



"The Best Waterfront City in Which to Live, Work And Play."

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**City of Riviera Beach**

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**To:** Hon. Mayor, Chairperson, and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Jonathan Evans, City Manager, MPA, MBA, ICMA-CM  
**Through:** Non Applicable  
**Subject:** **Adoption of Ordinance Number 4260 - City Of Riviera Beach Redistricting Voting District Boundaries**  
**Date:** May 15, 2024  
**CC:** General Public

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**Background:**

In light of the 2020 U.S. Census results, the City of Riviera Beach has identified a significant need to reevaluate and adjust its voting district boundaries to reflect the latest population data. The current district boundaries, established decades ago, no longer represent the city's residents equitably due to substantial demographic shifts and population growth in certain areas.

Over the past two decades, Riviera Beach has experienced uneven population growth, with some areas growing at a faster rate than others. This growth has resulted in disproportionate representation in the City Council, where some districts now contain significantly more residents than others. For instance, the largest district's population exceeds the smallest by over 120%, a disparity that challenges the principle of equal representation under the law.

The existing imbalances among the districts pose potential violations of both state and federal electoral laws, particularly the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which mandates that voting districts must be as equal in population as practicable. Moreover, the city charter specifies that district boundaries must be reviewed and, if necessary, redrawn every ten years to reflect new census data. The failure to do so since 1979 has exacerbated the disparities in district sizes, making

this redistricting effort not only a matter of policy but also a legal imperative.

To address these issues, the city engaged Ronald R. Schultz, PhD, Consultant and Professor Emeritus in Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University, to conduct a thorough review and analysis of the current district boundaries based on the latest census data. Dr. Schultz has provided a detailed report recommending several alternative redistricting plans, each designed to balance population distribution while respecting community coherence and geographical compactness.

**City Goals:**

The City-wide Goals are to Build Great Neighborhoods, Accelerate Operational Excellence and Strengthen Community Engagement.

**Fiscal/Budget Impact:**

The execution of Ordinance No. 4260 for redistricting is estimated to cost \$25,000; necessary expenses include consulting services, map production, review, and community engagement efforts. Funds for this initiative have been allocated

**Recommendation:**

- Adoption of Ordinance Number 4260: It is recommended that the City Council approve and adopt Ordinance 4260, which proposes new voting district boundaries. The ordinance ensures that the city's electoral districts are realigned in accordance with the latest census data and comply with state and federal regulations. The newly proposed boundaries have been designed to ensure fair and equitable representation for all residents of Riviera Beach, reflecting the demographic changes that have occurred since the last redistricting.
- Implementation Strategy: Upon adoption of the ordinance, the City Administration should begin immediate implementation to ensure the new district boundaries are in effect for the next electoral cycle. This includes updating all relevant public records and systems, as well as informing the community about the changes through an organized outreach program.
- Continuous Review and Adjustment: A review process should be established for the redistricting plan to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on feedback and further demographic changes. This ongoing review will help maintain alignment with legal standards and fairness in representation.

**Attachments:**

1. [REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE 4260.docx](#)
2. [Consultant Report - Redistricting Alternatives for the City of Riviera Beach.pdf](#)
3. [Existing Districts Map.pdf](#)
4. [Riviera\\_Alternative\\_1 Map.pdf](#)

5. [Riviera\\_Alternative\\_1\\_Comparison Map.pdf](#)
6. [Riviera\\_Alternative\\_2 Map.pdf](#)
7. [Riviera\\_Alternative\\_2\\_Comparison Map.pdf](#)
8. [Riviera\\_Alternative\\_3 Map.pdf](#)
9. [Riviera\\_Alternative\\_3\\_Comparison Map.pdf](#)