

MEMORANDUM

To: Redistricting Advisory Committee

From: Mike Rankin, City Attorney

Subject: 2024 Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) Duties

*DPML for MR (with permission)
DPML*

I'm providing this Memorandum to advise you of the scope of duties for the 2024 RAC. As you know, 2024 is a "potential redistricting year" as defined in the Tucson Charter and Code. However, the current deviation in population across the City's 6 wards is only 2.9%, which is well below the maximum population deviation (MPD) level that would require a redistricting. As a result, the Mayor and Council will not be considering any redistricting options in 2024; and the 2024 RAC is not tasked with recommending any redistricting proposals.

Even though no redistricting options will be considered in this cycle, the Tucson Charter (Chapter XVI, Section 8.1) and Code (Section 10A-42) required that the Mayor and Council establish the 2024 RAC. Now that it has been formed, the 2024 RAC should review the ward population data as provided by the City Clerk to confirm that no redistricting is necessary this year because the deviation in ward populations is comfortably below the MPD of 10%. Once the 2024 RAC confirms this, no consideration of recommendations for potential redistricting options is needed or appropriate, because the controlling Tucson Code provides that this exercise only occurs if a redistricting is necessary (Tucson Code Section 10A-44(2)).

Once the 2024 RAC confirms that no redistricting is necessary, it can and should still meet to discuss and make "such other recommendation(s) relating to redistricting as deemed necessary or desirable" (see Tucson Code Section 10A-44(3)). Those recommendations could relate to issues like the timing of the creation of the next RAC in connection with the next "potential redistricting year;" the types and manner of public outreach that might occur in advance of the next RAC; strategies for educating the public about the redistricting process and its purposes; or similar issues. As a part of these discussions, the 2024 RAC can choose to schedule a public hearing, but no public hearing is legally required in the absence of any redistricting proposal.

Thank you for your service on the 2024 RAC. A representative of my office will attend your scheduled meetings to help answer questions that might come up as you complete your duties.

Mike Rankin
City Attorney

MR/dg

cc: Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

Dennis P. McLaughlin, Principal Asst. City Attorney

Jennifer Stash, Principal Asst. City Attorney