

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Planning Department

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Mayor Dave Bronson

10-Year Review of Community Council Boundaries Project Update – April 7, 2023

Project Summary:

- **What:** Every 10 years the Municipality must review community council boundaries and seek input as to whether any boundaries between community council districts should be adjusted. Last review was in 2013.
- **Objective:** Reassess community council district boundaries and adjust as needed to ensure the districts continue to reflect and represent Anchorage's natural, geographic neighborhood communities.
- **Outcome:** Assembly Ordinance (with maps) amending AMC Section 2.40 to adjust community council districts if necessary; OR an Assembly Resolution if no immediate changes are found to be needed.

Roles of Participants:

- **Assembly** will ultimately hold a public hearing and decide regarding any proposed changes.
- **Planning and Zoning Commission:** PZC reviews Planning staff recommendations, holds a public hearing taking in public comments from the Community Councils, and forwards its recommendations to the Assembly.
- **Community Councils:** Providing feedback to staff preparing report about boundary issues; will review staff's recommendations and then submit formal community council resolutions to the PZC and Assembly.
- **Boundary Advisory Committee:** Project committee of 12 volunteer community council representatives, serving as a sounding board for project staff and the PZC in evaluating the boundary issues.

Public Process and Schedule:

- **Step 1: Identify Boundary Study Areas.** Began process in November with letters and visits to Federation of Community Councils, and an online questionnaire regarding community council district boundaries. More than 420 responses and emails received by end of February. Approximately ¼ of respondents identified boundary issues, which staff grouped into 3 dozen "boundary study areas". A "Boundary Study Area" means only that there will be further evaluation of a boundary issue, not necessarily any recommended change.
- **Step 2: Evaluate Boundary Study Areas (WE ARE HERE).** Staff and Boundary Advisory Committee are evaluating the boundary changes proposed by members of the public, using the *boundary review criteria* based in municipal code. Seeking initial thoughts from Community Council boards. Preparing a public hearing draft report that will make recommendations as to any boundary changes, for release this spring.
- **Step 3: Public Hearings and Action.** There will be a public review period of at least 2 months during which Community Councils will be encouraged to submit their recommendations as formal resolutions to the PZC. The PZC will hold a public hearing and forward its recommendations to the Assembly.

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<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/Pages/CommunityCouncilBoundariesReview.aspx>
or search your web browser for "Community Council Boundaries 10-Year Review Project."

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