



April 4, 2022

Ontario City Council
Mayor Paul Leon
Mayor pro Tem Alan Wapner
Council Member Jim Bowman
Council Member Debra Dorst-Porada
Council Member Ruben Valencia
303 East B Street,
Ontario, CA 91764

CC: <publiccomments@ontarioca.gov>

Sent via electronic transmission

RE: Concerns Regarding City Redistricting Process

Dear Members of the Ontario City Council:

We are pleased to see the City of Ontario transition from having at-large elections to district based elections for the city council. More than a simple exercise to ensure districts are equal in population, redistricting impacts how responsive elected officials are to communities at all legislative levels. Given the vital support city services provide to the most vulnerable in the City of Ontario, it is imperative that community needs guide how the Council districts are drawn for the next ten years.

We write today to express our concern at the rapid pace with which your redistricting process is scheduled to move. Given that districts for the city do not need to be finalized until December 31st, 2022, the Council has more than enough time to recruit experts to give redistricting presentation to the council, advertise community of interests workshops and hearings to city residents, and ensure the overall redistricting process is accessible, transparent, and a true reflection of the city's commitment to democracy. However, all of the currently scheduled community workshops fall within a two week period, and little to no outreach has been conducted to ensure community participation. Further, the agenda item for your April 5th meeting fails to even include the times of such workshops. We urge you to update your schedule by spreading out the dates and posting the full details of the workshops so that residents have a fair opportunity to attend.

Additionally, **we urge you to work with counsel and consultants to determine whether the federal Voting Rights Act requires the city to draw Section 2 complaint council districts.** Given that nearly 70% of residents in the City of Ontario identify as Latino or of Hispanic origin, we encourage you to: a) publish the Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) data that you will be using to draw these council districts; and b) conduct and publish a racially polarized voting (RPV) analysis and/or relevant VRA effectiveness analyses to communicate with the public if Section 2 compliant districts are necessary.



We hope you find our recommendations both reasonable and practicable and look forward to working with you to make the 2022 redistricting process fair, transparent, and accessible. Please feel free to contact Sky Allen with Inland Empire United at sky@ieunited.org should you have any questions.

Sky Allen
Program Director, IE United