

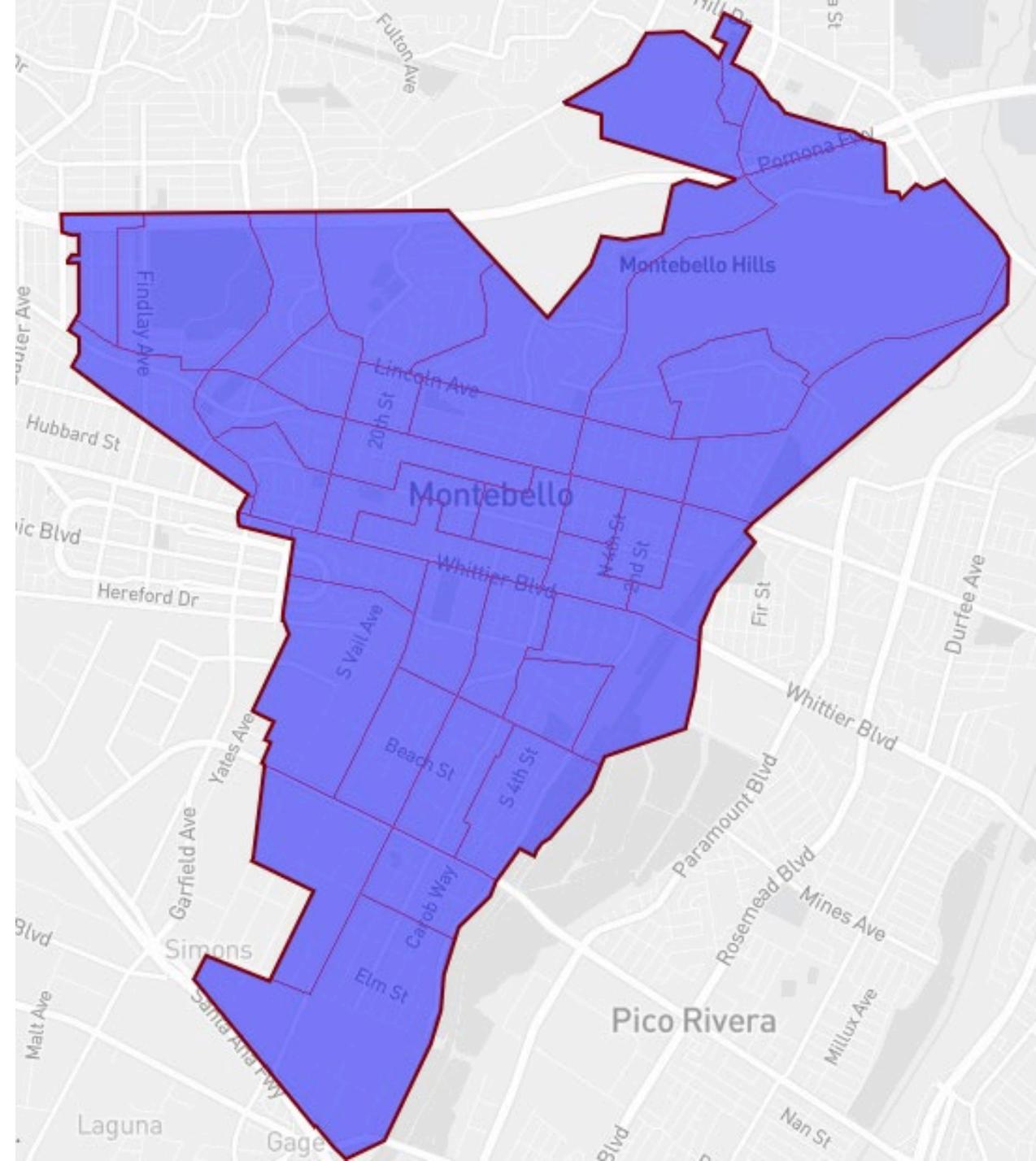
# City of Montebello Transition to District Elections

ARDA Demographics



# Transition To District Elections

- On May 26, 2021, the City Council voted to begin the transition to district based elections.
- In a “by-district” election system, each Council Member would represent a smaller section of Montebello and be elected only by those who live in that district.
- This move was brought about by the California Voting Rights Act, which mandates a jurisdiction must switch to district elections if a protected groups is “locked out” of electing a person of their choice.
- Transition to district elections are governed by Federal and State laws that protect groups that have been subject to discrimination and encourage transparency and public input.



# Overview of District Transition Process

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DISTRICT TRANSITION  
RULES, REGULATIONS  
AND GOALS.



TIMELINE AND KEY  
DATES



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
PROCESS



NEXT STEPS

# What is District Elections

- In a “by-district” election system, each Council Member would represent a smaller section of Montebello and be elected only by those who live in that district.
- As of the General Election of November 8, 2022, the City of Montebello will have a total of five (5) voting districts. One City Council Member will be elected from each district.
- In establishing the boundaries of the districts, the Council may give consideration to the following factors: communities of interest, compactness of districts, contiguity of district territory, visible nature or man-made boundaries, geography and topography.

# Federal Rules

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- Districts must be equal population, with an allowable deviation of up to 10% from the lowest populated to the highest populated district.
- Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 standards must be considered and used.
- No racial gerrymandering. Although race can be used in conjunction with other factors.

# State Rules: AB 849 Fair Maps Act

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- In 2019, State of California passed the Fair Maps Act which defined the process and created specific criteria for cities and counties to follow during redistricting or a transition to districts.
- The Fair Maps Act requires all counties and cities to hold a minimum of Four public hearings.
- The Fair Maps Act also puts specific rules for transparency and public engagement.
- Draft maps must be publicly available for review at least 6 days before a public hearing and no last second substantial changes can be made to maps at the final approval hearings or they must be continued to the next meeting to allow for review.

# State Rules: AB 849 Fair Maps Act

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- Specifically forbids targeting an incumbent or political opponent to try and “draw them out” or “into” a specific district.
- Fair Maps Act also sets ranked criteria to consider when drawing new districts. They are:
  - Geographic Continuity
  - Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”
  - Easily identifiable district boundaries
  - Stresses district compactness. Discourages bypassing one group or community of interest to get to a more distant community of interest.

# Communities of Interest

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST?

A community of interest is a neighborhood or geographically defined group with shared interests or characteristics that could be affected by district boundaries.

# Communities of Interest

Some Examples of Communities of Interest are:

- School attendance areas
- Natural neighborhood dividing lines such as highways, bodies of water such as a river, hills or main streets
- Areas around parks, public facilities and other landmarks
- Homeowner or neighborhood associations
- Common local issues, neighborhood activities or concerns
- Single-family and multi-family housing units
- Historical districts or other unique areas
- Local environmental issues of concern
- Transportation corridors

# Tentative Timeline and Key Dates

- Public Hearing No. 1 – held October 13, 2021
- Public Hearing No. 2 – November 13, 2021
- Public Participation Tool Available – November 19, 2021
- Public Hearing No. 3 & 4 – January-February 2022 (Dates to be announced)
- Adoption of Final District Map – no later than March 9, 2022
- Implement By-District Election Process – 2022 Regular Election

# Public Participation Process

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- We need your help to make this change and draw new City Council districts!
- The City will be making available a downloadable map tool where residents can draw their own preferred districts or just their preferred community of interest and submit their map to the City.
- The City along with the Demographer will incorporate the submitted resident maps into the final map of the City.
- One of our primary goals when drawing City Council districts is to draw lines that respect neighborhoods, history, and geographical elements.

# Public Participation Process

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- How do you draw a district map proposal or community of interest?
  - Download the public participation kit that will be available on 11/19/21.
  - Public participation kit will include a downloadable pdf map of the city divided by block groups and a downloadable excel sheet with population counts to guide you.
  - Draw on the map your Five district proposal, or if you just want to show where your community of interest is located, you can also draw that out.
  - When done, scan and submit your map to [Mtbdistrictelection@cityofmontebello.com](mailto:Mtbdistrictelection@cityofmontebello.com)

# Public Participation Process

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- To be included for consideration for approval, proposed district maps must meet state and federal guidelines.
- The 2020 Census population for Montebello is 62,879.
- Each district should be roughly 12,576 people per district.
- Federal guidelines allow for up to 10% deviation, with a +/-5% of the deviation strongly encouraged.
- District population should be no less than 11,948 and no more than 13,204.

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## Next Steps

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Public Participation kit will be available on Friday, November 19 for download. Submission deadline to be determined, will likely be end of December or early January.

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Public Hearing #3 will be scheduled for January of 2022, with draft maps available for review up to 6 days before the hearing.

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Demographer will also present 2 to 3 proposals that will be based on community of interest input received from the public.



QUESTIONS?