

INTRODUCED: January 24, 2022

A RESOLUTION No. 2022-R005

To amend Res. No. 2021-R084, adopted Dec. 21, 2021, which adopts redistricting criteria and a redistricting schedule for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts, to revise dates on the redistricting schedule.

Patrons – All Members of Council

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 14 2022 AT 6 P.M.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

I. That Resolution No. 2021-R084, adopted December 21, 2021, be and is hereby amended as follows:

WHEREAS, article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Virginia provides that the governing bodies of all localities within the Commonwealth of Virginia, whose members are elected by district, may change the boundaries of districts and shall reapportion the representation in the governing body among the districts, as provided by law, every ten years; and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: FEB 14 2022 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, the Council last conducted such redistricting in 2011 and, as required by article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Virginia, the Council must redistrict the nine City Council and School Board election districts in 2021; and

WHEREAS, as indicated by the 2020 United States Census, the population within the city of Richmond has increased since 2010; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Code of Virginia require that each voting district within a locality be equal in population in furtherance of the “one person, one vote” standard; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with the requirements of the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Constitution of Virginia and other applicable federal and state laws, the Council is of the opinion that any redistricting plan adopted by the Council should adhere to certain traditional redistricting criteria; and

WHEREAS, section 24.2-129(B) of the Code of the Virginia (1950), as amended, provides that, prior to enacting or seeking to administer a new redistricting plan, the Council shall cause to be published on the official website for the locality the proposed redistricting plan and general notice of opportunity for public comment on the proposed redistricting plan; and

WHEREAS, section 24.2-129(B) of the Code of the Virginia (1950), as amended, further provides that the Council shall also publicize the notice through press releases and such other media as will best serve the public, and “that such notice shall be made at least 45 days in advance of the last date prescribed in the notice for public comment;” and

WHEREAS, section 24.2-129(B) of the Code of the Virginia (1950), as amended, also provides that “[p]ublic comment shall be accepted for a period of no fewer than 30 days” and that “[d]uring this period, the governing body shall afford interested persons an opportunity to

submit data, views, and arguments in writing by mail, fax, or email, or through an online public comment forum on the official website for the locality if one has been established;” and

WHEREAS, as section 24.2-129(B) of the Code of the Virginia (1950), as amended, also mandates that the Council “shall conduct at least one public hearing during this 30-day period to receive public comment on the [newly-drawn redistricting plan],” the Council will conduct at least one public hearing in order to gather input from citizens concerning the newly-drawn redistricting plan; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that any redistricting plan adopted by the Council, wherever possible, avoid splits of voting precincts between Council, School Board, state legislative and congressional election districts; maximize voter convenience and the effective administration of elections; preserve communities of interest; and consolidate smaller voting precincts so that the number of registered voters in each precinct is at least the statewide average; and

WHEREAS, the Council further believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council adopt the redistricting schedule outlined in the document entitled “2021 Redistricting Schedule for the City of Richmond, Revised,” a copy of which is attached to this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council hereby adopts the following redistricting criteria for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts:

1. The 2021 Council redistricting plan shall fully comply with all relevant federal and state laws with regard to the protection of voting rights.

2. The 2021 Council redistricting plan should, to the extent feasible, avoid splits of voting precincts between the Council, School Board, state legislative and congressional election districts.

3. The 2021 Council redistricting plan should, to the extent feasible, maximize voter convenience and the effective administration of elections.

4. The 2021 Council redistricting plan should, wherever possible, preserve communities of interest as defined in section 24.2-304.04 of the Code of the Virginia (1950), as amended.

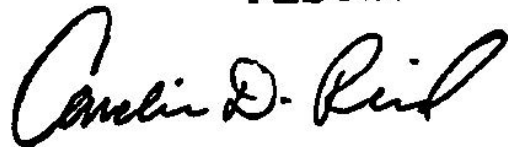
5. The 2021 redistricting plan should, if possible, consolidate smaller voting precincts so that the number of registered voters in each precinct is at least the statewide average.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby adopts the redistricting schedule outlined in the document entitled "2021 Redistricting Schedule for the City of Richmond, Revised," a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

II. This amendatory resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

City Clerk

2021 REDISTRICTING SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND, REVISED

<u>Date</u>	<u>Redistricting Activity</u>	<u>State Code Reference</u>
December 6	Presentation of criteria and schedule to City Council	
December 13	Introduction [and adoption] of redistricting criteria and schedule	
<u>December 21</u>	<u>Adoption of redistricting criteria and schedule</u>	
December 15	Publish notice and schedule concerning redistricting process	Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)
<u>January 20</u>	<u>Council redistricting information and engagement meeting</u>	
<u>January 21</u>	<u>Council redistricting information and engagement meeting</u>	
January 24	Introduction of [redistricting plan or plans for public comment] <u>amendments to Res. No. 2021-R084 (revised redistricting schedule)</u>	
[January 25]	[30-Day public comment period begins]	[Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)]
<u>January 27</u>	<u>Council redistricting information and engagement meeting</u>	
<u>February 9</u>	<u>Day 1: Public drawing of City Council map options</u>	
<u>February 10</u>	<u>Day 2: Public drawing of City Council map options</u>	
<u>February 11</u>	<u>Day 3: Public drawing of City Council map options</u>	
February 14	[Public hearing on proposed plan or plans] <u>Adoption of amendments to Res. No. 2021-R084</u>	[Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)]
February 28	[Public hearing and adoption of final] <u>Introduction of redistricting plan or plans for public comment</u> [Publish notice of final redistricting plan]	[Va. Code § 24.2-129(C)]
<u>March 1</u>	<u>30-day public comment begins</u>	<u>Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)</u>
<u>April 11</u>	<u>Public hearing on proposed plan or plans (public comment continues)</u>	<u>Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)</u>
<u>April 25</u>	<u>Final day for public comment (56 days of public comment)</u> <u>Final public hearing and adoption of final redistricting plan</u> <u>Publish notice of final redistricting plan</u>	<u>Va. Code § 24.2-129(C)</u>
[March 30] <u>May 26</u>	<u>Adopted redistricting plan takes effect</u>	<u>Va. Code § 24.2-129(C)</u>



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell Brown, Interim Richmond City Attorney

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Cynthia Newbille, President
All Members of Council
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney

DATE January 20, 2022

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Amendment of Redistricting Criteria Schedule

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

All Members of Council

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Government Operations

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

To amend Res. No. 2021-R084, the redistricting criteria and a redistricting schedule for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts.

BACKGROUND

The Resolution is to amend Res. No. 2021-R084 which adopted redistricting criteria and a redistricting schedule for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts. This request is to amend this Resolution to adopt the redistricting schedule as outlined in the document entitled "2021 Redistricting Schedule for the City of Richmond".

This revised schedule allows for an adjustment to add additional meeting dates for public engagement and awareness of the redistricting process, an analysis of the population data, and meetings for the public to view the process to draw maps.

The expected introduction date is January 24, 2022. It is not expedited to allow for public hearings to be conducted consistent with the legislative process and transparency. Therefore, the paper will be reviewed in the Council Standing Committee with anticipated adoption at the February 14, 2022 Council meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$	
Fiscal Summary: No fiscal impact related to adoption of the redistricting criteria. Possible fiscal impact if it is		

determined that additional precincts are needed.

Attachment/s

Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 1.10.2019/srs