



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

City of West Covina | Office of the City Manager

DATE: March 15, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David Carmany
City Manager

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES OF CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND ADOPTING A NEW COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council, introduce for first reading, by title only, further reading waived, the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2495 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA, ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES OF CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND ADOPTING A NEW OFFICIAL COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP FOR THE CITY OF WEST COVINA BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS

BACKGROUND:

California law requires that the City Council districts be updated to reflect data from the 2020 Census. These districts will be used for future elections of the West Covina City Council, including for the filling any vacancy in the office of a member of the City Council. Districts must comply with the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and the California Elections Code.

The districts are to contain substantially equal population. In adopting boundaries, cities are required to use the following criteria: (1) districts should be geographically contiguous, (2) districts should respect the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest, including racial, ethnic, and language minorities, in a manner that minimizes division, (3) district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents, (4) districts should be drawn to encourage geographic compactness, and (5) districts should not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

On January 17, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2310 to change from an at-large election system to by-district elections with five districts. On February 21, 2017, the City Council approved a settlement agreement in the matter known as Sanchez v. City of West Covina. This settlement set forth requirements relating to selection of a districting consultant, selection of district boundaries and sequencing of elections. As a result, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on March 14, 2017 for district consultant services. On May 2, 2017, the City Council awarded a contract for election district consulting services to National Demographics Corporation (NDC), a professional demographer and

well-known company in the industry.

There were a total of four public hearings conducted with public input and participation. In total, the City Council reviewed 23 maps (20 that were submitted by members of the community and three that were submitted by NDC). The City Council selected 6 maps to bring back at the November 14, 2017 Council meeting for further discussion and selection. At the December 5, 2017 Council meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2328, designating the boundaries for the five single-member districts and the sequence of district elections. The current Council District Map is included as Attachment No. 2.

Every ten years, cities with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of West Covina must be completed by April 17, 2022.

On May 3, 2021, the City released an RFP for redistricting services. On May 24, 2021, the City received three proposals and at the September 21, 2021 Council meeting a contract was awarded to NDC.

The redistricting process requires four public hearings. The first three public hearings were held on November 18, 2021, and January 18, March 1, 2022. This is the fourth of four required hearings.

The purpose of the first two public hearings was to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public was requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A community of interest is “a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.” (Elections Code § 21601(c)(2).)

Possible features defining a community of interest might include, without limitation:

1. School attendance areas;
2. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
3. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
4. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
5. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - a. Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - b. Languages spoken at home; and
 - c. Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

DISCUSSION:

The City has complied with all the statutory procedural requirements during this process, including the creation and maintenance of a redistricting page on the City’s website. NDC drew boundary maps for the City Council’s consideration that are based upon the 2020 Census data and criteria in the law.

At the March 1, 2022 City Council meeting, the City Council was presented with several maps that were population balanced. As outlined above, however, population balance is not the only criteria for consideration. In accordance with state and federal law, the City Council considered the following criteria and interests in evaluating the maps: geographically contiguous boundaries, respecting geographic integrity of local neighborhoods and communities of interest in order to minimize division, easily identifiable boundaries, encouraging geographically compact districts and non-discrimination relating to political parties. After the City Council’s review of the maps presented, the City Council gave direction to move forward with Map 105 as its preferred map.

The proposed ordinance (Attachment No. 1), which will adopt Map 105 as the Official Council District Map, is provided for the City Council's review and introduction. Map 105 is included as Exhibit A to Attachment No. 1. The demographic data supporting the map based on the 2020 U.S. Census is included as Exhibit B to Attachment No. 1.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the ordinance and approved it as to form.

Prepared by: Lisa Sherrick; Assistant City Clerk

Attachments

Attachment No. 1 - Ordinance No. 2495 Adopting Revised District Boundaries

Attachment No. 2 - Current Council District Map

CITY COUNCIL GOALS & OBJECTIVES: A Well-Planned Community

ORDINANCE NO. 2495

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA, ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES OF CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND ADOPTING A NEW OFFICIAL COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP FOR THE CITY OF WEST COVINA BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2310 on January 17, 2017, to change from an at-large election system to a by-district election system, with five districts, the boundaries of which are to be determined in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2328 on December 5, 2017, designating the boundaries for the five districts and the sequence of district elections; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Elections Code section 21601 and Section 2-20(e) of the West Covina Municipal Code, following each decennial federal census, the City Council is required to review the boundaries of voting districts and, if needed, adjust district boundaries to reflect how local populations have changed. This process is known as redistricting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council must complete the redistricting process by April 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, voting district boundaries must be substantially equal in population and comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the California Elections Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code section 21601, the City Council is required to adopt voting district boundaries using the following criteria in the following order of priority: (1) to the extent practicable, voting districts must be geographically contiguous; (2) to the extent practicable, voting districts must respect the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods and communities of interest; (3) district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable; and (4) to the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the foregoing criteria, district boundaries must be drawn to encourage geographic compactness. Elections Code section 21601 also prohibits adopting district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party; and

WHEREAS, the City evaluated the existing districts using data from the 2020 U.S. Census, comments of the public and analysis by an expert demographer; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Elections Code sections 21607 and 21607.1, the City held four duly-noticed public hearings and workshops to receive input from the community regarding the composition of the City Council district boundaries, including a public workshop on November 18, 2021 and a public hearing on January 18, 2022, before the proposed maps were drawn, and public hearings on March 1, 2022 and March 15, 2022, after the proposed maps were drawn; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Elections Code section 21608, the City published the dates, times and locations of public hearings and workshops and established a webpage dedicated to redistricting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code section 20601 and West Covina Municipal Code section 2-20(e), the City Council considered the following criteria and interests while reviewing and adjusting district boundaries: geographically contiguous boundaries, respecting geographic integrity of local neighborhoods and communities of interest in order to minimize division, easily identifiable boundaries, encouraging geographically compact districts and non-discrimination relating to political parties; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2022, the City Council selected one of the proposed district maps establishing revised district boundaries. The map selected by the City Council is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein. Demographic data supporting the map based on the 2020 U.S. Census is attached hereto as Exhibit “B” and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the City Council conducted a public hearing regarding the map selected on March 15, 2022, and introduced and gave first reading to this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Ordinance has been found to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule) because the Ordinance will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, all legal requirements prior to the adoption of this Ordinance have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.

SECTION 2. Amendment to Ordinance No. 2328. Exhibit A of Ordinance No. 2328 shall be deleted in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Adoption of District Boundaries. The boundaries for the City of West Covina’s five (5) City Council districts and the identification number of each district shall be as described on the Official Council District Map attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Official Council District Map shall be used in the 2022 general municipal election and all such elections for the City Council, until further amended. The Official Council District Map shall be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk and shall be published and posted in the manner required by law.

SECTION 4. Sequencing of Elections. The sequence of City Council district elections shall continue as set forth in Section 3 of Ordinance No. 2328.

SECTION 5. Environmental Compliance. The City Council hereby finds that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the adoption and implementation of this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. The Ordinance is therefore exempt from the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after the date of its passage.

SECTION 7. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted as required by law.

SECTION 8. Submission to County Registrar of Voters. The City Clerk shall provide a certified copy of this Ordinance, including all exhibits, to the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters for use in future West Covina City Council elections.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Dario Castellanos
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM

ATTEST

Thomas P. Duarte
City Attorney

Lisa Sherrick
Assistant City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)
CITY OF WEST COVINA)

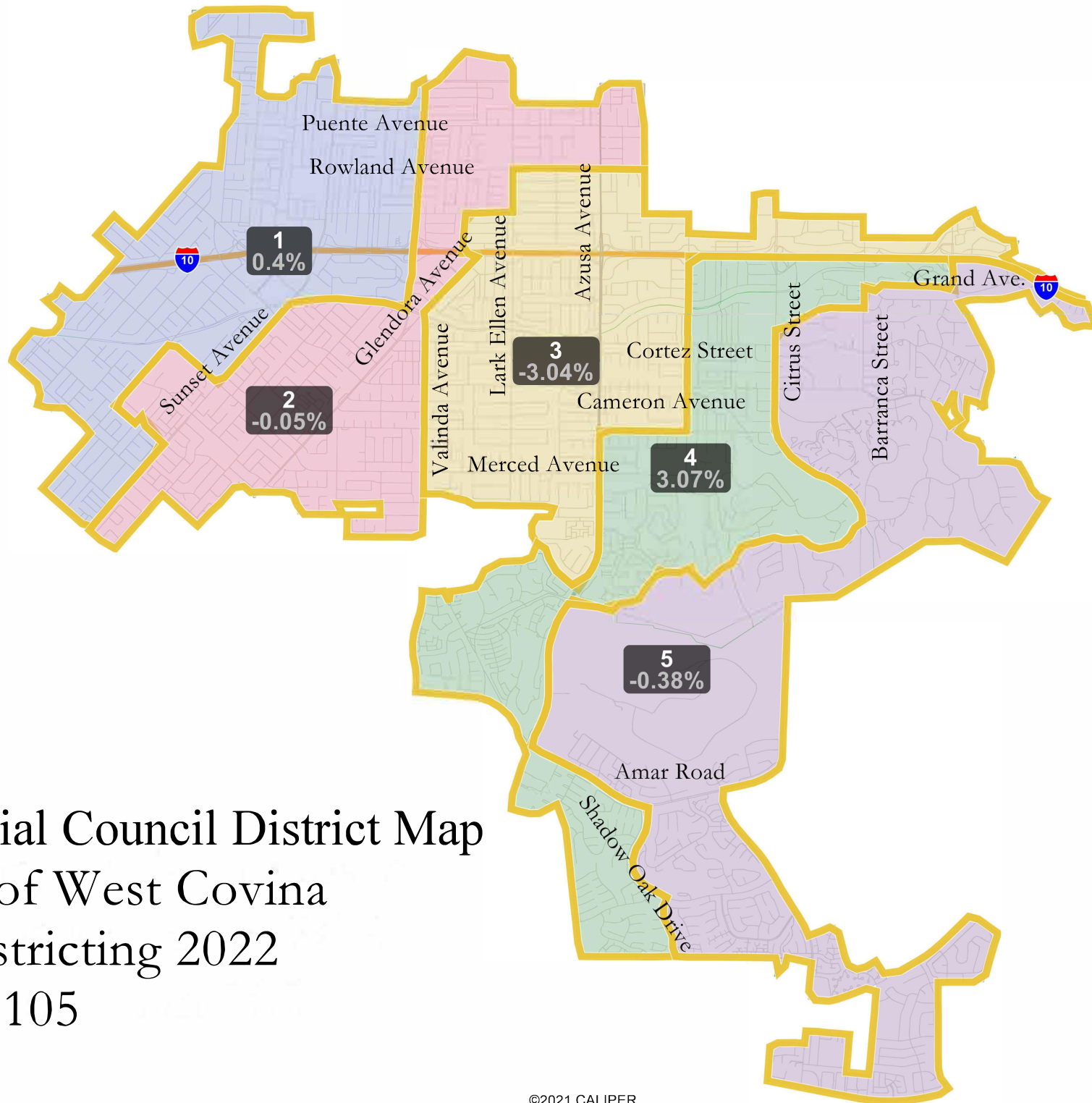
I, LISA SHERRICK, Assistant City Clerk of the City of West Covina, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2495 was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 15th day of March, 2022, and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the ___ day of ____, 2022, by the following vote of the City Council:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAINED:

Lisa Sherrick
Assistant City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

OFFICIAL COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP



Official Council District Map
 City of West Covina
 Redistricting 2022
 Plan 105

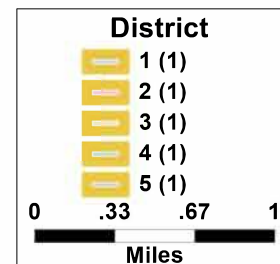


EXHIBIT B
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Plan 105

District		1	2	3	4	5	Total
	Total Pop	22,059	21,959	21,304	22,646	21,888	109,856
	Deviation from ideal	88	-12	-667	675	-83	1,342
	% Deviation	0.40%	-0.05%	-3.04%	3.07%	-0.38%	6.11%
Total Pop	% Hisp	62.5%	58%	57%	47%	41%	53%
	% NH White	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%	11%
	% NH Black	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
	% Asian-American	22%	26%	26%	36%	43%	31%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	13,585	14,681	14,577	14,388	14,784	72,015
	% Hisp	62%	55%	54%	42%	38%	50%
	% NH White	15%	17%	15%	15%	15%	16%
	% NH Black	3%	4%	6%	8%	6%	5%
	% Asian/Pac.Isl.	19%	23%	23%	35%	41%	28%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Total	12,028	12,659	12,461	12,613	12,085	61,846
	% Latino est.	62%	57%	57%	50%	45%	54%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	56%	52%	52%	45%	41%	49%
	% Asian-Surnamed	12%	13%	12%	15%	20%	14%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	3%	3%	2%	6%	7%	4%
	% NH White est.	24%	25%	25%	22%	23%	24%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Total	8,960	9,602	9,685	9,730	9,276	47,253
	% Latino est.	62%	58%	58%	50%	44%	54%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	57%	52%	53%	46%	40%	50%
	% Asian-Surnamed	12%	12%	12%	14%	19%	14%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	3%	3%	2%	6%	8%	4%
	% NH White est.	23%	25%	25%	22%	24%	24%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	5,365	5,743	5,936	5,892	5,766	28,702
	% Latino est.	62%	57%	57%	50%	44%	54%
	% Spanish-Surnamed	57%	52%	52%	46%	41%	49%
	% Asian-Surnamed	8%	9%	9%	11%	15%	10%
	% Filipino-Surnamed	2%	3%	2%	5%	7%	4%
	% NH White est.	26%	28%	28%	25%	28%	27%
ACS Pop. Est.	Total	20,818	22,264	20,235	21,482	21,983	106,782
	age0-19	26%	23%	24%	23%	23%	24%
	age20-60	54%	56%	54%	55%	55%	55%
	age60plus	20%	20%	22%	22%	22%	21%
	immigrants	35%	31%	29%	40%	44%	36%
	naturalized	66%	64%	73%	65%	70%	67%
Language spoken at home	english	39%	40%	46%	39%	40%	40%
	spanish	43%	38%	35%	30%	25%	34%
	asian-lang	17%	20%	18%	29%	32%	23%
	other lang	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%
Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	20%	25%	17%	22%	24%	22%
Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	53%	53%	47%	41%	45%	48%
	bachelor	15%	16%	22%	26%	26%	21%
	graduatedegree	5%	7%	8%	11%	9%	8%
Child in Household	child-under18	40%	35%	37%	36%	37%	37%
Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	63%	64%	65%	66%	64%	64%
Household Income	income 0-25k	12%	15%	12%	11%	15%	13%
	income 25-50k	21%	17%	16%	17%	13%	17%
	income 50-75k	18%	14%	16%	14%	12%	15%
	income 75-200k	42%	46%	44%	49%	51%	47%
	income 200k-plus	7%	8%	11%	9%	8%	9%
Housing Stats	single family	78%	70%	83%	76%	78%	77%
	multi-family	22%	30%	17%	24%	22%	23%
	rented	36%	43%	27%	36%	39%	36%
	owned	64%	57%	73%	64%	61%	64%

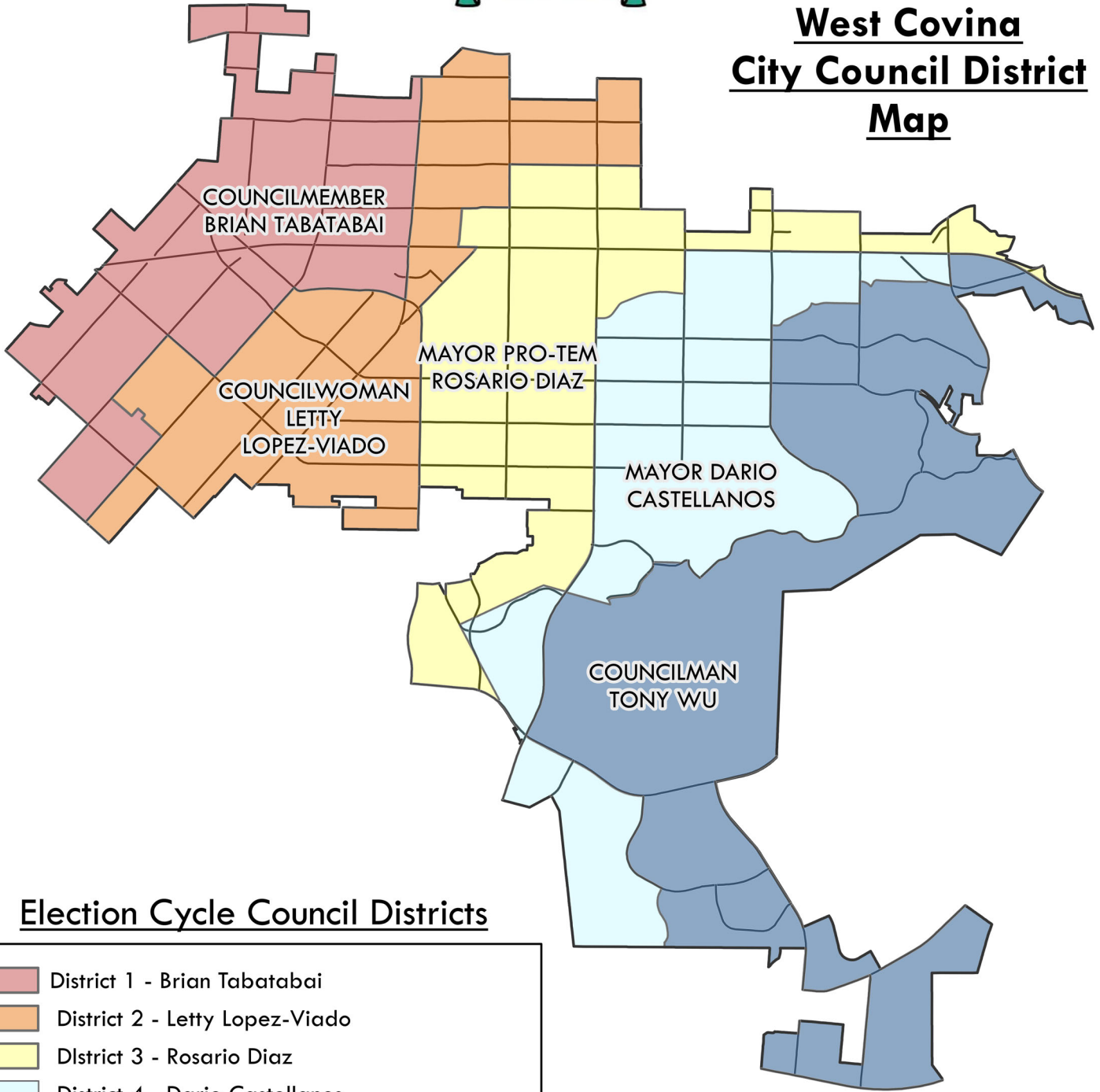
Total population data from the 2020 Decennial Census.

Surname-based Voter Registration and Turnout data from the California Statewide Database.






Latino voter registration and turnout data are Spanish-surname counts adjusted using Census Population Department undercount estimates. NH White and NH Black registration and turnout counts estimated by NDC. Citizen Voting Age Pop., Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data.



West Covina
City Council District
Map



Election Cycle Council Districts

-  District 1 - Brian Tabatabai
-  District 2 - Letty Lopez-Viado
-  District 3 - Rosario Diaz
-  District 4 - Dario Castellanos
-  District 5 - Tony Wu