

INTRODUCED: March 7, 2022

Expedited Consideration

A RESOLUTION No. 2022-R016

To amend Res. No. 2021-R084, adopted Dec. 21, 2021, as previously amended by Res. No. 2022-R005, adopted Feb. 14, 2022, which adopted 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: MAR 7 2022 AT 5 P.M.

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

I. That Resolution No. 2021-R084, adopted December 21, 2021, as previously amended by Resolution No. 2022-R005, adopted February 14, 2022, 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

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: MAR 7 2022 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

representation in the governing body among the districts, as provided by law, every ten years; and

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, March 7, 2022,” a copy of which is attached to this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

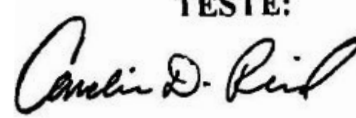
That the Council hereby adopts the following redistricting criteria for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts:

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, March 7, 2022,” 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:

City Clerk



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 March 4, 2022

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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

Expedited Consideration

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 revised redistricting schedule (March 7, 2022) as outlined in the document entitled "2021 Redistricting Schedule for the City of Richmond". The Redistricting Schedule is attached.

This revised schedule allows for an adjustment to adjust the dates of the calendar to add days for Council redistricting information and engagement meetings.

The expected introduction date is March 7, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

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 ☐

2021 REDISTRICTING SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND, REVISED
MARCH 7, 2022

<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 of redistricting criteria and schedule	
December 21	Adoption of redistricting criteria and schedule	
December 15	Publish notice and schedule concerning redistricting process	Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)
January 20	Council redistricting information and engagement meeting	
January 21	Council redistricting information and engagement meeting	
January 24	Introduction of amendments to Res. No. 2021-R084 (revised redistricting schedule)	
January 27	Council redistricting information and engagement meeting	
February 9	Day 1: Public drawing of City Council map options	
February 10	Day 2: Public drawing of City Council map options	
February 11	Day 3: Public drawing of City Council map options	
February 14	Adoption of amendments to Res. No. 2021-R084	
February 28	[Introduction of redistricting plan or plans for public comment] <u>Council redistricting information and engagement meeting</u>	
<u>March 7</u>	<u>Introduction of redistricting plan or plans for public comment</u>	
March [4] <u>8</u>	30-day public comment begins	Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)
April 11	[Public hearing on proposed plan or plans] <u>Council redistricting information and engagement meeting (public comment continues)</u>	Va. Code § 24.2-129(B)
April 25	Final day for public comment ([56] <u>49</u> days of public comment) <u>and introduction of final redistricting plan</u>	Va. Code § 24.2-129(C)
<u>May 23</u>	Final public hearing and adoption of final redistricting plan Publish notice of final redistricting plan	<u>Va. Code § 24.2-129(C)</u>
[May 26] <u>June 22</u>	Adopted redistricting plan takes effect	Va. Code § 24.2-129(C)