

ORDINANCE 02-2021

WARD REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT

WHEREAS, Section 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Chestertown entitled Districting and Apportionment states that it shall be the duty of the Mayor and Council, by Ordinance, to divide the Town into four (4) wards and apportion the Council in such manner for election purposes so as to reflect population and voter equality, and,

WHEREAS, it has been over 25 years since redistricting of the four voting wards was last accomplished, and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council appointed the eight member (two members from each ward) Redistricting Committee in February 2020 to study the existing ward boundaries, ward populations and ward race populations in order to make recommendations of a fair and balanced reapportionment of the four wards. To accomplish that task, the Redistricting Committee used race and population figures from the 2010 Census with hopes that their initial decisions could be compared to the 2020 Census numbers expected to be made public in March of 2021, and,

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census numbers were not completed or released in March 2021 due to delays caused by the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic and the imminence of the Town election in the Fall of 2021 made it necessary to act as early as possible to assure a fair ward realignment by the date of the election, and,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Council of Chestertown adopt the attached newly reapportioned voting district map as recommended by the Redistricting Committee in their final report given publicly to the Town Council at their meeting of March 15, 2021. This ordinance having been introduced on April 5, 2021 and adopted on April 19, 2021 is effective May 12, 2021.

Chris Cerino, Mayor

David Foster, Councilmember

Thomas Herz, Councilmember

W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager

Date: April 19, 2021

Ellsworth Tolliver, Councilmember

Meghan Efland, Councilmember

