

STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: February 7, 2023

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

TITLE:

Selection of final redistricting map

SUMMARY:

Pursuant to the City's Professional Services Agreement with FAU, representatives from The John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government at Florida Atlantic University (the "Institute") presented the analysis of the City's existing election districts and discussed with the City Commission the details of such analysis, advising that redistricting was strongly recommended.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

Every ten years, after a census, updated population data often results in election districts with unequal populations, which requires the redrawing of districts to maintain compliance with the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. The City of Lake Worth Beach has never done redistricting since its incorporation in 1913. Generally, redistricting redefines election districts based on changes in the population. The Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of "one person, one vote" to municipal residents, such that a municipality must redraw its election districts periodically to maintain equal population.

The City Commission entered into an Agreement with FAU to analyze the City's 2020 Census data and population projections and the City's existing election districts. FAU's report recommending redistricting was presented at the September 12, 2022 work session. Four possible map options were presented at the October 6, 2022 commission meeting as well as at two public meetings, on October 13 and October 15. A fifth map option was presented at the January 3, 2023 commission meeting and at a public meeting on February 4.

At the January 3, 2023 City Commission meeting, consensus was given to proceed with alternative map options 3 and 5 and hold an additional public meeting on Saturday, February 4. The next step is to select a final map and proceed with a redistricting ordinance.

MOTION:

Move to accept map option xxx and proceed to a final map option ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

FAU report – revised to only include map alternatives 3 and 5
Alternative Maps 3 and 5