



February 8, 2021

Piedmont City Council
City of Piedmont
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

Re: Resolution on Redistricting

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Piedmont (LWVP) to urge the Piedmont City Council to adopt a resolution addressing an inclusive redistricting process for Alameda County in 2021.

Following the 2020 Census, the boundaries of the five Alameda County Supervisorial Districts will be redrawn in 2021. The League supports a transparent and fair redistricting process that includes sufficient time and funding to engage communities in an inclusive manner. Adopting the attached resolution would make it clear to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and our neighboring communities that the City of Piedmont supports such an equitable redistricting plan with robust public outreach.

Sincerely,

Lorrel A. Plimier
President, League of Women Voters Piedmont

Resolution re: An Inclusive Redistricting Process for Alameda County in 2021

Whereas, the boundaries of the five Alameda County Supervisorial Districts must be redrawn in 2021 determining how communities are represented on the Board, how communities affiliate to address issues of common interest, and which communities are divided or consolidated; and

Whereas, the final maps approved in 2021 will be in place for the next 10 years, and in the past, there have been few requirements that redistricting be fair, transparent, and engage marginalized communities; and

Whereas, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors has sought to include local communities through civic engagement such as the successful Alameda County Counts census effort; and

Whereas, robust, safe, and inclusive community engagement to develop proposed district maps requires time and resources to ensure digital access, diverse schedules, translation services, meeting schedule notice, and other requirements identified by best practices and AB 849 (Bonta) and AB 1276 (Bonta); and

Whereas, two cities in Alameda County—Berkeley and Oakland—and several counties in California have established Independent Redistricting Commissions to ensure a fair and transparent redistricting process, including those in Los Angeles County, Santa Barbara County, San Diego County, and San Francisco County; and

Whereas, the timeframe to draw these maps will be compressed due to national issues and the impact of the pandemic on local communities.

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Piedmont City Council urges the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to allocate adequate resources and direct the creation of policies to ensure an equitable, inclusive and transparent redistricting process consistent with AB 849 and AB 1276 and the best practice guide of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice–Asian Law Caucus*. Specifically, we expect that the 2021 Alameda County redistricting process shall be directed towards the following goals:

1. Protects and maintains communities of interest;
2. Includes at least one public hearing regarding the proposed consultant who will develop the proposed map(s);
3. Includes at least one public hearing regarding the proposed outreach plan for the redistricting process;
4. Ensures that the consulting firm and the redistricting process as a whole offers accessible online and in person opportunities to provide input regarding communities of interest, impact of proposed lines, and other comments, questions, concerns, and ideas related to the proposed maps;
5. Includes accessibility approaches that remove physical, technological, language, and other barriers to public participation including work schedules and family commitments;
6. Leverages the trusted messengers and communities of interest infrastructure put in place to ensure a complete census count, including engaging community volunteers**;
7. Includes meetings before and after the maps are created as well as at least two other methods/opportunities for engagement accessible for each of the five districts;
8. Leverages the Municipal Advisory Councils, Interfaith Networks, and other existing network and neighborhood infrastructure to communicate the importance of and opportunity to participate in the redistricting process;
9. Provides adequate funding and personnel to accomplish these goals in partnership with community volunteers; and

10. Provides meeting notices at least two weeks in advance, including notices of Board of Supervisors meetings whenever possible.

*Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus. “Guide to Best Practices in Districting.” Available at: <https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guide-to-Districting-Best-Practices-AAAJ-ALC.pdf>.

**The Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting is eager to work with organizations to help provide community volunteers.

Date:

Organization/Title:

Signature:

Print name: