



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 11, 2022

DATE: Thursday, January 06, 2022
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Eric Brown, County Manager
THROUGH: Jan Galassini, Washoe County Clerk, Clerks Office
(775) 784-7270, jgalassini@washoecounty.gov
SUBJECT: Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to County Commissioner Election Districts by establishing five County Commissioner Election Districts in accordance with the 2020 federal decennial census and NRS 244.014 and 244.018 that are as equal in population as practicable, and providing other matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto; and if approved, set the public hearing and second reading of the Ordinance for January 25, 2022. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Board conduct a first reading of an ordinance that will amend Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code related to County Commissioner Election Districts. Approval of this ordinance at the Second Reading on January 25, 2022 will implement the Board's direction related to the 2021 Commission Election District Redistricting Project.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Board has reviewed a number of redistricting plan alternatives over the past several months based on their adopted redistricting criteria, analysis of federal decennial census 2020 data, and input from the public. On December 1, 2021, the Board approved a redistricting plan reflected in this ordinance. Thereafter, the Washoe County Clerk submitted a request for the drafting of this ordinance to the District Attorney's Office in accordance with WCC 2.040(3). Upon completion of the proposed ordinance, it was submitted back to the clerk for placement on a Board agenda for first reading pursuant to WCC 2.050(3), which the Board is considering today.

BACKGROUND

Nevada Revised Statutes require the Board of County Commissioners to "establish five county commissioner election districts which must be as nearly equal in population as practicable. Each such district must be composed of entirely contiguous territory and be as compact as possible." (NRS 244.014 (3))

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Given the requirement that each Commissioner Election District must be as nearly equal in population as practicable, and given the Census 2020 Washoe County population of 486,492, the current target population for Commissioner Election Districts in Washoe County is 97,298. In “Version 3” of the attached series of re-districting option plans considered by the Board at its December 1, 2021, meeting, it shows the current population for each current Commission District. “Version 6” of that series is the version that was chosen at the December 1, 2021 meeting, and it shows the actual population within each of the newly created commissioner district boundaries, as well as the percentage deviation from the target population for each Commission District in the approved 2021 Redistricting Plan.

The proposed redistricting plan conforms to the 2021 Redistricting Guidelines established by the Board, following those guidelines allowed the plan to meet requirements of the Voting Rights Act. For administrative purposes, the draft ordinance is proposed to have a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2021. This will not be actuated, however, until after the required publication periods have been satisfied as provided in NRS 244.095-115.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board introduce and conduct a first reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to County Commissioner Election Districts by establishing five County Commissioner Election Districts in accordance with the 2020 federal decennial census and NRS 244.014 and 244.018 that are as equal in population as practicable, and providing other matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto; and if approved, set the public hearing and second reading of the Ordinance for January 25, 2022.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board approve, a possible motion would be: "I move that the Board introduce and conduct a first reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to County Commissioner Election Districts by establishing five County Commissioner Election Districts in accordance with the 2020 federal decennial census and NRS 244.014 and 244.018 that are as equal in population as practicable, and providing other matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto; and if approved, set the public hearing and second reading of the Ordinance for January 25, 2022.