

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, MARICOPA COUNTY,  
ARIZONA ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE IN THE  
PROCESS THAT WILL LEAD TO CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT REDISTRICTING IN 2018 AND  
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, City Charter Article II, Section 2(B) provides that the City Council shall establish six geographic districts within the City to be represented by individual Council members ("Council Districts"), with each Council District containing a substantially equal population;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 2(C) states that the boundaries of Council Districts ("District Boundaries") shall be modified to substantially equalize the population of each for the next Regular Election following the completion of a United States decennial or mid-decennial census;

WHEREAS, in 2015 the City conducted a special United States mid-decennial census to ascertain its current population;

WHEREAS, now the City Council is required by the City Charter to redistrict the Council Boundaries prior to the City's 2018 Regular Election;

WHEREAS, the City also has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal law, including but not limited to Amendments 14 and 15 of the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973 et al.;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to comply with the City Charter, the Voting Rights Act, and all other relevant law in conducting a redistricting of Council Districts;

WHEREAS, a set of established redistricting criteria will serve as a framework to guide the City Council in the consideration of redistricting plans;

WHEREAS, established criteria will provide the City a means by which to evaluate and measure proposed redistricting plans; and

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will assist the City in its efforts to comply with all applicable laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Peoria as follows:

1. That the City of Peoria, Arizona, in its adoption of a 2018 redistricting plan for City Council Districts, will adhere to the following criteria:

- a. Council Districts must have substantially equal population;
- b. Council Districts must protect minority voting rights pursuant to the Voting Rights Act; and
- c. Council Districts must be contiguous, wherein every part of the district is physically connected to the rest of the district.

2. The City of Peoria, Arizona, in its adoption of a 2018 redistricting plan for City Council Districts, further adopts the following additional criteria:

- a. Council Districts should be compact as compactness reinforces the ability of residents to relate to each other and their elected representatives;
- b. Council Districts should follow visible or man-made boundaries, such as mountains, rivers, and roads;
- c. Council Districts should not contain more than one master-planned age-restricted community, in order to best represent all residents;
- d. Council Districts should preserve communities of interest, and should not unnecessarily divide neighborhoods that have similar socioeconomic, life-style, or political interests; and
- e. Council Districts should strive for continuity in office to minimize voter disruption.

3. All redistricting plans submitted by the public, as well as plans submitted by staff, the Mayor and City Council members should conform to these criteria.

4. The City will review all submitted redistricting plans in light of the criteria outlined and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria.

5. Any redistricting plan submitted to the City Council for its consideration should be a complete plan (i.e. it should show the full number of six City Council Districts and should include the entire City). The City may decline to consider any redistricting plan that is not a complete plan.

6. In order to preserve the peace, health and safety of the City of Peoria, an emergency is declared to exist and this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Peoria,  
Arizona, this 10th day of January, 2017.

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Cathy Carlat, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rhonda Geriminsky, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Stephen J. Burg, City Attorney