

1 Introduced by: Councilmember Searcy

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3 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-32**

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7 **ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR THE 2022 REDISTRICTING**

8  
9 WHEREAS, Takoma Park ward boundaries shall be reviewed after each decennial census to  
10 ensure they are in conformance with the constitutional doctrine of one person - one  
11 vote, the Voting Rights Act, the *Takoma Park Charter*, and with any other  
12 applicable requirements; and

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14 WHEREAS, the redistricting process is scheduled to conclude in January 2022 with the City  
15 Council’s adoption of a redistricting plan; and

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17 WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Takoma Park Charter*, each ward shall be compact in form,  
18 composed of adjoining territory, and have substantially equal population; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the *Takoma Park Charter* further provides that wards shall be as nearly equal in  
21 population as is practical and apportioned consistently with the principle of one  
22 person - one vote, wards shall be geographically contiguous, ward boundaries shall  
23 to the extent practical recognize natural boundaries, and no ward shall be  
24 gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent candidate or  
25 potential candidate; and

26 WHEREAS, the standard for “substantially equal population” is that the difference in population  
27 between the largest and smallest ward should not exceed 10 percent; and

28 WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to conduct a transparent and data-driven redistricting process  
29 that encourages public participation; and

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31 WHEREAS, the City has contracted with FLO Analytics to conduct the review and redistricting  
32 process and develop ward boundary maps that meet constitutional and statutory  
33 requirements as well as any additional criteria established by the City Council; and

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35 WHEREAS, Bloom Planning will assist with community education and engagement on the  
36 process on behalf of the City and FLO Analytics; and


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38 WHEREAS, in addition to the required criteria mentioned above, the Council will consider  
39 community of interest information and feedback provided by residents during the  
40 public engagement process.

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42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA  
43 PARK establishes the following criteria for its evaluation and selection of a redistricting plan to  
44 be adopted in 2022:

- 1        1. Each ward shall have substantially equal populations, but in no case shall the difference  
2        between the largest and smallest ward populations be more than 10 percent.
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- 4        2. If practicable considering other criteria, the Council has a goal of reducing the difference  
5        between the largest and smallest wards to five percent or less.
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- 7        3. Wards shall be compact.
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- 9        4. Wards shall be composed of adjoining territory that is geographically contiguous.
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- 11       5. Wards shall recognize natural boundaries where practical.
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- 13       6. No ward shall be gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent  
14       candidate or potential candidate.
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- 16       7. Using information gathered from residents during the community meetings and other  
17       engagement opportunities, ward boundaries may be drawn so as to keep a particular  
18       neighborhood or community within one ward as opposed to dividing the neighborhood or  
19       community among multiple wards, but only if possible in light of the applicable legal  
20       criteria.

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22    Adopted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

23  
24    Attest:

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26    \_\_\_\_\_  
27    Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
28    City Clerk