

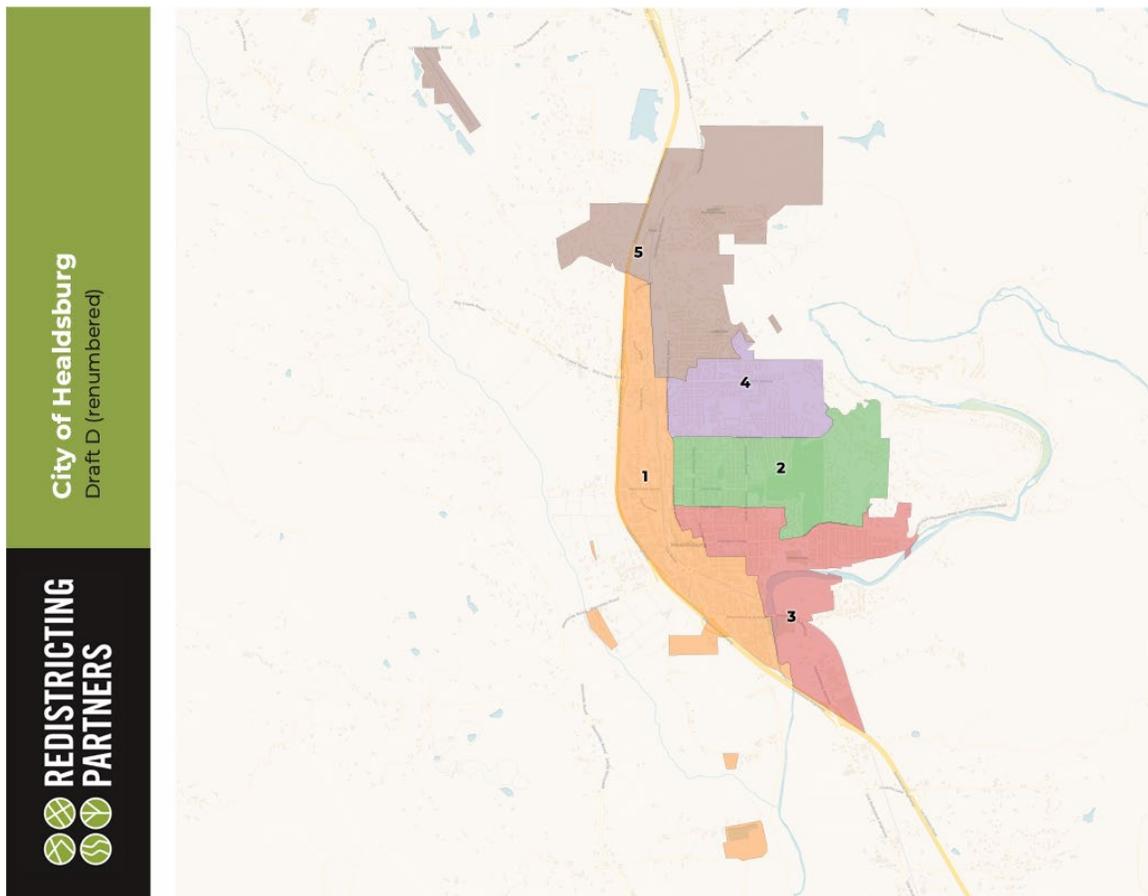


City of Healdsburg
Transition from At-Large to By-District
Elections: Adopted Map
Final Report

Executive Summary

The City of Healdsburg followed the FAIR MAPS Act and the California Voting Rights Act criteria to guide the city’s transition from at-large to by-district elections. The City hosted six public hearings on converting to by-district elections, three community workshops, including one in Spanish, and offered public mapping tools for the public to submit their own maps. The City Council adopted Draft D on April 21, 2025, with even-numbered districts going up for election in 2026 and the odd-numbered districts going up in 2028. The adopted map meets all criteria required by state and federal laws, with minimal splits of communities of interest.

This report documents the specific criteria used during the districting process and describes the decisions made when communities of interest (COIs) were split. While the city did its best to maintain as many COIs as possible, splits were necessary in order to follow the higher-ranking criteria set forth by the FAIR MAPS Act. All decisions and deliberations were made by the City Councilmembers and Mayor in public meetings, and meetings and other relevant documents can be accessed here: <https://healdsburg.gov/1152/Transition-to-District-Elections>



Adopted Map: Draft D

Draft D originated from the map ID 278352, which was submitted by a member of the public, and was modified by the demographers and City Council at the February 18th public hearing. As stated by the City Council, Draft D maintains the integrity of most of the communities within the city,

including the areas abutting the Russian River in the southernmost portion of the City, the Matheson Street Historic District, March Avenue and Fitch Mountain Villas neighborhoods, and the neighborhood north of South Fitch Mountain Road, which has a large number of older homes and a high risk of fire. District 1 also keeps together the communities west of the railroad tracks, which includes renters in apartment complexes, and has the largest Latino Citizen Voting Age Population (29.6%), which is considered an “influence district.”

FAIR MAPS Act Criteria

As required, the City of Healdsburg adopted a map that ensures the population is well balanced, uses the appropriate census dataset, follows the federal Voting Rights Act, and does not discriminate or favor a political party, incumbent or candidate. The total deviation for the adopted map is 6.3%, below the 10% total deviation maximum allowed for municipalities. Additionally, the City and its demographers used the required Statewide Database’s adjusted census data, which reallocated incarcerated residents throughout the state.

The City emphasized criteria from the FAIR MAPS Act since the first day of the districting process, and the demographers presented on these requirements at every public hearing. Furthermore, the demographers provided documentation to the City Council regarding which publicly drawn maps did and did not fulfill the FAIR MAPS Act criteria.

Below is the ranked list of criteria as required by the FAIR MAPS Act and how the Adopted Map met these criteria.

FAIR MAPS Act Ranked Criteria	Adopted Map (Draft D)
<i>To the extent practicable, council districts shall be geographically contiguous.</i>	All districts are whole and do not overlap with each other.
<i>To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division.</i>	The City does not have official neighborhood boundaries, but they do have well-established communities and historical areas. Communities discussed and kept together: southern river community, neighborhood north of South Fitch Mountain Road, historic Matheson area, March Avenue and Fitch Mountain Villas neighborhoods.
<i>Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.</i>	Main thoroughfares such as Powell Avenue, Piper Street, South Fitch Mountain Road, and Healdsburg Avenue were used as dividers whenever possible. However, when main roads were not used, such as in the Downtown area, it was due to higher criteria, such as creating balanced populations and following US Census blocks, as required.

<p><i>To the maximum extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria in this subdivision, election districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.</i></p>	<p>The City created compact districts and avoided constructions that would bypass nearby population in favor of more distant population. Most districts are more circular/square in appearance. Notably, District 1 follows the western most portion of the City, following communities of interest such as renters, the Latino CVAP, and socio-economic interests.</p>
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Public Participation

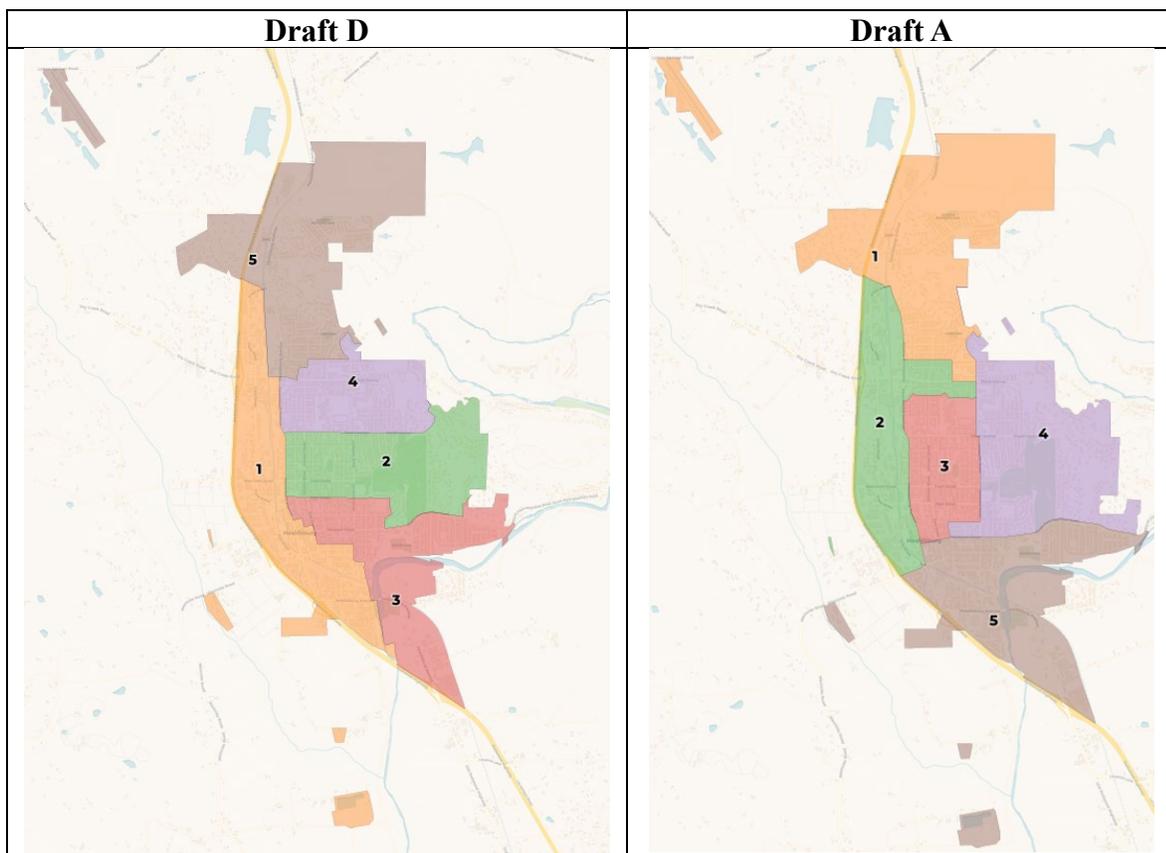
The City of Healdsburg collected testimony from the public via email, in-person drop-off to City staff, and in-person testimony. All written testimony and map submissions can be viewed on the City’s districting website, and any in-person testimony can be viewed on the City’s website and YouTube channel.

Community of Interest Splits: Communities of Interest

Split 1: Southern District

In the final meeting on April 21, Council Member Ariel Kelley argued that the southern portion of the City has unique needs, including transportation, land use and new housing projects and should not be split like it is in Map D. Council Member Kelley preferred Draft A's southern district for this reason. However, Council Member Ron Edwards disagreed and argued that Draft A placed too much emphasis on future growth, among other issues.

Vice Mayor Chris Herrod also stated that Draft D does a better job at maintaining the overall neighborhoods of the City and that Draft A is contrived. "In essence, Draft D is the one that resonates most purely with the way Healdsburg actually is as a lived space."



Split 2: March Avenue's Latino Citizen Voting Age Population

The City Council debated Draft A and Draft D regarding which map would best work for the City at the final two meetings. Draft A had a larger Latino CVAP of 36% versus Draft D's 29.6%, which was achieved by capturing population along March Avenue east of Healdsburg Avenue. At the April 7th meeting, Mayor Evelyn Mitchell advocated against Draft A, citing that the portion of Draft A that juts out into March Avenue would not represent that community well and has little in

common with the rest of District 1, and Draft A splits other communities, like the Matheson Street Historic District.

Ultimately, the Council decided that Draft D maintained more communities while still creating a Latino influence district.

Split 3: *Downtown*

Downtown was split between districts 1 and 3, with a portion in the nearby District 2. The historic Plaza is in District 1. The Council decided on this approach so as to maintain several communities of interest and avoid diluting the Latino influence area.