

Raina Allan

From: David Hagele
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2025 6:56 AM
To: Valerie White; Raina Allan; Jeff Kay
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - District Elections

Hi Valerie,

Thank you for the feedback & will go back and look at the maps you highlighted through your perspective. This is helpful



Thanks Valerie,

David L. Hagele
Councilmember,



City of Healdsburg

401 Grove Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 578-7800 • DHagele@Healdsburg.gov

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From: Valerie White <vwhite@sonic.net>
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 6:07 AM
To: David Hagele <dhagele@Healdsburg.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - District Elections

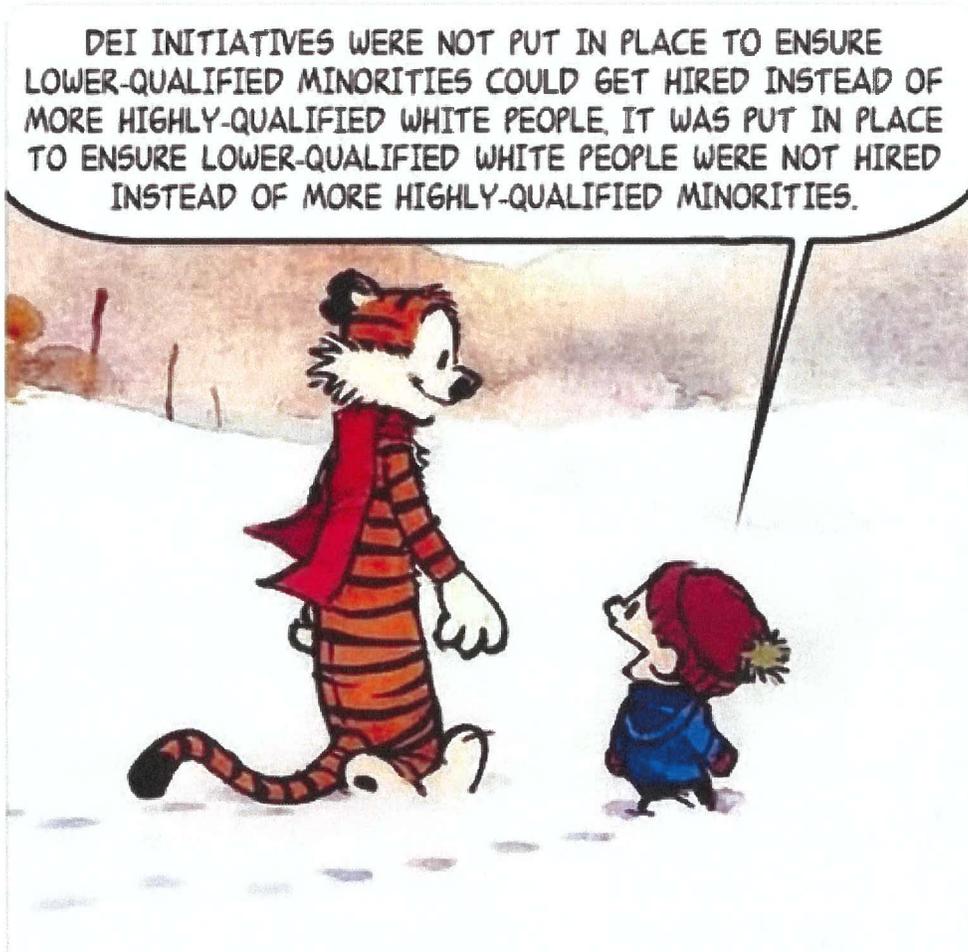
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Good morning,

I did not draw a map myself but saw two that I liked..... maps #278253 and #277577.
I hope that these maps create an opportunity for Latinos to be part of our government.

And as an aside, I find this definition of DEI to be very accurate. It is NOT the dirty word that Republicans have made it.

Valerie



On Feb 14, 2025, at 3:25 PM, David Hagele <dhagele@Healdsburg.gov> wrote:

Hi Valerie,

Hope you're doing well. Did you submit any maps for consideration? If so, can you let me know which one(s)? Would love to hear your thoughts on how you crafted it, what you focused on and your thought process was when drafting your map.

Now that we have all the maps, there are some interesting districts, including some I wouldn't have thought tie together that seem to, so any feedback you can share on your map(s), would be great as I review all the maps this weekend...

Thanks Valerie,

David L. Hagele
Councilmember,
City of Healdsburg
401 Grove Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 578-7800 • DHagele@Healdsburg.gov

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On Jan 3, 2025, at 9:38 AM, Valerie White <vwhite@sonic.net> wrote:

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Dear City Council Members and City Staff,

I would like to present my thoughts on district elections. Please see attachment. If appropriate, please forward to the consultant who is working with the City through this process.

Sincerely,
Valerie White
<Distict Elections .pdf>

Raina Allan

From: David Hagele
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Gary Plass; Jeff Kay; Raina Allan
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - FW: District Mapping Tool completed

Thanks Gary,

I appreciate the feedback! Have a great weekend :)

David Hagele
Councilmember,
City of Healdsburg

On Feb 14, 2025, at 4:40 PM, Gary Plass <gary@fowlerassociates.com> wrote:

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David,

It was good to see you yesterday also.

I approached forming my districts as I approach a lot of things in a pragmatic way.

I don't believe that districts should be done to gerrymander in one group's favor or another.

In my opinion, the cleanest way is to start as I did at the top or if you wanted to at the bottom and do it geographically keep in mind that you have to have a similar amount of voters in each district. So if you take this approach, as you move down, you add up the voters and when you get to or near that number, you stop and draw the district lines.

I believe this approach keeps it fair for everyone and should create a pretty good blend of our community in each and every district.

Naturally, If the district tends to have a stronger persuasion of some type, it would lend itself to the district leaning towards that stronger persuasion for their representative. If you had driven around this community as I did for 28 years you would have seen the blend of our community throughout.

Since we have no choice, but to do this, I feel strongly that it should be five districts with an appointed Mayor. This town does not need someone who is wanting to use Healdsburg as a stepping stone or try to obtain a what they would perceive as power over the council. Historically the Mayor has been appointed by his or her peers and acts as a figurehead for the council.

Thanks for asking.

Gary.

Gary W. Plass

Gary W. Plass DRE # 01430520

Fowler Associates Real Estate

175 Foss Creek Circle

Healdsburg, Ca. 95448

ph 707 433 0405

cell 707 484 3295

fax 707 433 0784

gary@fowlerassociates.com

<http://www.fowlerassociates.com/>

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From: David Hagele [mailto:dhagele@Healdsburg.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 3:36 PM
To: Gary Plass
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - FW: District Mapping Tool completed

Hey Gary,

Good seeing you yesterday :) Would love to hear your thoughts on how you crafted your map, what you focused on and your thought process was when drafting your map.

Now that we have all the maps, there are some interesting districts, including some I wouldn't have thought tie together that seem to, so any feedback you can share on your map(s), would be great as I review all the maps this weekend...

Thanks Gary!

David L. Hagele
Councilmember,
City of Healdsburg
401 Grove Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 578-7800 • DHagele@Healdsburg.gov

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On Jan 16, 2025, at 1:43 PM, Gary Plass <gary@fowlerassociates.com> wrote:

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From: Gary Plass [mailto:gary@fowlerassociates.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 12:13 PM
To: 'rallan@healdsburg.org'

Raina Allan

From: Ronald Edwards
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 6:36 PM
To: Raina Allan
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] - Fair and equitable districts...

Ron Edwards
Councilmember,
City of Healdsburg
401 Grove Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 709 6242 • REdwards@Healdsburg.gov

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From: Kathleen McCaffrey <kathleenmccaffrey4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 2:00 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@Healdsburg.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Fair and equitable districts...

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Dear City Council,

As Healdsburg moves forward with district elections, our community's energy and attention should be directed toward establishing fair and equitable districts. The California Voting Rights Act has made it clear that district elections are our future, and now our priority must be ensuring these districts are drawn to truly serve all residents.

The critical task before us is determining district boundaries that reflect our community's diverse neighborhoods, preserve natural communities of interest, and ensure equal representation. This process demands careful consideration of demographic data, geographic continuity, and community input. We need robust public engagement to understand how residents identify their neighborhoods and what common interests bind different areas of our city together.

While the concept of a generally elected mayor may seem appealing, it risks overshadowing the immediate need for balanced representation. A single mayor, elected by the majority, could inadvertently centralize power and dilute the voices of smaller communities. Rather than being distracted by discussions of an elected mayor, we should concentrate our civic dialogue on questions that will shape our community's representation for years to come: How can we draw districts that give voice to historically underrepresented neighborhoods? How do we balance population numbers while respecting natural community boundaries? These are the pressing issues that deserve our immediate attention.

Let's focus on what's certain and important: creating districts that will serve as the foundation for fair and effective local governance in Healdsburg.

Kathleen McCaffrey
Healdsburg, California

Raina Allan

From: Lancaster, Linus <llancaster@husd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 9:20 AM
To: Evelyn Mitchell; David Hagele; Ronald Edwards; Ariel Kelley; Chris Herrod; Julian Johannsen Giuffre; Raina Allan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - City Council presentation
Attachments: Excavating whale bones in Richmond.jpg; 232948451_10223694160994435_5665846312094173542_n.jpg; IMG_0013.jpeg; IMG_0219.jpeg

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Dear Council Members,

Please find the attached images which should have gone into the deck for our presentation this evening. We will be referring to them if time allows.

Thank you,

Linus

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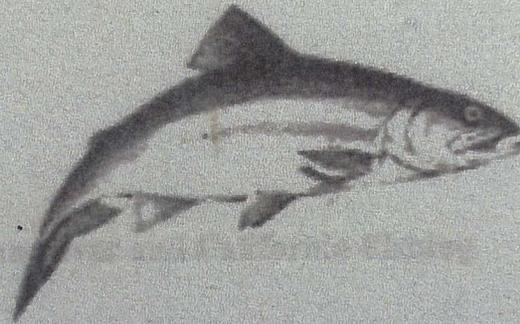




A History of Fishing Healdsburg and the Russian River Watershed

By: Michael Haran

February 2008



**Including a map and description of 22 popular fishing holes
Written and compiled by Leroy Danhausen - 1962**

Printed Complements of :
Eric Drew
Healdsburg Realty

Raina Allan

From: Marilyn Joyce <marilynjoyce@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Evelyn Mitchell
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Thoughts re: creating 6 districts and an at-large elected mayor

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Good morning Mayor Evelyn and Healdsburg City Council,

In prep for this 3rd hearing I submitted 2 maps, both for 6 districts, implying an elected at-large mayor. Since the data layers supplied ethnicity and voter eligibility that's what I considered. In my second map ID#283667 I created 2 districts that approached a majority Latino population reflecting Healdsburg's roughly 30%-70% ethnic make up. But these districts did not contain a majority of eligible voters. I will be really interested in how others identified communities of interest — I was thinking mostly about neighborhood identity, keeping the districts compact, recognizable and sharing similar concerns. I'd also be interested in looking at evacuation zone boundaries.

Transparent / Democratic process is my focus.

In December the present council majority favored 5 districts and a rotating mayor, a choice that appears to create as little disruption to the make up of the council as possible. I'm proposing *6 districts and a voter elected mayor (for 7 seats)*. That's **only ONE additional district** and promotes regular 2-year voter participation (casting votes for city mayor). I hear opinions from the community that we won't get enough candidates, but we may be surprised, at the community center workshop there was an enthusiastic buzz among the Latino community who were asking serious questions and discussing stepping up to represent the the Hispanic community's interests. *See photo attached.*

Biased process and conclusions?

The option for seven seats was never seriously discussed during meetings. Even though the council eventually accepted the idea as an allowable possibility *and* the DistrictR tool expanded to allow for 4, 5, and 6 district options (not 7?), the city's instructional handout material was not corrected to reflect the change (at least not by the second workshop) so the public was not informed of their options or offered a fair process. Result: most people will submit 5 district maps leaving the false conclusion that the community prefers 5 districts.

Important to get it right the first time.

In the beginning of discussions we were informed that after the 2030 census there would be opportunities to totally reevaluate and make changes but Jeff Kay later clarified, that though the district boundaries could shift to reflect population changes, the number of districts and the decision to elect an at-large mayor /or to rotate the mayor among the seated council members, *would not* change!

Seven council seats (six districts) have benefits for local democracy:

- **Greater community participation:** If we are only voting for our own neighborhood district then we are involved in city elections *only once every 4 years*, vs every 2 years if we elect our mayor at large.
- **7 seats match all our other Healdsburg commissions** and county commissions as well. Why would we favor more diversity of opinions on the Healdsburg planning commission, parks and rec and senior citizen's commissions than on the city council?
- **7 members promote a more robust deliberative and nuanced process on the dais.** 7 diverse opinions and visions create an opportunity to expand and influence fellow council member's points of view..
- **More thoughtful preparation issues is possible.** 7 members mean that individual council members can meet outside public meetings with 2 other members for thorough discussions while avoiding Brown Act violations. Increased cross fertilization is valuable.
- 7 members also mean **community members can legally meet with 3 members of council to express views.**
- An elected mayor is more important now because the status quo is really no longer the "status quo". The present system results in mayors who have all been chosen by a majority of voters. Continuing to rotate among council members **could result in the mayor being elected by 1/10 of the city's voters or even less.** That person will represent ALL of Healdsburg.
- 6 districts may better represent "communities of interest" than 5 districts. With 6 districts each district would average about 1,800 people or about 700-800 (?) households. One could more easily establish real relationships between constituents and policy makers.

My views have evolved since the December meeting. I've listened to council's arguments, talked with Jeff Kay, watched various commission meetings, met a few times with active Windsor voters and watched Windsor's town meeting videos to help inform myself.

John Diniakos has been proposing (and I agree) that Healdsburg offer a civics training program for anyone contemplating government service (commissions and council), including high school students. Even people who don't plan to run for office would become more knowledgeable and effective citizens. Qualified volunteers could teach the classes. Today, civic engagement should be no more optional than engaging in physical exercise.

Thank you and see you tonight,

Merrilyn

