



Waynesboro City Council Agenda Briefing

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| Meeting Date: | January 24, 2022 | Staff/Council Member(s): City Manager |
| Agenda Item # | 11 | |
| Resolution# | | |
| Department: | City Manager's Office | |
| Subject: | Decennial Voting Ward Redistricting | |
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Background: The Virginia Constitution, Article VII Section 5 provides that the governing bodies of counties, cities, and towns are to be popularly elected. The Constitution allows elections at large or by districts within the locality. If elections are by districts, the locality must redistrict each 10 years.

Requirements under Law

Virginia Code Section 24.2-304.1B reiterates the Constitutional Requirements that local redistricting occur following the decennial census, and that the districts shall “give as nearly as practicable representation in proportion to the population of the district or ward,” and that the districts must “be composed of contiguous and compact territory.”

Virginia Code Section 24.2-304.1C requires the use of unadjusted census data in local redistricting.

1. That the districts must be drawn “to give as nearly as practicable representation in proportion to the population of the district,” i.e. the “one person-one vote” standard.
2. The districts must “be composed of contiguous and compact territory”; and
3. That any citizen of the locality can go to court to compel the governing body to redraw the lines if it fails to do so.
4. Districts shall be contiguous, compact territory, and shall be so constituted as to give, as nearly as practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district.

Goals of Redistricting

1. As nearly equal population as practicable.
2. Overall percentage of variance should not exceed 5 percent.
3. Use of whole census blocks where possible.
4. Preserving communities of interest.
5. Use of defined boundaries based on roads or natural features.
6. The compactness of a district.
7. Contiguity among voting wards.
8. Compliance with the Voting Rights Act Section 2: Equal opportunity based on race, color, or status as a language minority group.
9. Compliance with the Voting Rights Act: Section 5: Preclearance required by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The 2020 census data reveals the following:

| Existing Wards | 2020 Census | Variance from ideal | 2010 | Growth since 2010 |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|
| A | 5,205 | -6.2% | 5,379 | -3.2 % |
| B | 5,303 | -4.4% | 5,238 | +1.2 % |
| C | 5,660 | +2.0% | 5,222 | +8.4 % |
| D | 6,028 | +8.6% | 5,167 | +16.7 % |

According to the 2020 Census Data, the ideal population for each ward should be 5,549.

Alternative 2.2 has a top-to-bottom variance of 8.5%:

| Alternative 2.2 | 2020 Census | Variance from ideal | 2010 | Growth since 2010 |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|
| A | 5,780 | 4.2% | 5,897 | -2.0 % |
| B | 5,698 | 2.7% | 5,109 | +11.5 % |
| C | 5,291 | -4.6% | 5,001 | +5.8 % |
| D | 5,427 | -2.2% | 4,966 | +9.3 % |

Alternative 2.3 has a top-to-bottom variance of 1.3%:

| Alternative 2.3 | 2020 Census | Variance from ideal | 2010 | Growth since 2010 |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|
| A | 5,572 | +0.4% | 5,708 | -2.4 % |
| B | 5,582 | +0.6% | 5,346 | +4.4 % |
| C | 5,529 | -0.4% | 5,186 | +6.6 % |
| D | 5,513 | -0.6% | 4,733 | +16.5 % |

City Manager's Recommendation: Staff will present information regarding the process to revise the ward maps, the resulting options, and a recommendation. City Council will be asked to identify a preferred map which will be the subject of a 30-day comment period and public hearing in March.

Suggested Motion(s): None Required.

Attachments:

Current Ward Map

Alternative 2.2 Ward Map

Alternative 2.3 Ward Map