

## FAQ's

### What is redistricting?

Redistricting is the regular process of adjusting the lines of voting districts in accordance with population shifts. In California, public agencies and other organizations must redraw the lines of their districts every 10 years once the results of the Census are released so that each district is substantially equal in population. This ensures that each board member represents about the same number of constituents.

Because history has seen public agencies redraw district lines to influence elections, favor a particular party or suppress a group's voting power, or gerrymandering, all district lines must be reviewed to meet strict requirements for population equality and voting rights protections. With the California Voting Rights Act, more than 500 jurisdictions in California must redistrict in 2021-2022.

The City of Lincoln is in the process of creating an Independent Redistricting Commission composed of interested community members, which is responsible for approving the drawing of the districts. Our redistricting process must be completed by April 17, 2022.

### What is an Independent Redistricting Commission?

Lincoln's Independent Redistricting Commission is an independent body composed of 11 local community members, who will evaluate proposed maps and select a final map. The City's Redistricting Commission will conduct regular public meetings once it is established, and each meeting will have opportunities for public comment.

### Why does redistricting matter to me?

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a Council member. The City and the Commission will seek input in selecting the next district map for our districts. You have an opportunity to share how you think district boundaries should be drawn to best represent your community.

You can contact the City Clerk at [cityclerk@lincolnca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@lincolnca.gov) to find out more about how the process works.

### How will our City notify the public about redistricting?

The City and the Commission will post on the City's website, social media and local media to publicize the redistricting process. Also, we will make a good faith effort to notify community groups of various kinds about the redistricting process. Our public hearings and workshops will be provided in applicable languages if residents submit a request in advance.

The City and the Commission will notify the public about redistricting hearings and workshops, post maps online before adoption, and keep this website up to date with relevant information about the redistricting process. Continue checking this website for more information and resources.

## How can I get involved?

The City's Independent Redistricting Commission will be holding both hearings and workshops to receive public input on where district lines should be drawn. As dates are determined for hearings and workshops, that information will be posted to the City's website. Please continue to check this website for updates throughout the redistricting process and how to get involved.

## How to apply to be on the Independent Redistricting Commission? What is the application timeline? When will I hear back about my application?

You can apply to serve on IRC until June 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM by clicking [here](#) for the application. A review body, made up of the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk, will review applications and create a pool of qualified candidates and sort them by Council district. A public meeting will be scheduled in July, 2021 so that the City Clerk can randomly select one candidate from each Council district bin. Once the initial five candidates are selected, all qualified candidates will be put in one bin and the remaining six at-large candidates will be chosen. This meeting will be a publicly noticed meeting and will be open to the public to provide the opportunity for written and oral comment. Applicants will be notified by the end of July.

## Do I have to be an expert in redistricting to be on the commission?

No. You do not already have to know about redistricting to serve on the City of Lincoln Independent Redistricting Commission or to participate in the process. An ideal applicant knows and cares about Lincoln and its diverse neighborhoods and communities.

## What is the time commitment? When, how often, and how many hours?

The City of Lincoln Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) will be formed by July, 2021. IRC commissioners will receive training in Fall, 2021. The commission will meet approximately once a month October, 2021 through March, 2022. The IRC must adopt a council district map by April 17, 2022.

## Can I serve on more than one board or commission?

Yes, you can if you have already been appointed. However, if you are appointed to the IRC, you may not be appointed to another board or commission for four years. The city attorney may need to determine if there is an inherent conflict of interest by serving on two or more boards. There may also be times where there is a conflict of interest on an issue that affects both boards and commissions and you might need to excuse yourself from the decision-making and voting on that issue.

## What do the existing council districts look like?

You can find a map of the City's current council districts [here](#).

## What criteria will the Independent Redistricting Commission use when drawing district lines?

To the extent practicable, in accordance with the FAIRMAPS Act (AB 849) and AB 1276, district lines will be adopted using the following criteria:

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

## What do the acronyms and categories mean on the demographic sheets?

These are standard categories included in the Census. Not all of the categories are relevant for creating district maps. Acronyms include:

- NH: Non-Hispanic
- VAP: Voting age population
- CVAP: Citizen Voting Age Population
- CVRA: California Voting Rights Act
- NDC: National Demographics Corporation (the firm hired by the County to create the maps)

## Can I submit more than one map? What happens to the drafted maps?

Yes! Once submitted, maps are considered public records. The City will post all legally-compliant submitted maps on its website.

## Where can I learn more about redistricting? Have questions?

There are a number of online publications and guides to redistricting:

11. California Local Redistricting Project [website](#) (*California Common Cause & University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law*)
12. League of Women Voters [website](#)
13. California Independent Redistricting Commission [website](#)
14. Brennan Center [website](#)

We are happy to assist you. Please contact us via email at: [cityclerk@lincolnca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@lincolnca.gov), or by phone at (916) 434-2493.