



CITY OF FERNLEY

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 5, 2022

REPORT TO:	Mayor and City Council
REPORT THRU:	Daphne Hooper, City Manager
REPORT FROM:	Kim Swanson, City Clerk

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>	CURRENTLY BUDGETED: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>	FUND/ACCOUNT:
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ACTION REQUESTED: Consent Ordinance Resolution Motion Receive/File

AGENDA ITEM: (For Possible Action):
Adjust ward boundaries to equalize the number of residents in each voting district.

Agenda Item Brief:
Changing ward boundaries will allow for equal and fair distribution of population in each election district. By bringing the Wards within a 1% difference will bring the city into compliance with NRS 266.095.

See attached report for background, analysis, alternatives.

Recommended Motion:
“Move to adopt Bill #305 as an Ordinance modifying Title 2, Administration, Section 2.07.04 Ward boundaries, changing the election boundaries of Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward, 4 and Ward 5; and other matters properly related thereto.”

Business Impact (per NRS Chapter 237):
 A Business Impact Statement is Attached.
 A Business Impact Statement is not required because this is not a rule (term excludes vehicles by which legislative powers are exercised under NRS Chapters 271, 278, 278A, or 278B).

ALTERNATIVES:

BACKGROUND:

Redistricting is the act of redrawing the boundaries for election districts. Because the population shifts over time, district boundaries must be adjusted periodically to ensure districts are equally populated. Since the 1960s, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that electoral districts must have equal population or nearly equal population so that each person’s vote has equal weight (known as the “one-person, one-vote” requirement).

Pursuant to NRS 266.095, once the ward boundaries are established upon incorporation, they must be changed when the population in any ward exceeds the population in any other ward by more than 5%. Ward boundaries may be changed to included territory which has been annexed into the city, or after a national decennial census is completed.

Ward boundaries were established by the Lyon County Commissioner in 2001 when the City of Fernley incorporated.

In 2006 ward boundaries were adjusted due to the large population growth. Because of a lack of census information regarding population counts, ward boundaries were realigned based on the numbers of residential structures and dwelling units. Data was compiled from the city’s Geographic Information System and Lyon County Assessor’s database.

In 2011, based on decennial census information, Wards 4 and 5 had population counts that exceeded the allowable 5% margin.

The 2020 decennial census calculated our population at 23,083. Even though the difference between the largest ward and the smallest ward was 3.1%, the change in county precinct lines made it necessary to make changes to Wards 1, 2, 4 & 5.

Currently, the boundary map is determined using information from 2011 population counts.

	Population	% of total
Ward 1	3915	20.21%
Ward 2	3784	19.54%
Ward 3	3888	20.07%
Ward 4	3897	20.12%
Ward 5	3884	20.05%
Total	19368	100.00%

This is the suggested ward count using the 23,083-population count.

	Population	% of total
Ward 1	4584	19.86%
Ward 2	4587	19.87%
Ward 3	4627	20.05%
Ward 4	4695	20.34%
Ward 5	4590	19.88%
Total	23083	100.00%

If the City Council adopts the proposed ordinance the Lyon County Clerk will make the necessary changes to the voter registration database. The Lyon County Clerk will also realign the precinct boundaries according to the ward boundaries changes.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

NRS 266.095

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of publication.

ATTACHMENTS:

None