



Independent Redistricting Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 3/24/2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Regular Session

A. Call To Order

Chair Arellano called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Arellano, Bahles, Erhart, Gilmer, Hill, Kissel (arrived 6:10 p.m.), Marquardt (arrived 6:16 p.m.), Saad, Wolter

Absent: None

Staff: City Clerk Judi A. Herren, Administrative Assistant Sarah Sandoval, Assistant City Attorney Tamar Burke

C. Public Comment

None.

D. Consent Calendar

D1. Accept the Independent Redistricting Commission minutes for March 10, 2022 (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Erhart/ Bahles), to accept the Independent Redistricting Commission meeting minutes for March 10, 2022 with edits to vote count on item E1., passed unanimously.

E. Public Hearing – 5:10 p.m.

E1. Fourth public hearing to receive input regarding the composition of the City's Districts (Staff Report #22-010-IRC)

Assistant City Attorney Tamar Burke introduced the item

Alex Sainz, demographer from GEOinovo, made the presentation (Attachment).

Chair Arellano opened the public hearing.

- Karen Grove spoke on the importance of establishing a threshold for population variance as part of map review as well as maintaining neighborhoods while also using public input to define communities of interest that transcend neighborhood boundaries.
- Pam Jones requested clarification on VRA (Voting Rights Act) districts and spoke on vertical districts, natural boundaries, and the need for multiple Districts for certain areas of the City.
- Lynne Bramlett spoke on the importance of maintaining the current district boundaries as much as possible and encouraged additional public engagement for community members who may be

unaware that district boundaries will change.

Chair Arellano closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Motion and second (Wolter/ Erhart), to remove map 1-102 from further consideration, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and second (Erhart/ Bahles), to remove map 1-105 from further consideration, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and second (Gilmer/ Bahles), to remove map 1-108 from further consideration, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and second (Erhart/ Hill), to remove map 1-109 from further consideration, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and second (Saad/ Hill), to advance map 1-115 for further consideration, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and second (Gilmer/ Saad), to remove map 1-117 from further consideration, passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and second (Bahles/ Gilmer), to advance map 1-120 for further consideration, passed 6-1 (Saad dissenting).

ACTION: Motion and second (Gilmer/ Wolter), to provide direction to GEOinovo to make adjustments to the census blocks between districts 2 and 3 on map 1-120, passed 6-1 (Saad dissenting).

ACTION: Motion and second (Saad/ Erhart), to remove map 1-121 from further consideration, passed 6-1 (Gilmer dissenting).

ACTION: Motion and second (Bahles/ Gilmer), to advance map 1-124 for further consideration, passed 5-1-1 (Hill abstaining and Saad dissenting).

ACTION: Motion and second (Erhart/ Bahles), to remove map B2 from further consideration, passed unanimously.

F. Reports and Announcements

F1. Commissioner reports

None.

G. Adjournment

Chair Arellano adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Sarah Sandoval, Administrative Assistant



Public Map Review: Menlo Park Independent Redistricting Commission

Presentation

March 24, 2022



Agenda

- Redistricting considerations
- Supplemental information
- Overview of proposed district maps
- Process for analyzing draft maps
- Map categories / groups



Redistricting Considerations

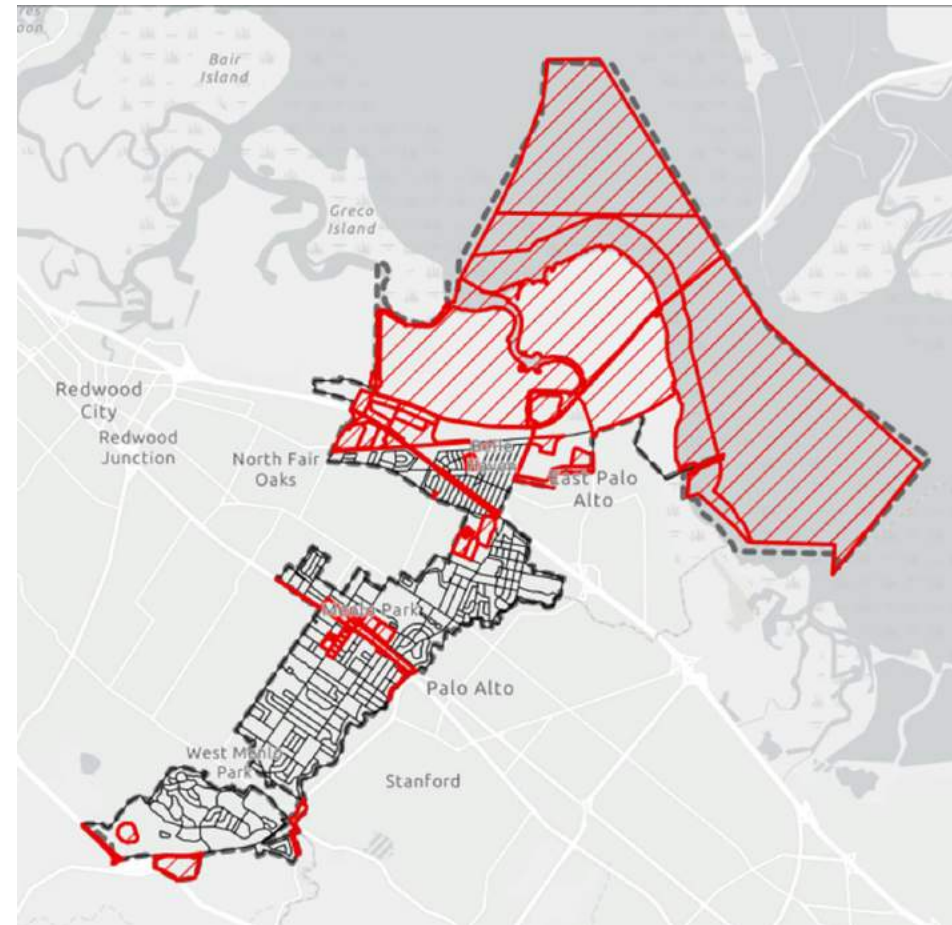
- Adhere to redistricting best practices
- Population-balance (#1 statistical criteria)
- Geographically contiguous and compact districts
- Public and IRC input
- IRC Priority: Geography OR population balance?

Public Engagement

- Public engagement has been exceptional during this process – greater than entities with 100x population of Menlo Park
- Deadline for public map submissions: 03/25/2022

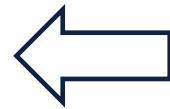
Zero-Population Census Blocks

- Menlo Park: 106/417 blocks have zero population (2020 US Census)
- Significant impact on District 1, 2, 3, and 4



Zero-Population Census Blocks

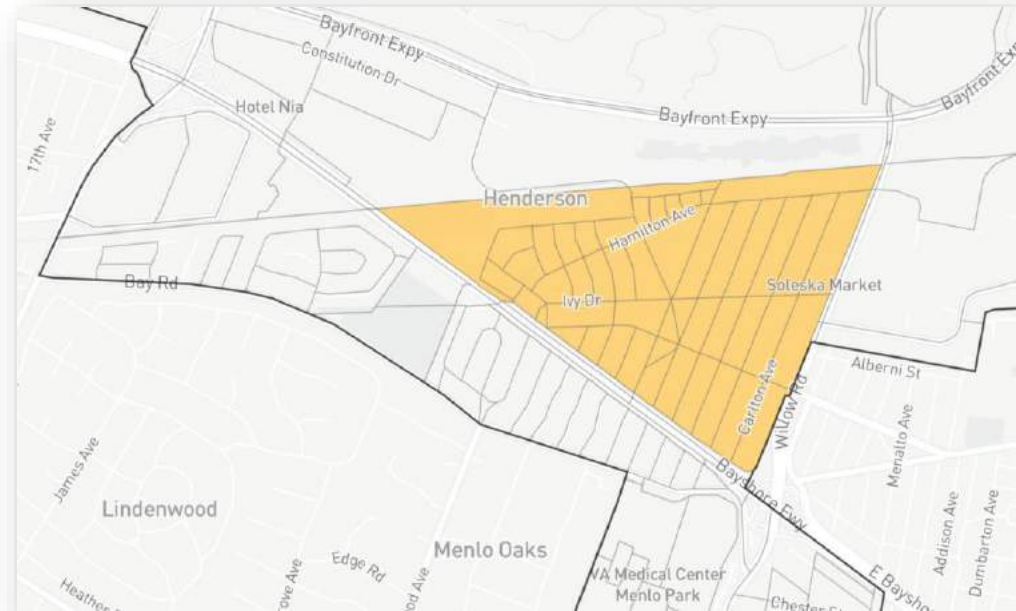
North Menlo Park:
District 1 and 2



Downtown Menlo
Park: District 3 and 4

Geography or Population Balance

- IRC Decision: Geographically appealing OR population-balanced
- Belle Haven = 5766 = 89% of proposed D1 population (6478)
- Best-case population balance ~6.6% with *preferred* geography



Proposed District Maps

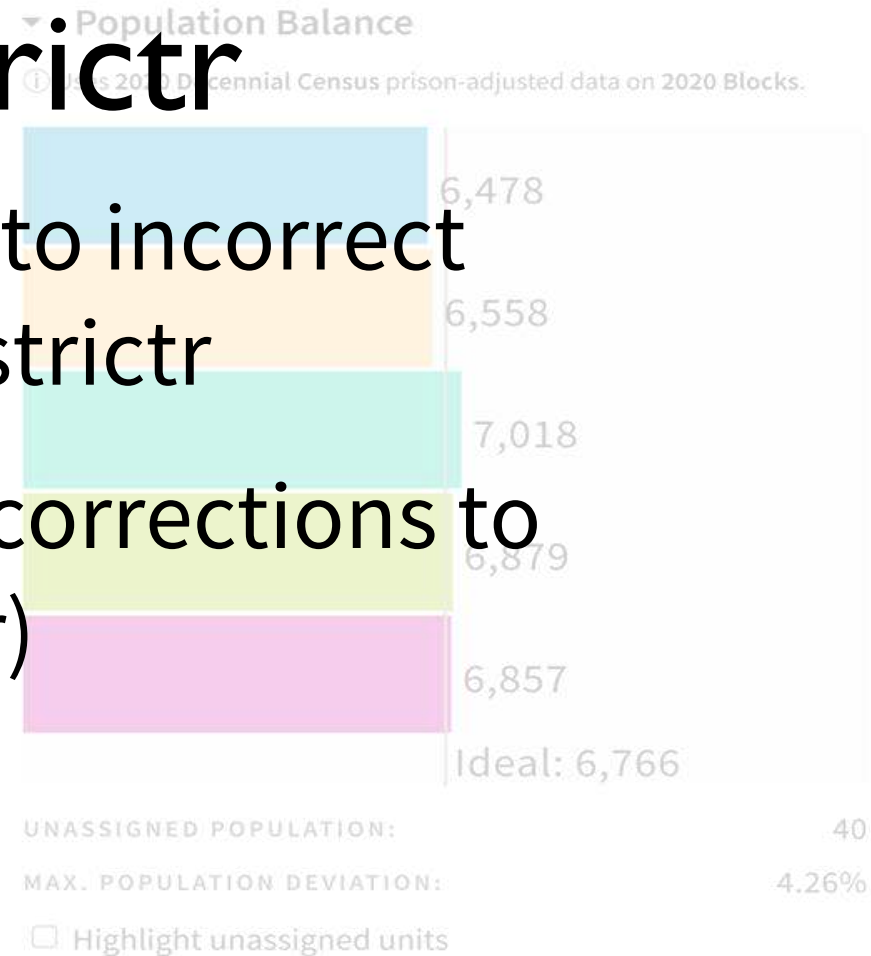
- Public maps (03/18/2022) : 26
- Withdrawn: 8
- Did not pass analysis: 7
- Viable: 11

Public Map Analysis

- Import data from Districtr to GIS
- Geographically contiguous? Yes or No
- Less than 10% population variance? Yes or No
- If yes to both conditions above, generate map and demographic data reports for IRC

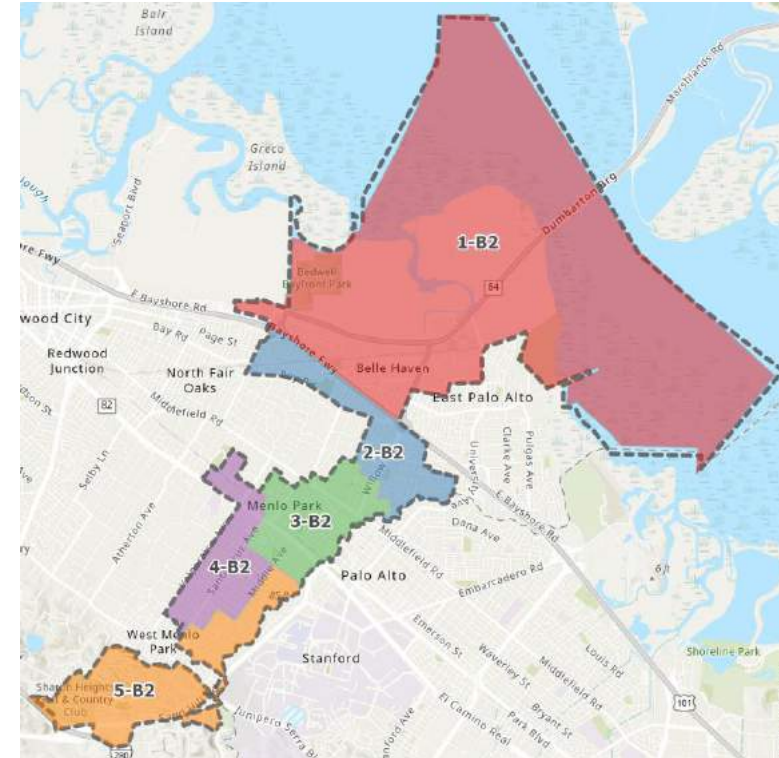
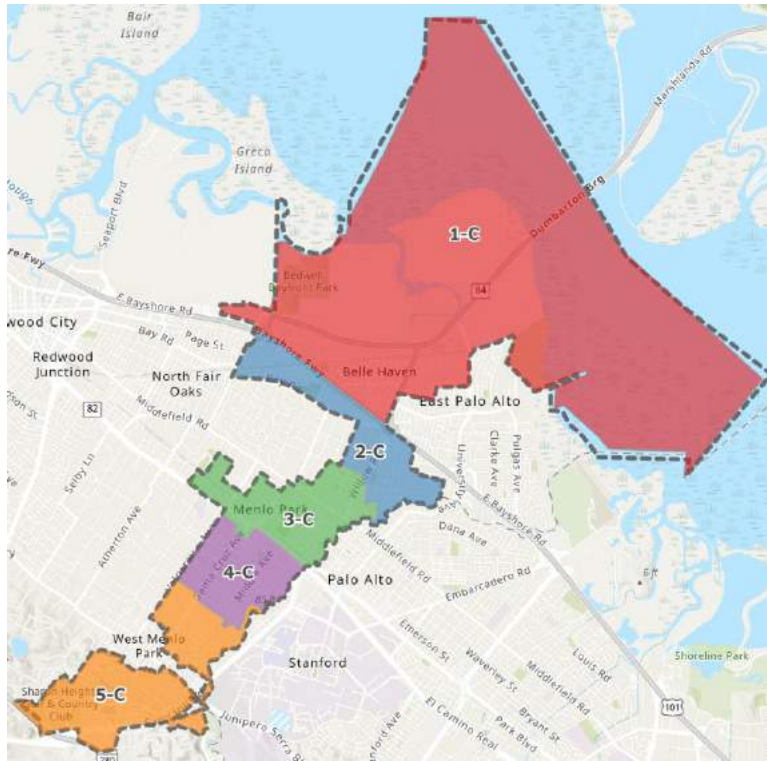
Public Maps: Districtr

- Early submissions modified due to incorrect geography and population in Districtr
- Submissions not modified after corrections to Districtr (March 7, 2022 and later)



Map Categories

Category 1: Preserve current districts



Category 2: "Vertical" districts

Final Comments to IRC

- Protected-class / VRA district not possible
- Be prepared to eliminate maps – only one will be approved at the end of the process
- Goal: 3 maps advance to the next round

