

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Phil Mendelson

From: Councilmember Elissa Silverman



Date: October 28, 2021

Subject: Request to Agendize Measures for the November 2, 2021 Legislative Meeting

I request that the following measures be included in the agenda for the November 2, 2021 Regular Legislative Meeting.

- Ward Redistricting Deadline Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021
- Ward Redistricting Deadline Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2021

This legislation is necessary to allow the Council time to complete its action on redistricting. Currently, D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(b) requires the Council to adopt an act adjusting ward boundaries by a deadline occurring 90 days after Council's receipt of the Census report or July 14th of the year in which the Census report is received, whichever is later. Because the Council received the 2020 Census report on September 16, 2021 (while the Council was on recess), the deadline for Council action under existing law is December 15. However, the Council is scheduled to finish voting on the ward boundaries on December 21. The proposed emergency bill will extend the deadline to December 31.

Extending the deadline will allow the Council to adopt a redistricting plan following extensive public engagement. Currently, the Subcommittee on Redistricting is engaged in a series of hearings, roundtables, and community meetings to explain the redistricting process to residents and to hear feedback from the public. In addition, members of the public have used an online redistricting tool to submit over 120 maps for the Council's consideration. The Subcommittee anticipates holding a markup on the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021 in November, allowing the Council to consider the bill on first reading on December 7 before final reading at an additional legislative meeting on December 21.

Drafts of these measures are attached. Should you have questions, please contact Will Singer, Legislative Director in my office, at wsinger@dccouncil.us or (202) 724-8199.

cc: All Councilmembers
Office of the Secretary
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs