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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS IN MORGAN HILL

Residents Are Invited to Participate In and Influence Morgan Hill's Future

MORGAN HILL, Calif. (October 4, 2021)—Redistricting is happening now. Completion of the 2020 Census is prompting the City of Morgan Hill to redraw its boundary lines that determine which voters are represented by each electoral district.

There are multiple meetings in October and November, both in-person and virtual, for residents to learn about the process and get directly involved. The City's primary goal is to work with residents to draw lines that follow the law, respect communities of interest, neighborhoods, history, and geographical elements. All residents are welcome to participate in this once-in-a-decade opportunity to have a substantive role in shaping how the City's election process functions for the next 10 years.

In-Person Meetings

Please Note: for this set of meetings, some are intended for a City-wide audience and others are intended for specific districts, which are noted:

- Friday, October 8, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Downtown Amphitheatre, City is hosting a booth during the Friday Night Music Series, 17000 Monterey Road
- Sunday, October 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – St. Catherine's Church, following both the English and Spanish masses.
- Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Starbucks, 251 Vineyard Town Center.
- Saturday, October 30, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Peet's Coffee, 755 Cochrane Rd., Suite 100.
- Wednesday, November 10, 11:00 a.m. – Senior Center, 171 W Edmundson Avenue. Space is limited and seniors get seating priority.

Virtual

- Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Redistricting Community Meeting, virtual meeting link: <https://bit.ly/Communitytownhall>
- Monday, November 8, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Redistricting Community Meeting, virtual meeting link: <https://bit.ly/Communitytownhall>

Another way residents may participate is to assist the City in developing a list of [Communities of Interest \(COI\)](#), which helps inform how to redraw district lines. COI examples include groups that share a common social or economic interest, people in a geographically definable area, ethnic or racial minorities, senior citizens, or even groups that share a similar interest, like parents of young children or bicycle enthusiasts. Residents can also draw their own maps for consideration by the City Council. The community workshops will educate residents on how to draw a map and submit draft maps for consideration.

The redistricting process is managed over the course of several months in 2021-2022. Here is what to expect over time:

October - November	Community workshops and meetings, educating residents on how to draw and submit draft maps, upcoming timeline highlights
October – January	Continuation of community workshops and meetings, draft map drawing, sharing and defining COIs
January	Public hearing; draft maps to City Council; City Council and Community to provide feedback
January – March	Review and refine draft maps
March	Public hearing to adopt final map

Visit MorganHillRedistricting2021.com for the latest on redistricting, how the process is moving forward, a schedule of meetings, and what you can do to be heard in the upcoming elections. To sign up for updates and information about the redistricting process and future public meetings, please email redistricting2021@morganhill.ca.gov.

What Kinds of Election Systems Are There?

‘At-Large’ election system is where voters of the entire city elect the mayor and/or council members to the city council. Morgan Hill’s Mayor is elected through the At-Large election system.

‘From District’ election system is where each council member is elected by voters from the entire city, but the city is divided into districts and each council member must reside within a particular district.

‘By District’ election system is where a city is divided into districts and one council member is elected by only the registered voters in that particular district.

The City of Morgan Hill is a ‘By District’ election system for four Council seats and must redistrict the district boundaries before the next election of Council Members in November 2022. Although the City established the district boundaries in 2017 for the November 2018 election,

the boundaries are based on the 2010 federal census, which means the City must now update the boundaries through the redistricting process based on the 2020 federal census data. To find out which district you live in, visit morgan-hill.ca.gov/1682/City-Council-Districts.

Redistricting in 2021-2022

Assembly Bill 849, also known as the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions Act, passed in 2019, requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings, workshops, and public outreach, including to non-English-speaking communities. The finalized maps from the process will change how voters elect Council Members for the next ten years.

Assembly Bill 849 includes several stipulations:

- Applies to both general law and charter cities electing members of the legislative body by districts or from districts;
- Specifies criteria and deadlines for cities and counties to adopt or adjust new district boundaries;
- Specifies hearing procedures that allow for public input on the placement of boundaries and on proposed boundary maps;
- Requires the governing body to take specified steps to encourage the residents of the local jurisdiction to participate in the process.

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