



# 2021 Council Redistricting

Process Preview

Scott J. Butler – Deputy City Manager

Jeff Robbins – Census & Redistricting Administrator



## Mesa District System approved in 1998

- Mayor elected at large
- Six councilmembers – geographical districts
- Districts should be equalized by population according to decennial census (2020 Census) *Section 201 (A)5*





Redistricting preserves the general area of the district

- “Adjustment” to existing boundaries

Council members must remain in their current district

- Section 201(A)(3) of the Mesa City Charter





# Mesa's redistricting process adheres to redistricting best practices

- Contiguity
- Compactness
- Respects Communities of Interest (COI)
- Reasonably equal in population
- Consistency with natural and political boundaries
- Utilizes data and public testimony





District boundaries established by five (5) person nonpartisan redistricting commission appointed by City Council

- Section 201(A)(3) of the Mesa City Charter





# Proposed 2021 Redistricting Commission

Deanna  
Villanueva-  
Saucedo



Elaine Miner



Dr.  
Christine  
Jiang



Jo Martin



Greg Marek



# Redistricting Commission Role

- Oversee the redistricting process
- Comply with the Voting Rights Act and redistricting best practices
- Provide direction for the consultant
- Review and incorporate citizen feedback into final redistricting map
- Recommend redistricting map to the Mesa City Council







# Consultant

## RFP Selection

- City staff released an RFP for redistricting consultant November 2020
  - Advise the Redistricting Commission
  - Provide demographer services
  - Lead public meetings
  - Ensure compliance with Voting Rights Act and ensure an independent and equitable redistricting process
  - Guidance on redistricting best practices





# Consultant

## RFP Selection



- Experience

- 10 years, over 35 redistrictings conducted
- Experience with large-scale, complex redistricting projects
- Citizen-driven approach to redistricting. In-person and virtually



# National League of Cities Census and Local Democracy Grant - \$20,000

- Marketing and education outreach connecting the Census and Redistricting
- Hispanic Community
- Low-to-Mod Income
- Students





Census data typically delivered by April 1st of year following decennial census

- COVID -19 - non-ID responses - administrative and third-party data - duplicate records

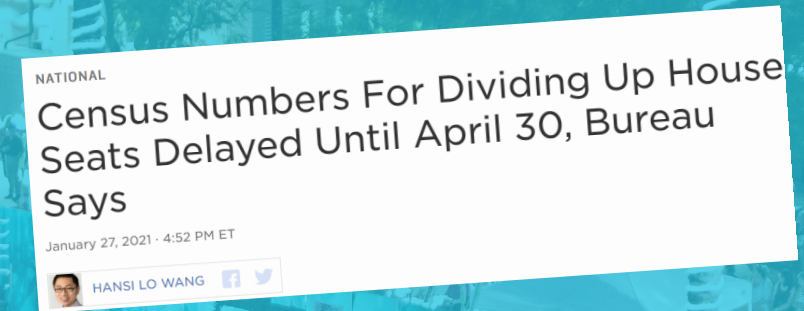
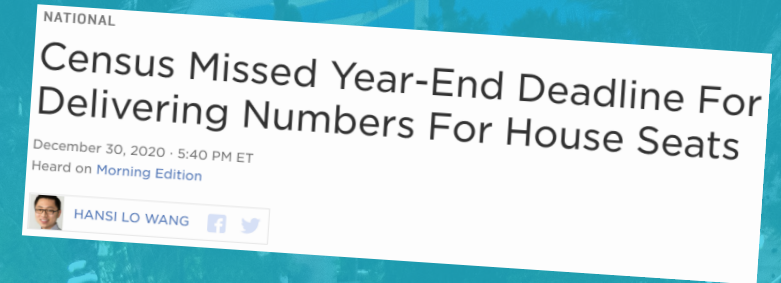
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By City Charter, Mesa must complete redistricting by the candidate filing deadline (March 7, 2022)

Final City Council action anticipated December 2021

# Process

## Census Data Delay





# Before data delivery from Census Bureau (P.L. 94-171)

- **April 29<sup>th</sup>** - Commission appointment
- **May, June** – Commission training
- **June** – Public awareness begins, Webpage, DistrictR online tool
- **July-August** – Community engagement meetings



Process

Key Milestones



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## After data from Census Bureau (P.L. 94-171)

- Hearing with public input on publicly drawn plans
  - Commission meetings to revise and produce a recommended map
  - Presentation of recommended map to Mesa City Council November 15, 2021
  - Commission to return to Council December 2021 should Council reject the first recommended district map
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- Mesa City Council may provide feedback to the Mesa Redistricting Commission and reject the proposed map once and only once
  - Commission may or may not implement City Council recommendations
  - Commission returns to City Council. Council must approve the map as presented (*Section 201 (A) 3 of Mesa City Charter*)
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# Process

## Key Milestones





# Questions?

2021  
Redistricting  
Preview

