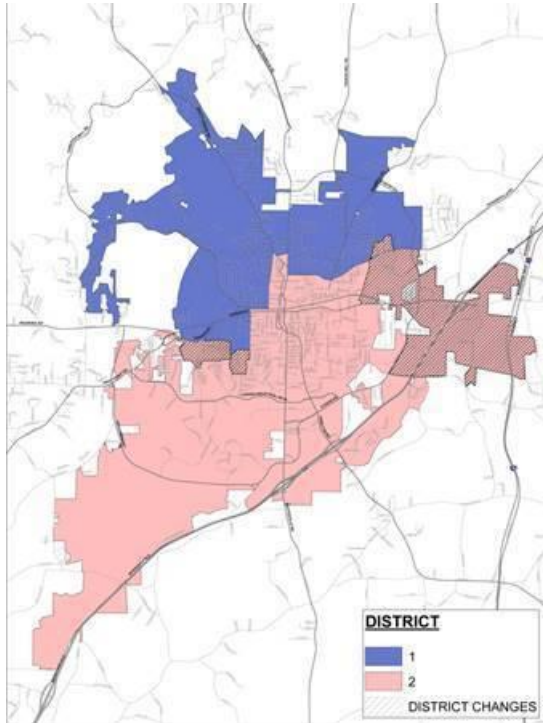


## City of LaGrange Passes District Map Changes Following 2020 Census

**LaGrange, Ga. April 12, 2022** – The LaGrange City Council passed an updated map to redraw LaGrange’s city council districts.

LaGrange is presently divided into two city council districts and each district elects three members of the city council. The United States Constitution requires that each district be redrawn every ten years after the federal census to ensure equal population.



As Mayor Jim Thornton explained, “our district maps were last redrawn in 2011 after the 2010 census, and the population numbers have changed significantly. Based on the 2020 census, District 1 had 17,414 residents and District 2 had 13,444 residents. That’s too much of a deviation in population to meet the federal one-person, one-vote requirement.”

The State of Georgia has a non-partisan legislative reapportionment office that assists the state as well as city and county governments in redrawing maps. The reapportionment office generates maps that meet the population requirement and follow the approved redistricting standards.

City attorney Jeff Todd noted that the factors city councils can consider when redrawing maps include “compactness of districts, a requirement of contiguity, preserving communities of interest, and avoiding pairing of incumbents.”

The city council asked the map-makers to take existing district maps, make as few changes as possible to achieve population equality, and follow the traditional criteria.

Mayor Thornton along with City Council members Edmondson and Gaskin and the city attorney and city manager met with the reapportionment staff as they worked on a new district map.

Mayor Thornton presented the attached proposal to the City Council at the council work session today. It was well-received by all council members.

Under Georgia’s home-rule powers, the city council can adopt a new map by local ordinance. The City Council has scheduled a public hearing and first reading for their regular council meeting on April 26, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. A second reading and vote will likely occur on May 10, 2022.

The new map, once adopted, will be used for a special election this fall to fill the unexpired term of the late LeGree McCamey as well as for future city council elections.