

Historical Efforts to Increase the Size of the Council

- Pre-1924 - The City Council consisted of nine councilmembers who were elected at-large to represent the entire City
- 1924 Charter Reform
 - Two competing Charter Reform measures concerning the size of the Council were submitted to City voters: 11 At-Large Members and 15 District-based Members; both measures passed with a majority of votes
 - California Supreme Court ruled in favor of district-based elections with 15 Council Districts
- 1999 Charter Reform
 - Two Charter Reform measures concerning expanding the size of Council were submitted to City voters: 21 Members or 25 Members; both measures failed by a large margin of votes

City Council Size Comparison – Major Cities

Cities	Residents per Elected Official	Population, 2020	Total	District	At-Large
Los Angeles	264,885	3,973,278	15	15	0
New York City	172,631	8,804,190	51	51	0
Chicago	54,944	2,747,231	50	50	0
Houston	143,924	2,302,792	16	11	5
Phoenix	200,967	1,607,739	8	8	0
Philadelphia	94,341	1,603,797	17	10	7

Number of Council Districts – Population Growth

- Adjusting the size of the Council via population growth ties the number of Council Districts to a set population variable
- Allows for proportional increase of the size of the Council relative to City's population growth
- Population Threshold Variables:
 - 150,000 residents
 - 200,000 residents
 - 250,000 residents
- Rounding Methodology and odd number of Council Districts

Figure 2
Number of Districts Based on Historical Population Values

Year	Population	% change	Estimated Number of Districts					
			150,000		200,000		250,000	
			Average	Rounded ⁺	Average	Rounded ⁺	Average	Rounded ⁺
1990	3,485,567		23.24	23	17.43	17	13.94	13
2000	3,694,820	6.00%	24.63	25	18.47	19	14.78	15
2010	3,792,621	2.65%	25.28	25	18.96	19	15.17	15
2020	3,973,278	4.76%	26.49	27	19.87	19	15.89	15
2030 est*	4,310,000	8.47%	28.73	29	21.55	21	17.24	17

A.1a Number of Council Districts – Population Growth Methodology

- Adjustments to the Numbers of Council Districts
 - Increase the number of Council Districts based on decennial U.S. Census population results by the nearest whole odd number to achieve:
 - One district per 150,000 people
 - One district per 200,000 people
 - One district per 250,000 people
 - Some other ratio or methodology

A.2 Number of Council Districts: Rounding Methodology

- Determination of the number of Council Districts will be rounded:
 - To the nearest odd whole number
 - OR
 - Some other methodology

Population Growth – Additional Considerations

- Certification of U.S. Census Bureau data and establishment of number of Council Districts
 - Certification and evaluation could be accomplished by a City Department and could occur within 30 days
- Following the establishment of the new number of Council Districts, the date for which the new districts become effective should be identified.
- Minimum and Maximum Limits - Council Districts
 - Large shifts in the City's population can dramatically change the size of the Council
 - Establishing limits provides constraints if there are unpredictable swings in the City's population (e.g., 15 member minimum; 25 member maximum)

A.3 Number of Council Districts: Minimum and Maximum Limits

- Shall there be minimum and maximum limits on the number of Council Districts in a model with decennial adjustments?
 - Minimum number of Districts:
 - 11
 - 15
 - 17
 - Some other number

 - Maximum number of Districts:
 - 23
 - 25
 - 27
 - Some other number

A.5 Number of Council Districts: Effective Date for Revised Districts

- Revised Council District Boundaries shall be effective for the next election following a year ending in:
 - Select a year:
 - 1 (e.g., 2032 and all elections thereafter)
 - 2 (e.g., 2033 for a special election and all elections thereafter)
 - 3 (e.g., 2034 and all elections thereafter)

A.6 Number of Council Districts: Certification of U.S. Census Data

- Following the decennial U.S. Census, the _____ will evaluate City population data, determine the number of Council Districts required, and submit an analysis of these findings within 30 days to the City Clerk for recordation.
 - Designate the entity that will certify the decennial U.S. Census data:
 - City Data Bureau
 - City Clerk
 - City Planning Department
 - Bureau of Engineering
 - Some other office or entity, to be determined, established by ordinance

Population Growth – Challenges

Challenges

Large decreases in the City’s population would trigger a reduction in the number of Council Districts, and may be accompanied by the following issues:

- Incumbents could challenge each other for the same Council Office;
- Difficulties with numbering Council Districts during the redistricting process;
- Inconsistent impacts across even and odd Council Districts; and
- Determination of Council Districts that are impacted by a reduction, and their effects on the communities/neighborhoods during redistricting.

Potential Remedies

- Apply reduction to Council Districts where incumbents are naturally termed out after serving three full terms;
 - Issues would arise if no Councilmembers are naturally termed out
- Present a ballot measure to ask the voters if they would like to reduce the number of Council Districts due to the population decrease; and
- Include a condition that states that the Population Growth Methodology only applies in the event of population growth and accompanying increases to the size of the Council.

A.4 Number of Council Districts: Population Decrease and Reduction in the Number of Council Districts

- Should City population decrease in a decennial census in an amount that would result in a reduction in the number of Council Districts, such an outcome will be addressed in the following manner:
 - There shall be no reduction in the number of Council Districts;
 - OR
 - Voters shall be presented the opportunity to approve a reduction in the number of Council Districts;
 - OR
 - A reduction in Council Districts would be effective only to the extent that sitting Councilmembers are naturally termed out of office or if they choose not to run upon the effective date of new Council District boundaries following redistricting.

Number of Council Districts – Specific Number

- Previous efforts to expand the size of the Council included proposals that recommended an increase to a specific number of Council Districts
- As the size of the Council increases, the share of residents that are represented by each district would decrease
- Most jurisdictions that expanded their legislative branches proposed increases to a specific number

Figure 3 Share of Representation by Council Size*	
Number of Council Districts	Residents Per District
15	264,885
17	233,722
19	209,120
21	189,204
25	158,931

*Population from 2020 Census: 3,973,278 persons

A.1b Number of Council Districts – Specific Number Increase

Adjustments to the number of Council Districts (continued)

- Retain the current number of Council Districts (15)

OR
- Increase the number of Council Districts to a specific number:
 - 17
 - 19
 - Some other number

External and Internal Impacts – Boards and Commissions

External Impacts

- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) - Regional Council
 - SCAG Regional Council is limited to 70 voting district representatives
- San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
 - Each Council District that is located partially or entirely within the San Fernando Valley is a Board Representative

Internal Impacts

- Governing basis of City boards and commissions that would be directly impacted by changes to the size of the Council would need to be identified
 - City Health Commission
 - City Council Advisory Redistricting Commission (current)

A.7 Number of Council Districts: Commissions and Boards

- Shall the City identify and revise regulations concerning appointment authorities for commissions and boards based on Council District representation?

YES

NO

Expansion of Council Districts – Cost Impacts

- Range of costs associated with an expansion of the Council would vary widely and is dependent on several factors:
 - Number of Councilmembers;
 - Staff size;
 - Office space (City Hall and Field Offices) and office expenses;
 - Fleet cost; and
 - Modifications to Council Chambers
- Discretionary funds
 - Community and nonprofit organizations
 - Constituent services
- Funding - Redistribute existing allocation of funds or provide additional funds for new members
- Day-to-day departmental support of Councilmembers

Non-Fiscal Administrative and Operational Impacts

- Impacts to thresholds for passing Council actions and participation in meetings
 - Quorum
 - Majority vote for Council actions
 - Adoption of ordinances
- Mayoral vetoes
 - Two-thirds of members needed to override a veto
- Passage of legislation/policy could be hindered and balance of authority may shift towards executive branch

A.8 Number of Council Districts: Voting Thresholds Overriding Mayoral Veto

- Voting threshold for overriding a Mayoral veto:
 - Simple Majority
 - Supermajority
 - Three-fifths
 - Two-thirds, as is current practice