durlinger explained that this meeting was a preview of and preparation for the update on the District Elections that the Council would hear at its meeting on June 28, 2021 and would inform the public of the mapping process. He presented the redistricting process timeline.

Mr. Mitchell acknowledged the transparency of the district elections process with the public being able to participate in meetings and discussed the community outreach process. This process includes hearing about communities of interest and suggestions for drawing lines. He reported that at least two hearings need to be held after maps have been released. Once draft maps have been created, they need to be made available to the public (i.e. posted on the City's website) for at least seven days to allow for public feedback and any changes to be made and discussed prior to the next hearing. At some point, the Council will adopt a map that has been posted for seven days. If there are any substantive changes to the map, the revised map would need to be posted for another seven days and placed on the agenda for a future hearing. He generalized that the public mapping tool could be put up next month, outreach hearings could begin in September, maps drawn by late October and continued through Spring so final maps could be adopted in Spring 2022.

Ms. Garcia discussed the memo which explains to the public how the process works prior to the September outreach hearings.

City Manager Durlinger spoke on the District Mapping 101 presentation the Committee had seen before and thought was a good tool which Redistricting Partners would present to the public.

Emails distributed to Committee: Russell Ruiz

4. Review of public outreach and map drawing options.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned the outreach efforts such as the Farmers Market and information sent to local media. He noted that the California Voting Rights Act is the primary law regarding this effort and the Fair Maps Act can be thought of as a sister law. He pointed out that the Fair Maps Act is specific for agencies doing redistricting. He described the outreach memo which will include the information that needs to be on the City website, translation services, and other elements. He announced the following three ways maps could be drawn:

1. Public uses public mapping tool and recommending draft plans for City to utilize
2. Ask consultants to draft lines, we will participate in all hearings, engage consultants through direction of City and listening to public comment
3. Live line drawing process during public meeting and get to a draft map that could be made public and placed on the agenda for a future meeting

He commented that the three ways are not mutually exclusive and talked about the online software that will be posted with the final redistricting data once it's available. He advised that Committee members and the Council to not draw maps yet as they should

not have any already developed ideas on how the districts can to be laid out when considering public input.

City Manager Durflinger asked Mr. Mitchell to describe the factors the City must consider to result in an appropriate (legal) map. Mr. Mitchell replied that Redistricting Partners would work with the City to create a one-page handout that would outline the required criteria such as districts need to be equal size, follow the Federal Voting Rights Act, draw districts that preserve communities of interest, and be compact and contiguous.

Mr. Mitchell said there will likely be a lot of mapping options either drawn by the public or consultant and most mapping options will have familiar characteristics. The Council will have decisions that are clearer about the tradeoffs in the districting process than being handed three maps that look completely different from each other.

Speaker: Russell Ruiz

5. Discussion of City's options on the number of districts City could establish and selection/election of the mayoral position.

City Manager Durflinger noted that the Council would consider either four districts, five districts, or both and ask the public for input. He inquired when this decision must be made in advance of the mapping work with the public.

Mr. Mitchell replied that it would be best to make the decision as early as possible in the process. He mentioned that if the decision was made later in the process, the City and consultant could work around how that will be done and may require duplicate work and the need to purchase another software license to allow one license for the four district option and one for the five district option. City Manager Durflinger observed that the timing of the decision should occur ideally before the first public outreach meeting in September. Mr. Mitchell noted that the decision to have four or five districts is a policy decision for the Council to make. City Manager Durflinger identified some of the possible situations that may arise during the process of setting up districts. He specified that at the right time in the schedule, staff would bring these issues up for the Council to decide on.

Mr. Mitchell remarked that it was important to remember that district lines are not being drawn based on where incumbents live. When it's time to number the districts and order the election, that is when the Council can be aware of which incumbents live in which districts and how to number the districts in an equitable way.

Speakers: Russell Ruiz

6. Scheduling of next meeting.

The Committee agreed to schedule the next meeting on July 13th at 2 pm and allow staff to setup the next meeting agenda based on the outcome of the June 28th Council meeting and follow-up from this meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Councilmember Alarcon adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.

Brian C. Barrett, Acting City Clerk

To: Ad Hoc District Elections Committee Members

From: Paul Mitchell and Sophia Garcia
Redistricting Partners

Re: Council Redistricting Decision: 4 or 5 Seats

Date: July 12, 2021

The Ad Hoc District Elections Committee is facing a question of if it should recommend, as a part of its transition to district-based elections, that the city continue with an election structure with five elected councilmembers, each from a single district, or have a city-wide elected mayor, and the remaining four council members elected by single districts.

For background, this kind of change would generally require a vote of the public. However, the Safer Harbor Provisions of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) allows the agency to consider adding council members or changing their election structure as a part of this transition. Several councils have used the CVRA conversion process as a chance to address alternate election structures, and each is in compliance as long as any district-based councilmembers are elected within single-member districts.

We have seen this as an issue that a plaintiff under the CVRA could have an opinion on, and something like this can be included in settlement letters with the city. Much of this work happened prior to our involvement in the CVRA conversion and we are not privy to what discussions of this matter may have happened with legal counsel.

In our experience we have seen both models. In our most recent two city council CVRA conversions we assisted Napa as they utilized the four council seats, at-large mayor structure, and Davis, which kept five councilmembers and a rotating mayor.

Here are some of the arguments we have heard in prior conversions, with some Carpinteria specific data:

- a) The first issue that commonly comes up is candidate recruitment. In a four-district scenario, each district would be around 3,400 people, and in a five-district scenario it would be around 2,700.¹ There could be concerns that in a four-district scenario there are more potential candidates, and it could be easier to fill seats on the board.
- b) The transition to districts often creates concern that voters will only vote for one elected official, rather than all seats. And they will only vote every-other election. One remedy is to have the at-large mayor. This gives some residents that assurance that

¹ We will not have actual total population data numbers until after the census data is released in September, 2021.

someone is representing the city as a whole, and allows residents an additional vote for the city offices.

- c) There are potential concerns with the fact that a four-district system could dilute the voting power of minorities, who could be better represented in a five-district system that has smaller seats. For example, the Latino population is most dense in two parts of the city – and they are too far apart to be in the same district. Drawing districts in a four-district scenario, you can draw one seat that is 45% Latino and one that is 36% Latino. However, in smaller seats, you can draw one at 48% and the other at 41%. Note: that 48% is the highest you can likely achieve, avoiding any requirement that you use the five-district structure because the four-district configuration would deny you the opportunity to draw a majority-minority seat.

However, it could be suggested that five-districts would allow the Latino community to have a greater chance to elect their “candidate of choice” in seats that are 41% and 48% Latino, and that would be harmed in a four district scenario in which their share of the electorate is reduced. It is also likely that a 48% Latino district today in a five-district scenario would likely be a majority-minority district in future years and may be required in 2031.

Within the law, the city, with your recommendations, can implement either of these election structures. We are here to help facilitate the line-drawing process under whatever structure is chosen, and are neutral as to which the city wants to implement. Our only advice, given potential Federal and State Voting Rights Act issues, is that you consult with legal counsel as you make this decision on what election structure you will recommend.

To: Ad Hoc District Elections Committee Members

From: Paul Mitchell and Sophia Garcia
Redistricting Partners

Re: District Numbering / Election Ordering

Date: July 12, 2021

The Ad Hoc District Elections Committee will be discussing the numbering of council districts under a single-member district plan, and the elections during which each seat will come up for election.

Under the “safe harbor” provisions of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), any map that is proposed as a draft map for the City Council will need to have a “proposed” district numbering and order of election.

Elections Code Section 10010 (a) (2) specifies:

After all draft maps are drawn, the political subdivision shall publish and make available for release at least one draft map and, if members of the governing body of the political subdivision will be elected in their districts at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the potential sequence of the elections.

Further, what districts will be elected in what order is subject to public input, and the city will have to give special consideration to the underlying principles of CVRA, specifically the importance of ensuring that voting rights of minority communities are not diluted.

Elections Code Section 10010 (b) specifies:

In determining the final sequence of the district elections conducted in a political subdivision in which members of the governing body will be elected at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the governing body shall give special consideration to the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, and it shall take into account the preferences expressed by members of the districts.

In practice, this section has regularly encouraged an ordering of district elections in a manner that would have the greatest likelihood of increasing the effectiveness that the new lines will have in allowing the minority population to “influence the outcome” of an election. This commonly means that districts with higher Latino population be ordered to come up during the higher-turnout Presidential election cycle, and districts with fewer minorities have their elections held during the lower-turnout Gubernatorial election cycle.

With this information in mind, the Ad Hoc Committee may have recommendations, but ultimately it will be up to the council to adopt a system of numbering districts and the order of the elections when they adopt their final plan.

To: Ad Hoc District Elections Committee Members

From: Paul Mitchell and Kimi Shigetani
Redistricting Partners

Re: Mapping Software

Date: July 12, 2021

The Ad Hoc District Elections Committee will be discussing publicly available mapping options for the upcoming conversion to districts under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

Online mapping is one tool available for public input. With COVID restrictions on in-person meetings, and the continuing concerns many members of the public may have regarding large public gatherings, the interest in public mapping tools for redistricting has skyrocketed.

For local governments we recommend one of the following programs:

- **Maptitude Online Redistricting (MORe)** by Caliper Corporation
Maptitude is a professional mapping software that we use for redistricting. MORe is the online version of this software, with some of the same features, and a robust set of tools and data.

We have been using Maptitude in Long Beach, and that can be accessed at this link: <https://longbeach.gov/redistricting/maps/> We are also using this software in the City of Los Angeles and Burlingame.

Challenges with MORe are that it needs to be hosted on specific servers, and it is more expensive.

- **DistrictR** by MGGG Lab at Tufts University
DistrictR is easy to use, has tools specifically for identifying communities of interest, and is less expensive. We are using DistrictR in more than two dozen agencies, including San Luis Obispo, which is up and can be seen here: https://districtr.org/tag/slo_county

You can see examples of each program here with some informal videos we have prepared for clients:

DistrictR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFw6RQD0oBE>

Maptitude: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ5uoalhHcU&t>