

STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: January 3, 2023

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

TITLE:

Discussion of proposed redistricting maps

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.

At the November 1, 2022 City Commission meeting, consensus was given to proceed with alternative map options 2 and 3 and to create new additional alternative map options for consideration. An alternative from the public is included. There will be a determination if further public meetings will be scheduled. The next step would be to have the redistricting ordinance presented at a commission meeting with the selected map.

MOTION:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

FAU reports
Alternative Maps