



Mendocino County

Legislation Text

File #: 21-0620, Version: 1

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Executive Office and County Counsel

Meeting Date: June 22, 2021

Department Contact: Steve Dunncliff

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Department Contact: Charlotte Scott

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Item Type: Consent Agenda

Time Allocated for Item: n/a

Agenda Title:

Direction to Staff to Establish County Staff-Based Advisory Committee for the 2021 Redistricting Process and Begin Work Immediately, Including the Creation of a Website for Public Outreach Meeting the Requirements of Elections Code Section 21500, *Et Seq.*

Recommended Action/Motion:

Direct Staff to establish County Staff-based Advisory Committee for 2021 redistricting process and begin work immediately, including the creation of a website for public outreach meeting the requirements of Elections Code Section 21500, *et seq.*

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

None.

Summary of Request:

Every ten years local governments are required to use new official census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. Recently amended Elections Code section 21500, *et seq.*, requires counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach including to non-English speaking communities. The U.S. Census Bureau began the decennial census in 2020. However, the deadlines were impacted and extended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The County is informed that final census data will not be received until late September, 2021. In spite of the unforeseen delay in final census data, Elections Code section 21501 still requires that the boundaries of the supervisorial districts shall be adopted by the Board of Supervisors no later than December 15, 2021.

It is recommended that the Board utilize a County staff-based advisory commission to help guide the Board and which will have the fastest timeframe and be less costly as County staff are prepared to begin work immediately. The following is the recommended makeup and responsibilities for the committee: Executive Office - project management and website development, public outreach, Board liaison, IS - GIS and map development and public engagement for mapping and communities of interest, and County Counsel - legal advice and guidance to staff for the process and criteria. The County is fortunate to have experienced staff who have familiarity with the mapping and redistricting process, and who can be trained and advised on the newer legal requirement. Additionally, staff can create the website which content can be reviewed for legal accuracy by County Counsel. Should the Board elect to use this approach, staff will return to the Board with a proposed schedule for the

minimum four (4) public hearings/workshops and an update on the process. It is recommended that the first public hearing be a public workshop led by the Advisory Committee during the summer on a weekday after 6:00 p.m., followed by four public hearings before the full Board of Supervisors following anticipated receipt of the final census data, timing the last public hearing for Board adoption in December to meet the deadlines required by statute.

Alternative Action/Motion:

Advise staff on alternate direction.

Supervisory District: All

vote requirement: Majority

Supplemental Information Available Online At: n/a

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: n/a

current f/y cost: n/a

annual recurring cost: n/a

budget clarification: n/a

budgeted in current f/y: N/A

if no, please describe:

revenue agreement: N/A

Agreement/Resolution/Ordinance Approved by County Counsel: Yes

CEO Liaison: Executive Office

CEO Review: Yes

CEO Comments:

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Executed By: Atlas Pearson, Deputy Clerk I

Final Status: Direction Given to Staff

Date: JUNE 24, 2021

