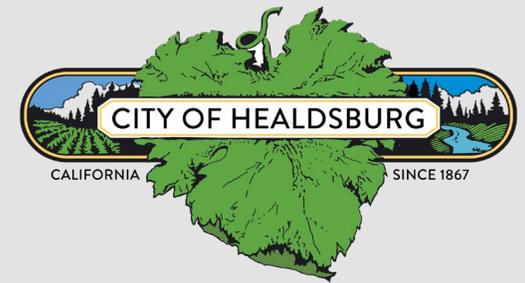


Healdsburg City Council Meeting

January 6, 2025



City Manager's Report

City Council, January 6, 2025



Public Comment on Non Agenda Items

Comentarios del
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agenda de la
reunión

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Community Outreach

January 6, 2025

Agenda

Things we will cover:

- What is Districting
- What is the CVRA
- Public Hearing Schedule
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Communities of Interest
- How to Get Involved
- Healdsburg's population data
- What's Next

What is Districting

Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries.

These boundaries determine:

- Eligibility to run for office – must live within boundaries to qualify for election.
- Who votes in the election – only residents within the election-district may vote for their council member.

What is Districting

Definition

Districting is the initial process of creating election district boundaries. This does not impact services.

These boundaries do not determine:

- How the district decides to govern. The city council can still work to achieve goals that benefit the district as a whole rather than the interests of any single election-district area.
- How services or relationships between the district and the public are managed.

What is the CVRA?

Definition

The California Voting Rights Act is a state law that prohibits the use of *at-large* elections systems in local government if there is *racially polarized voting*.

“At Large” is defined as anything other than a system in which an elected official lives in a district, and is only elected by members of that district.

“Racially Polarized Voting” is defined as differences in voting patterns which can be shown to be correlated to race, religion, national origin, or membership in any other protected class.

What is the CVRA?

Definition

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

- While Federal law uses “majority minority” districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires “ability to influence.”
- The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge. *These can be lessened or eliminated if the district follows a strict and prompt process for districting, call “safe harbor provisions.”*

What is the CVRA?

Safe Harbor Provisions

The *safe harbor provisions* of the CVRA requires jurisdictions to follow a minimum of:

- Five public meetings
 - First two meetings are devoted to educating the public and gathering public testimony
- Must be completed within 90 days

City of Healdsburg

First three meetings devoted to community of interest information gathering and education on districting process

Proposed Schedule:

December 16, 2024	Public Hearing #1 (Pre-map)
January 6, 2025	Public Hearing #2 (Pre-map)
January 16, 2025	Public Outreach Meeting
February 18, 2025	Public Hearing #3 (Post-map)
March 17, 2025	Public Hearing #4 (Post-map)
April 7, 2025	Public Hearing #5: final vote

Hearing purposes

Public Hearing Structure	
Hearing #1	Public Hearing with information about the districting process, descriptions of the data and mapping tools, introduction of ways the community can provide input.
Hearing #2	Repeat of first hearing, with additional emphasis on receiving community of interest testimony for the purposes of driving map creation.
Hearing #3	Presentation of maps of new potential districted boundaries produced by the demographer and published seven days in advance . These maps are expected to drive additional feedback from the public and City Council.
Hearing #4	Public Hearing with revised map(s). Additional public input regarding the revised map(s) and concluding with direction from the city council on a final map.
Hearing #5	Public Hearing to adopt final map

Required Districting Criteria

Traditional redistricting principles used throughout the country and written into state law

There are a number of criteria that are required under the FAIR MAPS Act (ranked):

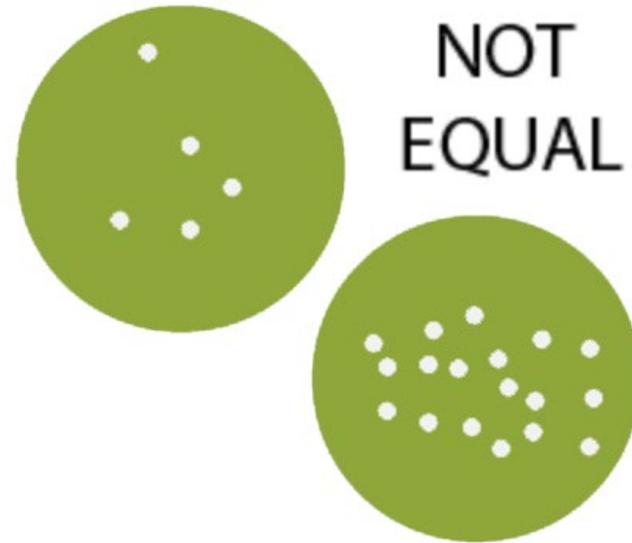
- **Relatively equal size - people, not citizens**
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Easily identifiable and understandable lines, following natural and man-made boundaries
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

Equal Population

Utilizing the US Census Decennial File

What is “equal” population has been a key subject in districting litigation.

- Population Equality is based on “People” not citizens or voters or other metrics.
- 10% deviation presumed equal. Other agencies / states have different plan deviation requirements.



Required Districting Criteria

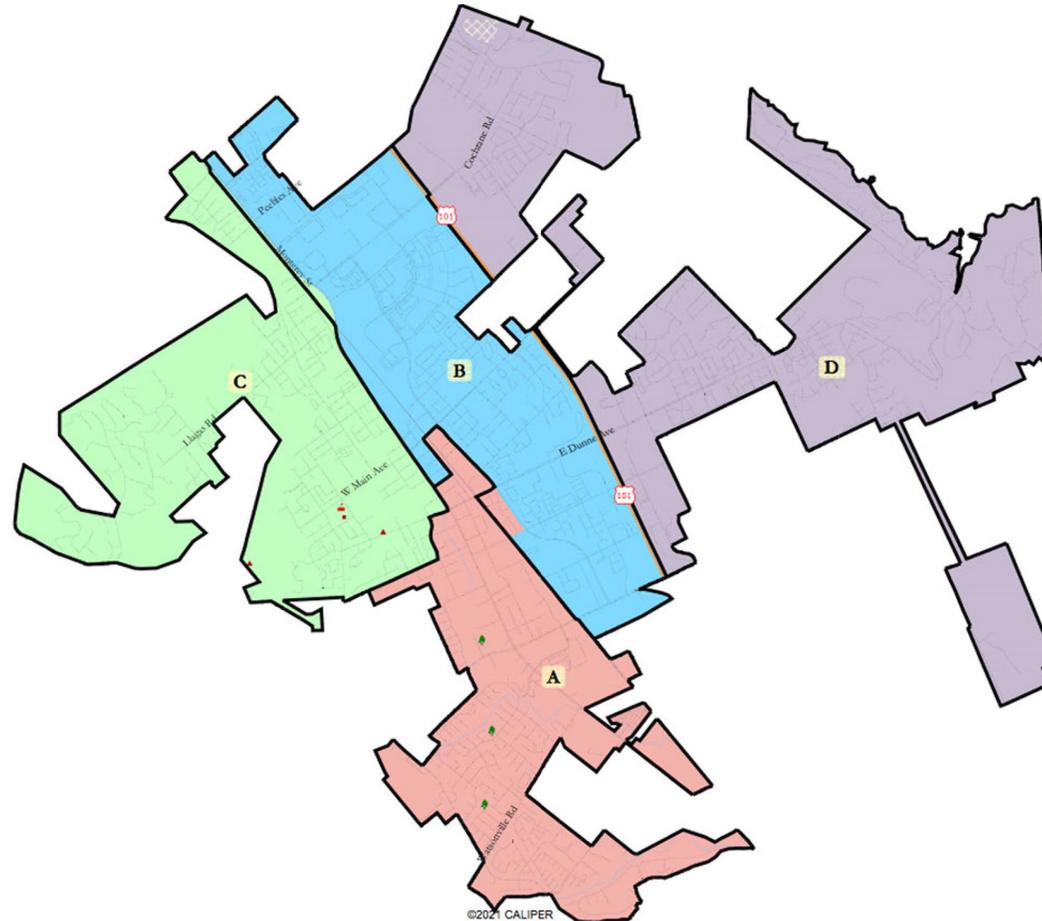
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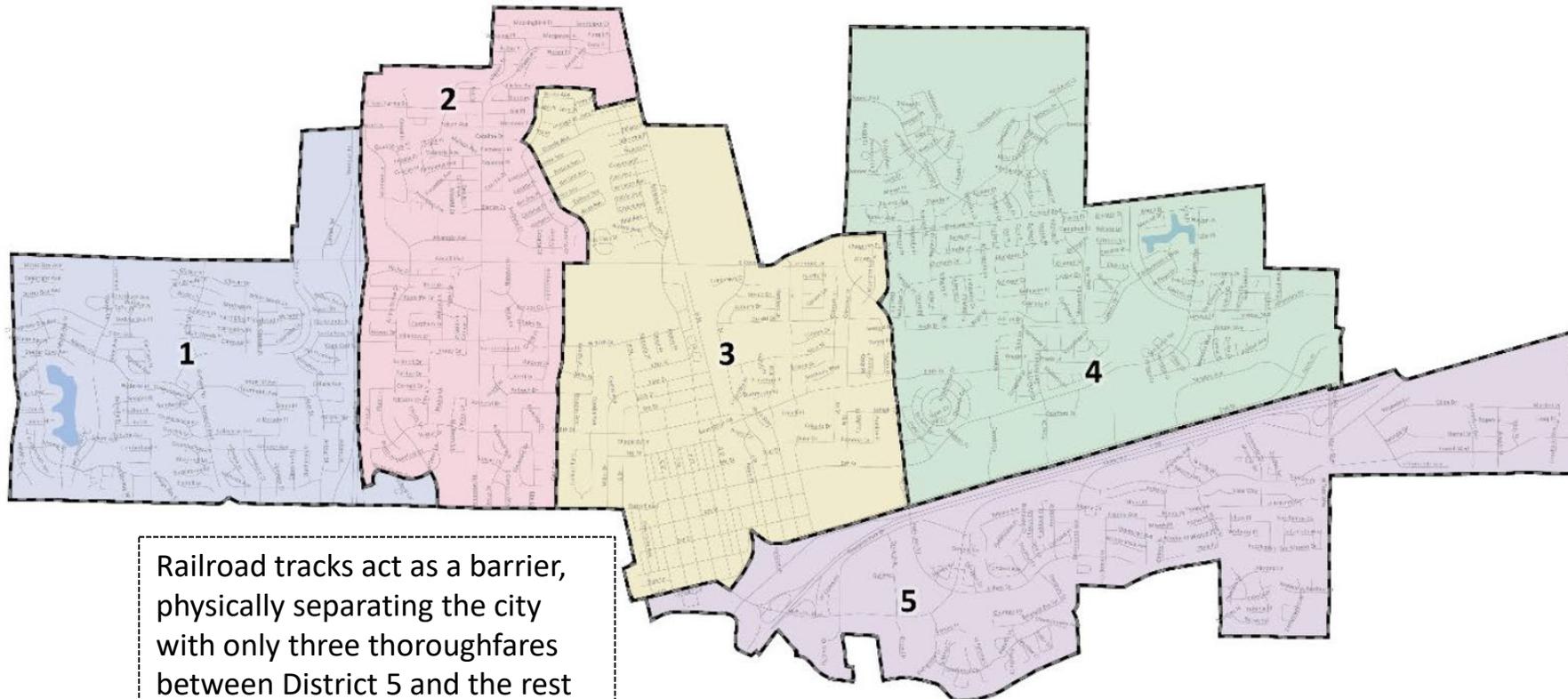
Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguous”



Contiguity

Determining what is “contiguity”



Railroad tracks act as a barrier, physically separating the city with only three thoroughfares between District 5 and the rest of the city.

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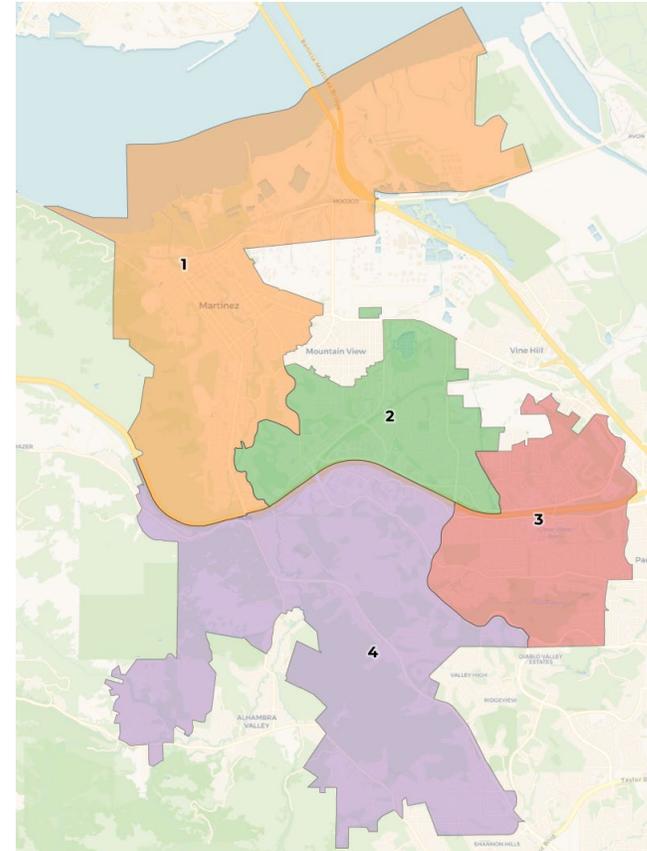
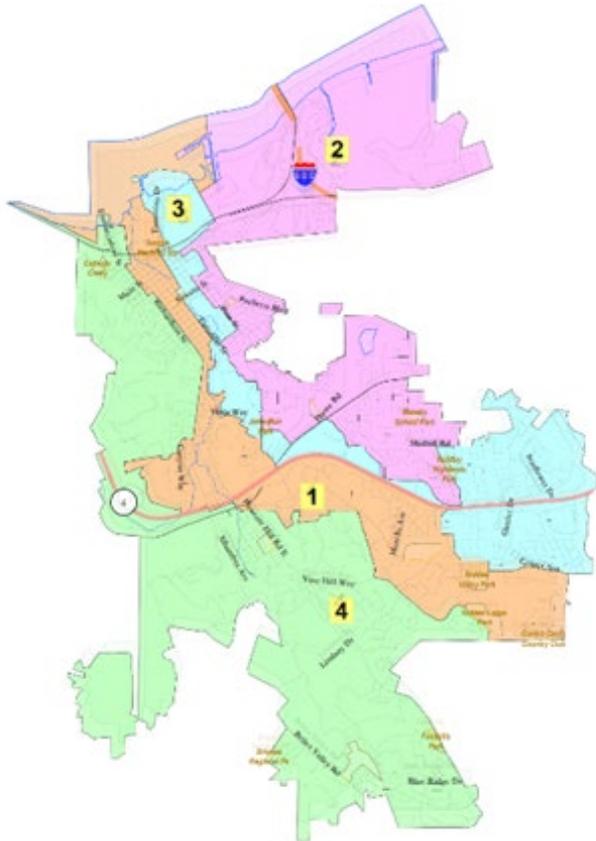
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- **Keep districts compact – appearance/function**

Compactness

Determining what is “compact”



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Communities of Interest

As defined by the FAIR MAPS Act

A “**community of interest**” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single election district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Characteristics include:

- shared public policy concerns
- public safety
- public health
- environment
- housing
- transportation
- cultural districts
- shared socioeconomic characteristics
- shared histories

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

Communities of interest are the building blocks of districts.

A community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Subjective
- Open-ended to be as inclusive as possible

Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act

- Latinos
- Asians
- African Americans

While communities of interest may include race, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing district boundaries.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

- Historical communities
- Economic interests
- Racial composition
- Ethnic Areas
- Cultural amenities
- Religious facilities
- Immigrant communities
- Languages spoken
- Geographic features
- Neighborhoods
- Environmental Justice/ Health Equity
- Economic opportunity zones
- Tourism Areas
- School attendance areas
- Outdoor recreation areas
- Communities defined by natural resource features
- Downtown / Urban
- Rural or Agricultural
- Homeowner or Renters
- Creative arts communities
- Media markets
- *Many, many more*

What is NOT a Community of Interest

Preventing a Districting from Becoming a Gerrymander

The FAIR MAPS Act explicitly prohibits these groups from being considered as communities of interest

- Political party affiliation
- Incumbents
- Political candidates

It also is hard, in districting to truly consider:

- *Groups of similarly minded people who do not share a similar geographic location.*
- *Communities of Interest that are citywide.*

Communities of Interest

Three Critical Questions in Defining YOUR Community

- Does the community have a shared culture, characteristics or bond?
- Is the community geographic in nature? Is the community able to be mapped?
- How would you describe the community's relationship with the jurisdiction, and how is your community affected by the policy decisions made by the elected officials?

How to Get Involved

Submitting Your COI Form

Input can be provided in public hearings or using our “Community of Interest Survey Form” on the City’s website.



Tell Us About Your Community

Help shape the future of City of Healdsburg’s City Council Districts

The Healdsburg City Council has begun the process of transitioning to district elections. The U.S. Census data will be used to balance the population of each City Council District.

One of the primary goals of this process is to keep communities together within each district. That’s why it is so important to hear from you! Complete this form to tell the City Council about your **community of interest** – so it can be preserved in the new district lines.

What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest is a group of people in the same geographically definable area who share common social and economic interests. Some examples of Communities of Interest are:

- Senior citizens
- College students living near campus
- People who live downtown or in a neighborhood
- Dog park community
- Residents who share a common language
- People that use the same transportation systems

How to Get Involved

The City is looking for two different types of maps from the public.

Maps from the public	
Community of Interest	Districted Plans Based on 2020 Data
Draw and document your community.	Draw your preferred districted map.
Let us know where your community is using specific street boundaries so we can avoid splitting it.	You can draw 1-5 election districts in accordance with how you think best represents the City.
Communities are better able to advocate and vote for their best interests when they remain together.	Maps drawn by the public often reflect logical boundaries based on the community, and many cities and districts prefer selecting a public map.

How to Get Involved

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

There will also
be paper maps
for the public
to use to draw
their own
community of
interest
and/or
districted map.

Communities of Interest

Drawing YOUR Communities of Interest

The City of Healdsburg is using Districtr as a public mapping tool to allow residents to draw their own Communities of Interest and districted maps.



You draw the lines.

[LINK](#)

Transition to District Elections



Contact Us

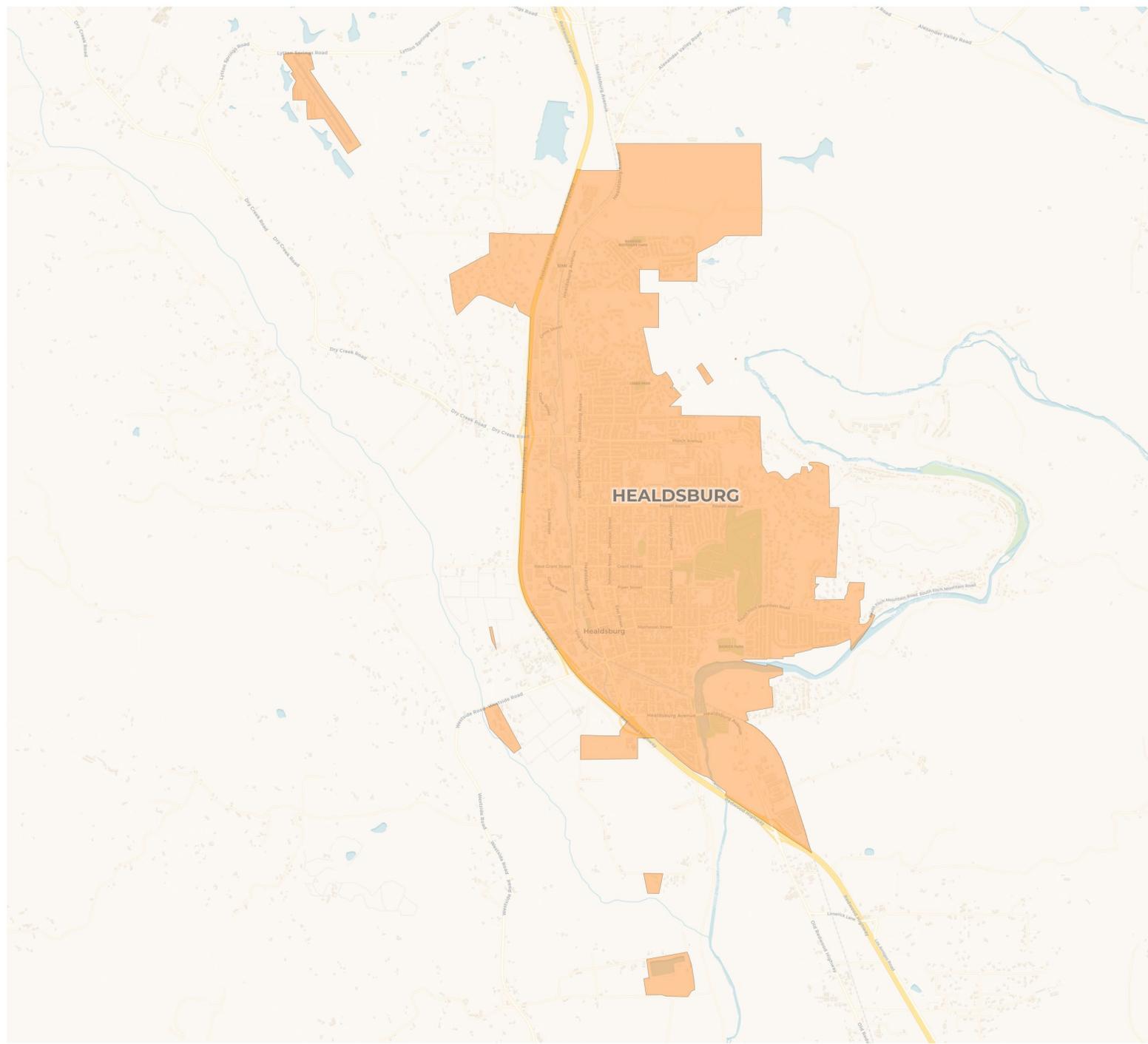
City Manager's Office
401 Grove Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Phone: (707) 431-3317
Fax: (707) 431-3321

Business Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Open Every other Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To stay up-to-date on the process, visit the City's website.

Website: <https://healdsburg.gov/1152/Transition-to-District-Elections>



2020 Census

	HEALDSBURG
Population	11,360
Deviation	0
Deviation %	0.0%
Other	7,209
Other %	63.5%
Latino	3,934
Latino %	34.6%
Asian	164
Asian %	1.4%
Black	53
Black %	0.5%

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

	HEALDSBURG
Total CVAP	8,758
Other CVAP	6,902
Other CVAP %	78.8%
Latino CVAP	1,667
Latino CVAP %	19.0%
Asian CVAP	187
Asian CVAP %	2.1%
Black CVAP	2
Black CVAP %	0.0%

Community Engagement/Outreach Plan

- 5 Public Hearings – 2nd One Tonight
- Community Meeting
 - **January 16, 2025 – 6p.m. – Healdsburg Community Center**
- Online tool for the public to draw maps
 - **Will go live tomorrow**
- Brunch at the Senior Center with paper map options
 - **Friday, January 24, 2025**
- Social Media Channels
 - **Ongoing**
- City Website
 - **www.healdsburg.gov/districtelections**
- City Manager's Bi-Weekly Newsletter
- Email blasts
- Brochure has been passed out to each City Facility in English & Spanish
- City-wide mailer was included in the December Utility bill in both English & Spanish

Public
Comment

Comentarios
del público

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