

Article II THE POLITICAL (ELECTION) DISTRICTS

The Political (Election) Districts (note: the division of the 8 districts will be completed by the City Clerk in time for 2018 election using 2010 Census and any additional relevant data and information to draw the new lines) The use of the Advisory Committee shall start with the 2020 Census.

Section 200. Districts.

The City of Stockton is divided into political divisions, which shall be known as districts. Following adoption or amendment of this Section and thereafter, following each decennial Federal census, the Council shall, by ordinance, redistrict the City into eight (8) numbered districts with the following standards.

- a. By no later than February 1 in the year following the decennial census, the Council shall appoint an Advisory Commission whose purpose shall be to study and make appropriate recommendations with respect to such redistricting. The Advisory Commission shall consist of one (1) member from each district, who shall be nominated by the Council member from that district, and a one chosen from the City at large, who shall be nominated by the Mayor. Each nominee shall become a member of the Commission upon ratification by a majority vote of the city council.
- b. The Advisory commission shall conduct public hearings, at various times when the general public is able to attend, at various locations and districts in the City, concerning its recommendations regarding district boundaries, and shall submit its report and recommendations to the Council within one hundred twenty (120) days following its receipt of the decennial Federal census data.
- c. The Council shall duly consider the report and recommendations of the Advisory commission and in adopting any redistricting ordinance. If the Council rejects the recommendation of the Advisory Commission, it shall do so with specific and stated reasons for the rejection prior to the adoption of the ordinance. However, the Council is required to adopt an ordinance by no later than November 30th under this Section, even if the Advisory commission fails to provide recommendations or reports as specified in this Section.
- d. Any ordinance adopted by the Council and establishing, changing or altering the boundaries of any district shall describe the new boundaries by reference to a map on file in the office of the City Clerk and/or by a metes-and-bounds description.
- e. All districts shall be drawn in conformance with the requirements of state and federal law. In any redistricting, the Council shall make the districts as nearly equal in population as may be practicable, and may, in establishing the boundaries of the districts, give consideration to
 - i. Natural boundaries, street lines, and/or City boundaries;
 - ii. Geography;
 - iii. Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory;
 - iv. Community of interests within each district.
- f. The Districts shall be numbered one through eight and shall contain approximately one-eighth (1/8) of the population so that the entire City is divided into eight (8) districts.

Upon any redistricting pursuant to the provisions of this Charter, each incumbent member of the Council will continue, during the remainder of the member's term, to hold office and to represent the district by which the member was elected prior to redistricting, notwithstanding any provision of Section 601 of Article VI requiring a member to be a resident of the district represented by such member.

Any territory which is annexed to or consolidated with the City but not included within a district shall, prior to or concurrently with completion of proceedings shall be added to an adjacent district or districts by the Council by ordinance, which shall become effective after adoption and shall apply to all elections held on and after the effective dates.

Arguments in favor:

The process outlined in this section mirrors the process used in the State of California for drawing political boundaries, removes it from the political body immediately affected by the change in boundaries and avoid the potential of political gerrymandering. This process as outlined requires volunteers to come together, discuss the boundaries of the districts using clearly defined requirements to hold public hearings to allow for resident participation. It removes the process by which one person was solely responsible for the drawing of the boundaries and creating a more transparent process.