

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING)	ORDINANCE NO. 21-1469A
CRITERIA FOR METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT)	
REAPPORTIONMENT AND DECLARING AN)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
EMERGENCY		Marissa Madrigal with concurrence by
		Deputy Council President Shirley
		Craddick

WHEREAS, Section 31(1) of the Metro Charter establishes the minimum criteria for reapportionment of Council districts, requiring such districts as nearly as practicable to be of equal population and to be contiguous and geographically compact; and

WHEREAS, Section 31(1) of the Metro Charter further provides that the Council may by ordinance specify additional criteria for districts that are consistent with this section; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Metro received data compiled by the 2020 U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 U.S. Census identifies the Metro population as 1,670,601, thereby establishing an average district population of 278,434; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council wishes to set forth the criteria to be used in reapportionment of Council districts; now therefore

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

In addition to the criteria for council district reapportionment contained in Section 31(1) of the Metro Charter, which requires that “as nearly as practicable, all council districts shall be of equal population and shall be contiguous and geographically compact,” the Council also specifies each of the following additional criteria in developing an apportionment plan:

1. The apportionment will comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertinent to voting rights of electors.
2. No council district will vary in population more than five percent (5.0%) from the average population of the district. “Average population” is that amount equal to one-sixth of the total Metro area population based on the data compiled by the 2020 U.S. Census. The Metro Council interprets the maximum variance of five percent to mean that no district may be more than five percent larger or more than five percent smaller in population than the average population.
3. While observing the maximum five percent population variance based on the 2020 census data required in Section (2) of this Ordinance, the Council will make every effort to create districts with population variances of zero percent (0.0%) based on the data compiled by the 2020 US Census.
4. In developing the reapportionment plan, the Council will give consideration to existing precincts and, to the maximum extent possible after meeting all other applicable criteria, will maintain communities of common interest. Such communities of common interest are represented in:

- a. Cities under 20,000 in population
 - b. Compact minority or underrepresented communities and groups
 - c. Corridors identified in the 2040 Growth Plan or corridors of regional significance in the Regional Transportation Plan
 - d. Federally-recognized transit districts within the Metro boundary
 - e. Regional centers, town centers, and investment areas identified in the 2040 Growth Plan
 - f. Established neighborhood associations and community planning and participation organizations
 - g. School districts
5. This ordinance being necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the Metro area for the reason that the work of reapportionment proceed without delay as stipulated in the Metro Charter, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance shall take effect immediately pursuant to Metro Charter Section 38(1).

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 21st day of October, 2021.

Shirley Craddick

Shirley Craddick, Deputy Council President

Attest:

Jaye Cromwell

Jaye Cromwell, Recording Secretary

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

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CRITERIA FOR METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT)	
REAPPORTIONMENT AND DECLARING AN)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
EMERGENCY		Marissa Madrigal with concurrence by
		Council President Lynn Peterson

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ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 21st day of October, 2021.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Jaye Cromwell, Recording Secretary

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 21-1469, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT REAPPORTIONMENT
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Date:	October 18, 2021	Prepared by: Anne Buzzini
Department:	Council Office	Presenters: Ina Zucker, Anne Buzzini
Meeting Date:	October 21, 2021	Length: 10 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Every 10 years, following the completion of the U.S. Census, the Metro Council is required to evaluate whether each of its six districts are of relatively equal population, and to make adjustments to district boundaries as necessary to guarantee equitable citizen representation. The redrawn maps shift the boundaries of the six Metro Council districts to account for any uneven growth in the metropolitan region.

The U.S. Census data delivered this September indicated some districts present a significant difference from the average population; District 4 has grown in population at a greater rate than other districts in the last ten years, whereas District 1 grew in population at a slower rate.

The Metro Council has a legal requirement of three months from receipt of U.S. Census data (September 16, 2021) to complete the redistricting process. Council must adopt new boundaries in early December 2021, to meet legal timelines for redistricting, and to afford adequate notice for the appointment process for the upcoming vacancy in District 6.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff seeks Council approval of an ordinance that outlines additional criteria for the 2021 redistricting process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance to provide formal direction to staff on additional criteria, to improve transparency and accountability, and to meet legal deadlines related to redistricting.

BACKGROUND

At the October 5th work session, Council reaffirmed its direction to instill the following values in the 2021 redistricting process:

- **Lead with racial equity:** Metro actively engages communities of color in redistricting and considers impacts of redistricting on communities of color, both within districts and regionwide.
- **Transparent and accessible:** Residents feel welcome and find ample opportunities to share their thoughts about redistricting with Metro Council and staff.
- **Accountable:** Metro Council districts are of equal population and reflect the region's changing demographics. Every effort is made to ensure communities of common interest are kept intact.

At the same work session, Council directed staff to move forward with a public engagement process that includes:

- A Subcommittee on Redistricting
- Ongoing consultation with community partners and stakeholders, including cities, counties, MPAC, community based organizations, and others
- Two public hearings, independent from ordinance readings
- A page on Metro's website with information about redistricting
- Opportunity for written public comments

The ordinance seeks to formalize Council's commitment to these values. The communities of common interest are not listed in any order of priority. Staff has received direction from Council to work with community partners, the public, and the Subcommittee on Redistricting to determine relative priorities for criteria.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Legal Antecedents: US Constitution, federal Voting Rights Act, Oregon Secretary of State 2021 Redistricting Directive, Metro Charter Section 31(1), Metro Ordinance 11-1258, Metro Ordinance 01-895.

Anticipated Effects: Metro Council may choose to adopt an ordinance defining the values, outcomes, and process for redistricting prior to adopting new boundaries by ordinance on or before December 16, 2021.

Financial Implications: The resources available for this project include existing FTE and materials and services budgets. Staff from the Council Office will collaborate with staff from other departments on an as-needed basis, which may include Planning and Development, Communications, DEI, and Government Affairs. For technology, if resources beyond existing capacity are needed, existing materials and services budgets will be used to cover the costs.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A