

From: Lina Hoshino <hoshino.lina@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:26 PM
To: -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Public Comment - 11/01/21 Public Hearing on District Voting



East Petaluma Alliance

Representation • Equity • Democracy

11/1/2021

Mayor, Council members, and City Staff members,

We are east Petaluma residents and members of a newly formed group called East Petaluma Alliance(EPA). The organization was formed to amplify the voices of historically underrepresented residents of Petaluma. EPA's mission is to bring the neighbors together to create a healthy, equitable, and climate resilient community.

We believe that Shenkman and Hughes' lawsuit against the city for violating the California Voting Rights Act is providing this city with an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fix our broken political system and "build back better." To that end, we have a few recommendations we ask you to consider.

First, we urge you to wholeheartedly support a district-based voting system, not just to evade a legal threat, but to embrace the glorious possibility of a more representative, equitable and democratic future. Historically, the city council has been dominated by white residents living in the westside. We strongly believe that district-based elections will help distribute the power throughout the rest of Petaluma and create an opportunity to bring forth a new group of diverse candidates.

Second, we recommend making our district-based voting also a ranked choice voting or single transferable voting. Ranked choice voting is not proportional, while single transferable vote is. We believe that either one of these systems, combined with district voting, will powerfully promote representative outcomes and majority rule and discourage negative campaigning.

Finally, we recommend reducing the financial barrier to entry for many would-be Petaluma City Council candidates. To accomplish this, we recommend bringing back public financing of campaigns, and council pay for city council members. We believe that lowering the cost for running a campaign and providing adequate compensation once elected will help open doors to good candidates who may otherwise not run as city council members.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to seize the moment to fix the broken system and build a strong, representative, equitable and democratic system. A healthy democracy is a foundation that our community desperately needs as we face enormous challenges such as racial and economic inequity, environmental degradation and climate change. Business as usual is no longer an option. The city website touts inclusiveness. This is the moment to show that you will walk your talk. Like Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton sings, please, don't throw away your shot.

Members, East Petaluma Alliance

Ondine Kilker

Mary Taylor

Chris Marsh

Emily Oh

Brian Oh

Oscar Miranda

Phyllis Tajii

Sharon Walters

Bret Butler

Lina Hoshino

Lisa Lim

Henry Kaku

Pam Adinoff

Alma Garcia

Robert Doane

Janice Cader Thompson

Libby Pope

Richard Speel

Dan Ellekamp

Jennifer Miralda

Kathryn Sullivan

Jerry Thompson

Linda Hatterrich

Kathy Andrew

Iliana Madgrial-Hooper

Andrea Barlas

Cynthia Renfrew

Lous Olker

Angelo Sacerdote

Lina Hoshino

(415)613-9348

hoshino.lina@gmail.com

From: Angelo Sacerdote <angelo9000@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 3:38 PM

To: – City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: public comment November 1st 2021

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As a resident of Petaluma's East Side, I feel Petaluma would benefit from district based elections. I also believe there should be a public financing component to it. This combined with the lower cost of campaigning in a single district, rather than the entire city, would encourage candidates for city council with a wider variety of economic backgrounds and life experiences.

Thank you,

Angelo Sacerdote

From: Patricia Louks <patlouks@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2021 4:30 PM

To: Listmanager <listmanager@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: Re: Community Update for November 3 - Boletín Informativo Comunitario

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I guess this redistricting for council members will include us at Adobe Creek who would be considered protected classes!! What is this "protected classes"? We are all residents of Petaluma. It is fair that the east side will have equal representation as all sections. No one should be called a protected group. Who came up with that idea/name? Who is this group?

Patricia Louks

I would like a response.

Re: Agenda Item I.A

Missing in the staff report are comments pertaining to Public Financing. I was expecting to see a copy of the cities past Public Finance Ordinance attached in this staff report. Could those documents be provided? Council pay and district election in Petaluma are tied together. All other cities in the county receive compensation for their time. Without reasonable compensation for councilmembers, we could end up with a council of lawyers, and retirees. In Petaluma, "District Elections" alone may not create diversity on our city council.

Thank you,
Janice Cader Thompson

From: Janice Cader Thompson <janicecaderthompson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 12:31 PM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Air Quality and District elections

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When looking at redistricting lines air quality should be considered and freeway noise.
Janice

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ea880f6d9a2075c7b7f54af/t/617311a72d495568d8ca9059/1634931123570/PetalumaGPU_HEJ_Report_FINAL_102121.pdf



From: Debbie Fox <d.edgarfox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 5:46 PM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Next Open House

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---
Hi!

I heard you mention in tonight's open house there will be more of these in the future. I am very interested in this, but I was able to stay at tonight's zoom. Do you know the future dates or will they go out via the Petaluma website like this one did?

Thank you!
Deb Fox
11 Aveye Way

From: Janice Cader-Thompson <janicecader@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:13 PM
To: -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barrett, Teresa <tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barnacle, Brian <bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>; Pocekay, Dennis <dpocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>; King, Dave <dking@cityofpetaluma.org>; Healy, Mike <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>; Fischer, D'Lynda <dfischer@cityofpetaluma.org>; Flynn, Peggy <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>; Danly, Eric <EDanly@cityofpetaluma.org>; McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>
Cc: Tyler Silvy <tyler.silvy@arguscourier.com>; Will Carruthers <will@bohemian.com>
Subject: Redistricting mapping

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Dear City,
I have reviewed Petaluma City School five redistricting maps on their website. All five maps could be used as a discussion point at tonight's City redistricting workshop.
Thank you,

Janice Cader Thompson

From: Paul Larkin <psldda@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 11:46:07 AM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: pls fix card instr

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Hi: in your card mailer "petaluma for all" at bottom, you have left out a slashmark [dir]. You have "cityofpetaluma.org/districtelections". That led nowhere as to dist. elections. Going to home page brought up a tile with the correct "cityofpetaluma.org/departments/districtelections". Tx

--
Paul Larkin

From: Karl W. Bundesen <karl.bundesen@bundesen.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:01 PM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Elections

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Hi folks,

Just a comment, I run two businesses in the City of Petaluma, own seven properties in the City of Petaluma. Pay a lot of taxes, Business Licenses, Business Improvement District, Property Taxes, etc. I can't Vote because I live 1,000 feet from the City limits. Doesn't seem right.

All my best,

Karl W. Bundesen
Century 21 Bundesen
Serving Sonoma & Marin for Over 58 Years
707.769.9000
DRE # 01293583 & 00902729
www.Bundesen.com
www.SonomaMarinRanches.com

From: Charles Regan <terryregan1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:07 PM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: District Elections

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This change is ludicrous for a city the size of Petaluma. Are you using the criteria set forth in the Voting Rights Act of 1965? Upon what basis are the districts to be drawn? Are you using racial or ethnic criteria or are you going to use socioeconomic status? There is no political reason for this change. Put the change to district elections to the people.

Charles Regan

From: STEVE CARRIGAN <s.carrigan@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:41 AM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: voting changes

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In my opinion, changing to districts limits our ability to vote for whoever I think is the best candidate, feels like a government takeover. We should be able to vote on this before the changes are made.

Steve Carrigan 707-4948597

From: carol eber <ceber@att.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:41 PM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Input

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ALL COUNCIL SEATS should be on the 2022 ballot. Not just 3.

Carol Eber

From: Janice Cunningham <janicelwc5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:16 AM
To: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Fw: Failure Notice

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I would like to be kept up to date on the change regarding local elections.
Thank you.
Janice Cunningham
janicelwc5@yahoo.com

From: kathi <kathivstewart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Listmanager <listmanager@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Re: Petaluma District Elections - Draft Maps Posted

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Redistricting is bad idea during covid 19. Wait until the pandemic subsides!

From: Janice Cader Thompson <janicecaderthompson@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 4:33 PM

To: -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>; Flynn, Peggy <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>; Danly, Eric <EDanly@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barrett, Teresa <tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org>; Healy, Mike <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>; Pocekay, Dennis <dpocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barnacle, Brian <bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>; McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>; D'Linda Fisher <dlyndaf@coolpetaluma.org>; King, Dave <dking@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: Re: District Election workshop/public comment

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Dear Council members,

Per the City's request that citizens "draw the lines", the East Petaluma Alliance (EPA) spent seven hours working on redistricting maps, along with creating a narrative explaining our decision making. We went back on the City of Petaluma's website to find the East Petaluma Alliance map and or narrative, but cannot locate it. The City only has shared three maps, none of which seem to be accurate to the citizen maps submissions.

Map A is the closest iteration to the map drawn by the EPA. With the EPA's map, District C, connected downtown with the West side on North McDowell, North of Corona Road. (fragment) District E on the consultants map A with the SMART Station and North McDowell up to Redwood Highway. We felt our map connected Petaluma's downtown with the commerce district North of downtown, which includes Factory outlet, Griffon Distillery, Hen House, Kohls shopping center and other businesses. Why connect the east side of McDowell to district E. The impacts from truck traffic, air pollution, speeding vehicles, etc., which affects the quality of life living in District E: Which representative will have an understanding of these impacts. District E and District C representatives would have to work together on those impacts. If you have questions or need clarification please contact us.

This is a workshop. What does the public's participation look like? Will staff or council be able to ask questions of the public?

Sincerely,
East Petaluma Alliance

From: Eric Flato <Eric.Flato@simon-kucher.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 3:03 PM
Subject: District Draft Map A, Version 2 Feedback
To: districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>
Cc: emmaruthroberts@gmail.com <emmaruthroberts@gmail.com>

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Hi all -

My name is Eric Flato and currently own a home with my partner on Jefferson Street in what is commonly known as "Midtown" or "Old East Petaluma". I recently reviewed the District Draft Map A, Version 2 and am having a hard time comprehending how the third party consultants and city council members determined the proposed District E. The architecture, history, neighborhood feel and issues faced (retail, development, tree equity, transportation, the list goes on) of our Midtown neighborhood aligns much more with the immediate west side of Petaluma as referenced in Draft Plan C. This seems like a major oversight. Simply annexing the Corona Station Parcel into proposed District E and including neighborhoods on both sides of the 101 freeway, which differ greatly in terms of resident needs, will not be beneficial for any of the residents. I cannot see how a future elected city council member in proposed District E can be representative of our neighborhood all the way to the city line of Penngrove.

I understand that there is a meeting on 2/14 for more discussion and we will be in attendance, but I wanted to voice my perspective beforehand as this is an important issue for the future of our neighborhood. Qualitative, objective and logical input needs to be considered when drawing these districts, not simply moving boundaries to capture similar sized populations.

Thank you for all the work that has been done thus far as the magnitude of this undertaking is not lost on me.

Best regards,

Eric Flato

From: Linda Righetti Judah <mrsjudah@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 8:10 AM
Subject: hispanic representation in the council
To: <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>

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Hello,

And thank you for all that you do. I really appreciate the work and care that is going into this process and I do believe that district elections will be a good thing for Petaluma.

It appears from census data that Petaluma is about 1/4-1/3 hispanic. Is there any map yet that would give hispanic voters a majority district? Out of 5 districts it seems that at least one of them should be majority hispanic. I am not certain that our hispanic neighbors are concentrated in one location so perhaps it is not practicable. However, a centralized district that surrounds the fair grounds might get us there. None of the maps I have seen so far seem to do this. All of the maps I have seen seem to dilute the center of town with areas on the outskirts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Linda
She, her, hers
Petaluma, CA

From: Linda Righetti Judah <mrsjudah@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 11:23 AM

To: Alverde, Ingrid <IAverde@cityofpetaluma.org>

Cc: District Elections <districtelections@cityofpetaluma.org>; Erin Euser <Erineuser@gmail.com>; Courtney Van De Burg <courtney@lynx-imaging.com>

Subject: Re: hispanic representation in the council

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Hi Ingrid,

Thanks for your prompt response. I did review all of the maps I could find on the website. I think the 36% was the greatest representation I ever saw of hispanic voters. I am not sure if it's possible to design a district that has a greater than 36% hispanic population. At any rate, Whichever map has a district with the highest hispanic representation should be moved forward, I believe.

Thanks for all that you are doing.

Linda

From: Janice Cader-Thompson <janicecader@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 12:05 PM

To: Janice Cader-Thompson <Janicecader@gmail.com>

Cc: Flynn, Peggy <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>; Alverde, Ingrid <IAverde@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: Re: Redistricting map

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Peggy, last night I studied all the maps. I like the East Petaluma, EPA map and the Duste map best. My district on the consultants map a is a District of mishmash. I think tying downtown to the upper north end of town works, and the numbers work with the EPA and Duste maps.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 13, 2022, at 11:52 AM, Janice Cader-Thompson <Janicecader@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Peggy after studying all the maps I like the East Petaluma, EPA map and the Dustel map better than the consultants map A.

> Janice

From: Janice Cader-Thompson <janicecader@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:54 AM

To: Flynn, Peggy <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barrett,Teresa <tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org>; Alverde, Ingrid <IAverde@cityofpetaluma.org>; Danly, Eric <EDanly@cityofpetaluma.org>

Cc: King, Dave <dking@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barnacle, Brian <bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>; Pocekay, Dennis <dpocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>; Fischer, D'Lynda <dfischer@cityofpetaluma.org>; McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>; Healy, Mike <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>; Ondine Kilker <okilker@gmail.com>; Lina Hoshino <hoshino.lina@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: General Plan

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Dear Staff, Mayor Barrett and Council members,

I have a minor request for district mapping pertaining to Maps A2 and Duste. The donut hole at Rainier is the only connection to the Johnson property west of Highway 101. In the EPA maps our group decided to add that vacant land to connect the East side and the Johnson property. The potential impacts to neighborhoods, and McDowell Blvd if that property is developed are significant. Midtown would not be affected in the same manor. To add this consideration in to the mapping, would the council need to give direction to staff? If you have questions please call me.

Sincerely,

Janice Cader Thompson

707 7674-5912

From: G Keller <gvhkeller@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 7:42 AM

To: Barrett,Teresa <tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barnacle, Brian <bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>; Fischer, D'Lynda <dfischer@cityofpetaluma.org>; Healy, Mike <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>; King, Dave <dking@cityofpetaluma.org>; McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>; Pocekay, Dennis <dpocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>; -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: Second Public Map Submission

RE: Submitted Maps - Combo 1, Combo 2, Combo 3

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Good afternoon,

I enjoyed the Council's discussions on the 14th, my apologies I couldn't listen live. I hope to watch the meeting on March 7th.

I think the Council is doing a great job pulling out all the best ideas from the public submissions. But at the next meeting, the Council will need to provide final direction to staff and consultants so they can hit their deadlines. There won't be time for the Council to say "Let me see this idea merged with that idea at the next meeting."

So with that in mind, I am submitting another round of maps in the format of a combination menu. A three map series where every map has two districts west of the railroad tracks and 4 districts east of the railroad tracks. Pick any westside architecture from one map and pair with any eastside architecture from another, and they make a complete, legal map below or barely over 5% total deviation. No fine tuning or compromises necessary. (I have prepared a txt file for Chris Chaffee at RP with all the census data for these new eastside and westside architectures as well as for the previous submissions IC1, IC2, & IC3.)

These new maps are based on the main idea of not splitting Midtown, nor grouping Midtown with a westside district. To accomplish this, these maps split Petaluma into an east and west along the railroad tracks, with the entire Petaluma Blvd N/ Northern 101 area, from KOA to Petaluma Estates Mobile Home Parks on N McDowell, included with the westside. The westside is simply too small to make up two districts without either using this PBN/101 strategy, splitting midtown, or crossing over 101 towards Shollenberger. To stay under 5%, one of the three must happen.

These maps also explore several other concepts mentioned in the meeting, such as central districts that radiate out, and a far eastern district on the east side of Sonoma Mountain Parkway and Ely Blvd. I've also taken a more detailed approach at distinguishing areas of older and newer residential on the east side, such as using the PCSD and OUSD district boundaries as a proxy for residential age (most of the oldest eastside houses are in McDowell's catchment area for example.) Finding a balance between all those goals and clear and concise boundaries is not always easy, perhaps I got close.

One quick admin note, last time I tried to submit these maps directly to the website using the map submission form. I get the impression that this method was not successful, and in fact emailing the maps directly to the Council was the only manner in which the City received the maps. So this time I am only going to email them. So please pass these maps on to whoever needs them so they can make sure they get posted promptly on the Public Submission page.

And as I mentioned, I have prepared a .txt file with the district designations for each census block in each of the maps I've submitted. RP should be able to use this file to both verify the demographics, and get those handy urls for interactive maps set up too. I sent this email on Sunday with that file attached, but I'm not sure it was received. Sometimes email filters block emails with .txt files. Since today is the deadline for public submissions, I am sending the whole email again with the .txt file zipped, just in case. Would someone please let me know the maps were received. Thanks!

Anyway, I hope these maps provide more clarity to this uniquely complicated process.

Good luck!