



# Oregon's Kitchen Table – Hillsboro City Council Ward Boundaries

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In the decade between the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census of Population, the City of Hillsboro's population increased by over 16%. Due to buildable land availability and other factors, the change in population affects the three city council wards differently. The City desires to rebalance the ward boundaries on the principle of equal representation. Starting in spring 2022 the City of Hillsboro (the City) partnered with several programs from Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs in order to provide independent analysis and recommendations to ensure – and to assure the public--that boundaries are not redrawn to benefit incumbent commissioners or in response to other political factors. The City also wanted to make sure that members of the public would have opportunities to provide input at different points of the redistricting process. In addition, this process also provided the opportunity for the City to test new ways of reaching and engaging Hillsboro's diverse residents on public policy issues that affect them.

One of the PSU programs, Oregon's Kitchen Table, worked with the City to conduct a community engagement process to hear from residents of Hillsboro about what was most important to them when considering changes to the city ward district boundaries.

The executive summary provides an overview of the engagement process as well as high level findings. The attached report contains three sections:

- A description of the project’s outreach and engagement activities;
- Commonly held values and beliefs, as well as disagreements;
- A brief conclusion; and
- Appendices, including community discussion and interview guide and annotated survey results.

## **ABOUT OREGON’S KITCHEN TABLE**

The National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) and NPCC’s Oregon’s Kitchen Table are housed within the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. Oregon’s Kitchen Table was created as a piece of permanent civic infrastructure to bring all Oregonians to the table. It is the creation of the Hatfield School, Kitchen Table Democracy and a group of non-partisan, non-profit community organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians have a voice in the decisions that affect them. It combines online and in-person engagement practices to create a wide variety of options for participation.

We are committed to engaging community members from all walks of life – particularly communities that typically have not been represented or engaged in public processes - to achieve deep engagement. Using culturally specific and targeted outreach, Oregon's Kitchen Table has a particular focus on hearing from Oregonians who have been left out of traditional engagement processes. We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person engagement activities are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways. We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues / policies. We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.

## **OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

The purpose of this Oregon’s Kitchen Table project was twofold: 1. to hear from people throughout Hillsboro about what matters most to them related to city council ward boundaries; and 2. to hear from communities, particularly those whose members have limited English proficiency, about how they access City information and services. In order to reach a number of different communities, we created a variety of ways for residents of Hillsboro to provide input in multiple languages over several weeks

starting May 24<sup>th</sup> and ending July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We held two public forums, one in-person and one via Zoom with Spanish interpretation available. We also offered an online survey in Chinese, English, Spanish and Vietnamese. We also worked with community organizers and partners to support community members in giving input through paper surveys, online surveys, in community discussions, and through individual interviews. OKT and City staff also attended nine culturally specific and community festivals and events to talk with community members and direct people to the paper and online surveys in multiple languages.

The City, OKT, and multiple partners conducted outreach, primarily through online channels such as social media and emails and group messaging platforms. Community organizers also connected with people through phone calls, text messages, and in-person outreach.

The results of this engagement provide a sense of the values and beliefs held by those who participated at this particular time.

## FINDINGS

The following commonly held perspectives emerged across various discussions, interviews, and responses to survey questions:

- There is limited knowledge about city council wards and the boundaries. There is also confusion about what affects ward boundaries and what impact any changes to them would have, given that city councilors are elected city-wide.
- More than half of participants said they did not know whether the boundaries divided or keep their community together.
- It is important to people that wards are not drawn in a way that favors a political party or an incumbent candidate.
- Having equal numbers of people in each ward is also important to people.
- People also said they didn't want to see ward boundaries weaken the voting strength of any language or ethnic group.
- People viewed their neighborhood and school zones as the primary communities to which they belonged.

- They also identified people with the same culture or language and people living in the same kind of housing as them as forming the communities to which they belong.

There were also some areas that people identified as confusing or as ones where they felt some conflict. These include:

- Several people wondered whether the ward system was necessary while others suggested adding additional wards, particularly given that there are areas of the city likely to experience future growth.
- While people didn't want to see the voting strength of any ethnic or language group diluted, several people also said they want to see wards have a mix of different communities, including different ethnic, racial and language groups as well as different levels of income and types of housing. People frequently noted how important diversity was to them when thinking about their communities in general.
- Several people were also interested in understanding patterns of future growth and development and taking that into consideration when considering boundary changes.

## **FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS**

In addition to providing the City with information about people's values and beliefs around their city council ward boundaries, this engagement process also provided some insight into how the City might continue to engage people around future policy decisions, particularly people who may have limited English proficiency or experience hearing impairment. Responses from this effort provide some areas for the City to focus on as they continue to identify ways to engage people in future policy decisions.

- Two main methods of outreach identified by participants are the City of Hillsboro website and the City's newsletters.
- Mailings to people's homes and Facebook are two other channels people identified as good channels for the City to use.

- For people who prefer to use a language other than English, responses were mixed in terms of whether they were able to get the information or services they sought from the City.
- For people who experience a hearing impairment, most people were not able to get the information or services they sought from the City.

In terms of future engagement around city council ward boundaries, the City may want to consider additional outreach and engagement with communities with limited English proficiency, particularly Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean speaking community members. There may be culturally specific events and activities in the coming months where City staff could provide information about upcoming boundary changes and seek input prior to the City Council's adoption of any changes. City staff may also want to consider concentrating recruiting members of these communities to join the Hillsboro Civic Leadership Academy as another opportunity to participate and to continue to strengthen relationships with different communities.

In addition, given the anticipated growth and development in parts of Hillsboro, the City may want to consider a more in-depth review of city councilor ward boundaries before the next US Census is conducted in 2030.

## **SECTION 1: PROJECT GOALS AND DESIGN**

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### **ENGAGEMENT GOALS**

The purpose of this project was to hear from people throughout Hillsboro about what mattered most to them regarding their city council ward boundaries. We also wanted to create opportunities that made it easy for people who might have limited English proficiency to participate.

### **DESIGN / OUTREACH**

In order to reach people throughout Hillsboro, Oregon's Kitchen Table and the City developed a multi-faceted set of engagement activities. OKT conducted two public meetings in English with Spanish interpretation, one via Zoom and one in-person. We also hosted an online survey in Chinese, English, Spanish and Vietnamese

and made paper surveys available in these languages at eight different community and culturally specific events.

Outreach for the public forums and the online survey was primarily conducted by the City of Hillsboro through multiple channels, including through multiple email lists, city partners, the city website, and social media. Outreach also included an email to Oregon's Kitchen Table email list and social media posts. Participants in the public forums and people who we talked to at community events were also invited to share the online survey with their networks.

We also worked with community organizers and partners to support community members in giving input through paper surveys, online surveys, in community discussions, and through individual interviews in Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.

In addition, teams from OKT and the City attended and tabled at nine different community and culturally specific events. These events provided opportunities to talk with community members about the city council ward system and upcoming changes to the boundaries as well as to invite people to respond to survey questions, either on paper or online. The City made tablets available to make it easier for people to respond directly online at the event. These events also provided an opportunity to have more in-depth discussions with people and discuss why they held the beliefs they did.

Because this engagement was intended for the general public, it assumes that respondents bring different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding city government. It was our goal to ensure that those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.

Across all forms of engagement, people were given some background information about the need for the City of Hillsboro to make adjustments to its ward boundaries. People were asked how much they knew about the City's councilor wards. They were then asked a series of questions about their priorities for criteria used in making decisions about district boundaries, including how they might describe what it means to belong to a community. Both the survey and public forums asked people about how people wanted the City to communicate with them while the survey included additional questions about what their experiences were if they had limited English

proficiency or experienced a hearing impairment. The survey provided additional questions beyond those discussed at community conversations or public forums. Respondents were also asked a question about growth areas and city councilor ward boundaries. People were given opportunities to share any other thoughts with the City that they might have. Through the survey participants were asked where they lived in Hillsboro as well as their age, how long they've lived in Hillsboro, and their race, ethnicity or Tribal affiliation.

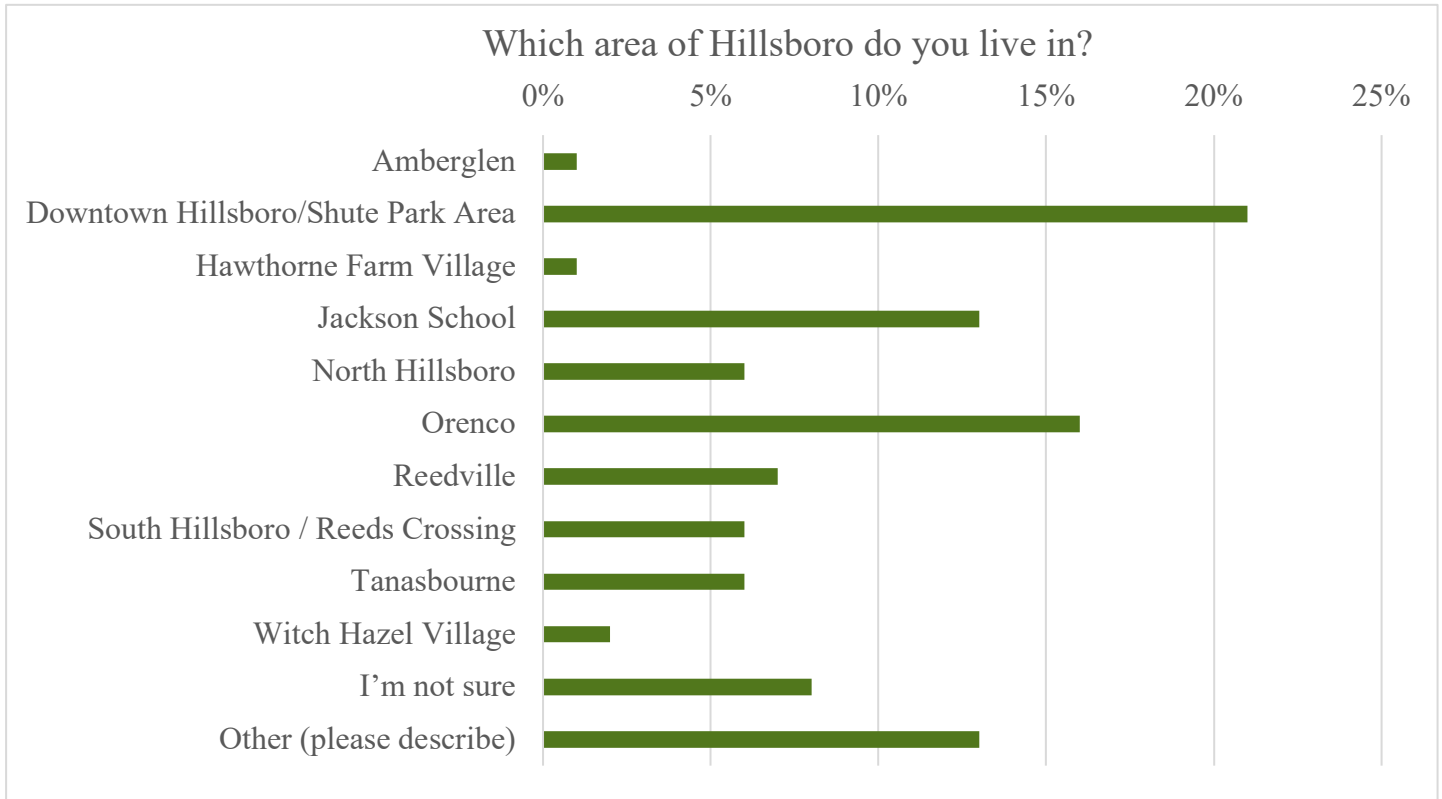
The public forums were designed as opportunities for the City to hear more in-depth from residents about their priorities for their city council ward boundaries. They were also designed for participants to hear from and learn from each other to gain a better understanding of what might matter to their fellow city residents. In this format, facilitators were able to ask people to explain their thinking or reasoning in more detail. Participants also had the chance to ask each other questions and to build off of one another's ideas. The design for the forums and discussions is attached as Appendix A (Public Forum Slides) and Appendix B (Community Discussion Guide).

## **PARTICIPATION**

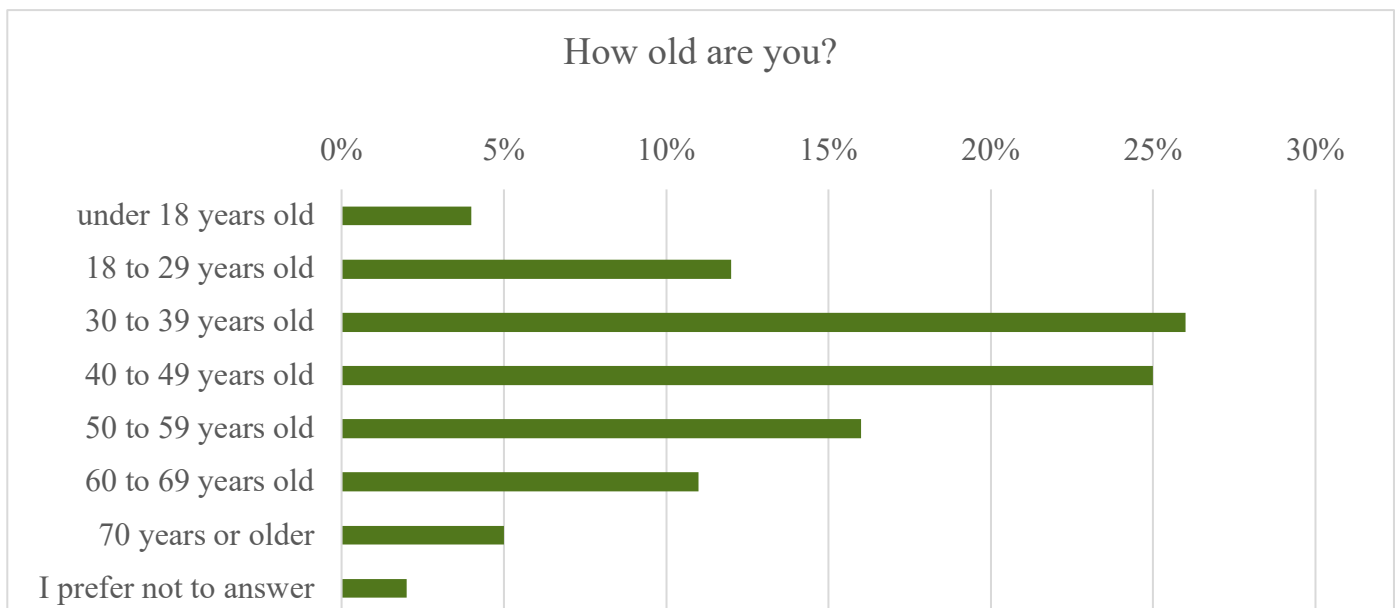
About 620 people participated in the different forms of engagement activities. A total of 593 people responded to the OKT survey. Approximately 15 Hillsboro residents participated in public forums or community discussions. Another 15 Hillsboro residents participated in individual interviews. These activities were conducted between May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Across both the surveys and interviews, 75% of participants prefer to use English, 14% prefer to use Spanish, 4% prefer to use Russian, 3% prefer to use Chinese, and 3% prefer to use Japanese. We also heard from smaller numbers of people who prefer Hindi, Korean, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

21% of people who responded to the survey live in Downtown Hillsboro/Shute Park Area, 16% said they live in Orenco, and 13% selected Jackson School as their neighborhood. For the 13% who selected “other”, people most often wrote in their street intersection or another neighborhood not listed.



Over two-thirds of participants (67%) were under the age of 50 years old.





In addition, the two largest groups either have lived in Hillsboro for 5 years or less (30%) or for 21 years or more (29%). The majority of people who responded to the survey own their own home (60%) with 24% identifying as renting their home or apartment and 12% as living with friends or family.

## **SECTION 2: COMMON THEMES and DISTINCTIONS on CITY COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES**

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### **AWARENESS OF CITY COUNCIL WARDS**

While some people were somewhat aware of the City Council wards and who the City Councilors were, just over half didn't know anything about the city council wards (52%). During community events and various discussions, people often needed to locate their residence on a map to determine which ward they were in. We also heard some confusion or uncertainty about the wards themselves, the purpose they serve, and how changes to the boundaries might directly impact them as residents of Hillsboro. We heard the following areas of confusion or uncertainty:

- During community events, people often needed to locate their residence on a map to determine which ward they were in. Only 5% responded that they “knew a lot” about the City Council Wards in Hillsboro when asked via the survey.
- Uncertainty was also evident in the number of people who shared that they were not sure if the current boundaries kept their community together or not. 54% of people who responded to the survey said “I don't know or I'm not sure” when asked if they thought the current boundaries divided their community or kept it together.
- We also heard a desire to better understand when and where future population growth and development was going to occur as well as new physical boundaries like major roads or transit expansion was planned.
- There was also differing degrees of understanding about the impacts of city ward boundaries, particularly in terms of how communities' voting power might be impacted.

While some people were unsure whether or not the current boundaries divided their community, slightly more people thought they kept their communities together (as opposed to dividing their community). 26% of people in the survey said “They keep my community together.” 20% said “They divide my community.”

*These are a selection of some of the comments we heard through online and paper surveys. The full set of comments are provided in a separate file to the City. Comments submitted through surveys are not altered or edited by Oregon’s Kitchen Table. These are presented as written by participants. For comments submitted in languages other than English, we have provided a rough translation.*

### **Excerpted comments**

I am afraid that the wards are so big. Other than for votes, what functions do they serve

I wonder why there aren't 6 wards if there are 6 councilors? Maybe there's a reason, but if there isn't then I would recommend considering that option.

If the areas that are growing are spread between the three wards, how does that work? I live in an older, well established neighborhood. Aren't the issues I deal with going to be different from someone who lives in a brand new neighborhood? Maybe they should be their own ward?

To repeat my previous answer about community, I think geography is a poor way to divide the city. Elect all members with ranked choice voting and proportional representation.

Hillsboro should be more vocal to community about what wards currently enable, and/or what they ought to. If a vocal political minority "takes over" a ward as has been done in other cities and states, then what damage can be done to Hillsboro?

## **PREFERENCES FOR CRITERIA**

Across all forms of engagement, people were asked to prioritize or rank different criteria that might be used in determining boundaries, including common criteria that other bodies, such as the Oregon State Legislature, consider.

They were also asked to identify what “communities of interest” they might most identify with. Some common responses emerged, including:

- Many people shared that they wanted to make sure boundary lines were not drawn to favor political parties or incumbents.
- People generally wanted to ensure that population sizes were balanced across districts

- Through surveys and community discussions, people also shared that it was important not to dilute the voting strength of people with similar languages and ethnicities.
- The communities of interest that people most identified with were neighborhoods and schools.
- People also ranked “People with the same culture or language as me” and “People who live in the same type of housing as me” as among the top communities of interest they identified with.

### **Excerpted comments**

I live in Ward 3 and I see myself as connected around the downtown and civic center. I am not sure if people in the far east side of Ward 3 think the same. Ward 2 seems connected around Orenco and south. Maybe separate the Wards into a north, south and west area.

I would just want the new ward lines to be drawn in a way that provides the most equitable representation for all people in our community, allowing everyone to feel as if they have an equal voice when voting.

Keep neighborhoods (defined by HOAs and elementary school boundaries) together.

Protect communities of color by not splitting them up. Find ways to empower communities of color and low income communities. Jackson school and other wealthy communities are overrepresented in access and power. Also, downtown and Shute Park should NOT be considered the same neighborhood on this survey. There are distinct income, culture, and racial differences

Que dividan las áreas de una forma que no se note tanto la diferencia de clases (Divide the areas in a way that the difference in classes is not so noticeable)

Que Las minority tenemos voz no solo Los que tienen mejor trabajo or salario.salaries.. todas Las Comunidades son importantes y tenemos derecho a Los mismo benefits. (That the minority have a voice, not only those who have better jobs or salaries. All communities are important and we have the right to the same benefits.)

We should not keep the same language and culture in one district. That's unfair. People with a variety of language and culture live together, that's the U.S.

In the U.S, schools are strongly connected with the community. For example, high school students come to elementary school to see teachers after graduation. Feels like schools are core of the community.

Wards should take into account where folks across the city haven't been represented at council.

They were also asked to identify what “communities of interest” they might most identify with. Some common responses emerged, including:

- Many people also noted how important diversity in different ways (language, race, ethnicity, jobs, income levels, housing types) was to them when thinking about a community in general
- Some people wanted to see wards have a mix of different communities while others were concerned about not splitting up groups (particularly around race, ethnicity, and language) and diluting voting power.
- In a couple of discussions, using existing boundaries came up (roads / transportation routes or school zones / utility districts) as a preference, though survey responses didn’t reflect this preference beyond a preference for “school zones.”
- When talking about belonging to a community, people also pointed to going to the same shops / stores / events / hobbies / activities as one another

### **Excerpted comments**

A community has a singular focus that binds its members together. In this context I would think it would be the quality of life for the people in the ward.

Acceptance, reliance on others within the group (or the group as a whole) for social and identity purposes.

Being able to lean on each other. Having shared goals for our children and loved ones

Belonging to a community means I feel connected, my voice is being heard.  
I am informed of what is going on in my community. The city values my inputs. There are people who look alike me, have the same cultural as me.

Diversity in culture, economics and ages

Eventos que nos conectan (Events that connect us)

### Excerpted comments

Feeling shared cultural traditions, feeling welcomed and safe

For me, these considerations seem to run counter to diversity and inclusion. I know that's not the intent or purpose. I love Hillsboro because I am part of a community of people with a full spectrum of circumstances, backgrounds and interests.

Gathering and sharing experiences. Helping neighbors.

Having the same level of education, shared interests and values in life.

I think community can be any and all of those things, and geography is a silly way to divide people. The wards should be abolished and all council members elected at large with ranked choice voting and proportional representation.

I want to belong to a immigrant community, because I am a immigrant.

Lo que la jente que vive hai ase para ayudar, cuidar y sostener el lugar donde viven (What the people who live there do to help, care for and sustain the place where they live)

People who live in the same type of house/ apartment as me who have the same general lifestyle. A transit oriented development like orenco station is a different community than a neighborhood with single family housing. Culture is also important as well. The rural/urban divide should definitely be considered to give more rural parts of Hillsboro more representation if possible. I think its okay for Wards to have different population sizes if it represents a distinct community more

政府重视社区的安全 (The government takes the safety of the community seriously)

Safety was mentioned many times and in multiple languages when people were invited to share what belonging to a community meant to them. While several people simply wrote “safety”, “security”, or “seguridad,” other people explained why safety was important to them or went into greater detail about what they mean by “safety” or “security.” Some people added “taking care of each other” or “looking out for one another” alongside safety. Other people noted “having a space that feels welcoming” or feeling like they belong.

### **Excerpted comments**

A community to me is people who care for and about each other

Caring about each other's well being and safety, especially for kids and elderly

Community activities that create relationships. It helps you feel more safe knowing the people around you.

I think about feeling safe, safe to be me, safe to ask for help, (and actually get help) safe to speak up and share what ideas we have, to help lift up others that need it the most. No matter who you are, how you are, where you are & what you are.

I think of people coming together in supporting, helping each other. Looking out for each other regarding crime, safety.

Active policing of potential traffic and house less areas. More support for police and stopping traffic abusers ie speeding and drifting type problems before they become "normal".

政府重视社区的安全 (Rough translation: The government takes the safety of the community seriously)

Safety concerns also came up many times in response to the final question inviting people to share anything else with City of Hillsboro leaders. In these responses, many of the comments didn't directly tie safety to ward boundaries; however, it is important to note that this is a top concern for several people in Hillsboro. People referred to concerns about crime, lightning at night, wanting to see more mental health support services, and road safety related to pedestrians, bikers, and traffic.

Participants also went into further details about what "culture" might mean to them in open comments. There was a variety of ways that people described culture; some of the common responses that people used to describe culture include:

- Food
- Celebrations
- Traditions
- Church community

- Faith
- Heritage
- Language
- Same beliefs / values
- Art
- Activities / events

## **FUTURE AREAS OF GROWTH OR DEVELOPMENT**

Participants were also asked how important it is to make sure that areas most likely to grow are spread across wards. People generally thought this is important, with 34% responding “very important” and 39% responding “somewhat important. 10% said they didn’t know.

Discussions in community conversations echoed a desire to see future growth, including the types of future growth, taken into consideration when making changes to ward boundaries. In a couple of the community discussions, participants discussed how Ward One has grown due to development of apartment communities and rental properties. At the same time, several people shared concerns and experiences about challenges in finding representation from Ward One residents on boards or committees or in running for elected office. We also heard a desire to learn more about when and where growth was most likely to happen as well as new or extensions of existing transportation routes.

### **Excerpted comments**

Do not break up a traditional community by a new drawing just because a newly developed area has more population.

If the areas that are growing are spread between the three wards, how does that work? I live in an older, well established neighborhood. Aren't the issues I deal with going to be different from someone who lives in a brand new neighborhood? Maybe they should be their own ward?

As south Hillsboro and other areas grow you may need to divide the wards up differently.

Be careful when aligning that all the apartments aren’t in one ward.

### **SECTION 3: PREFERENCES FOR and EXPERIENCES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS ON IMPORTANT CITY ISSUES**

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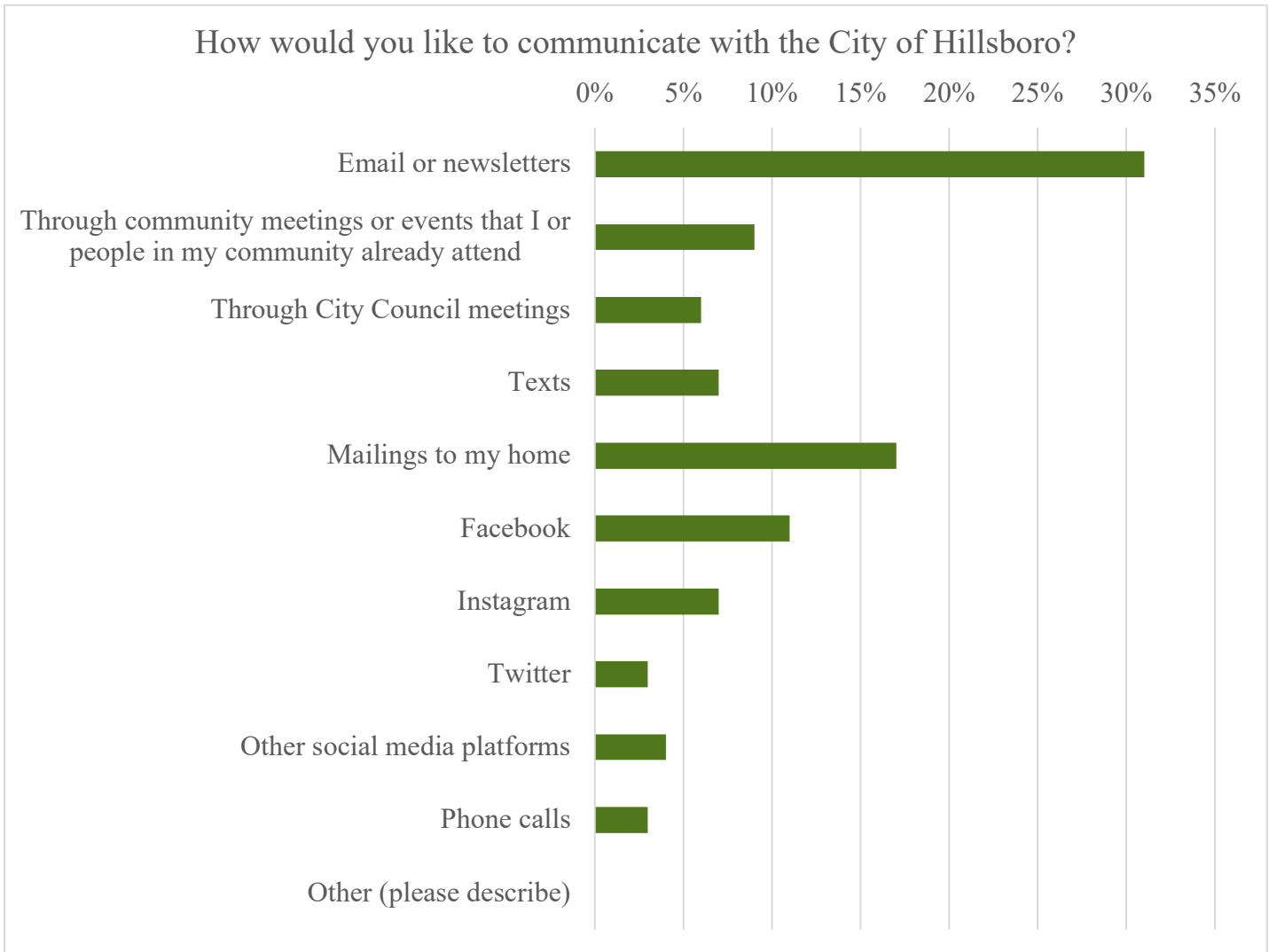
Besides learning about people's values and beliefs around City Council Ward boundaries, this public engagement effort also provided some insight into how people get information about the City of Hillsboro as well as how often they wanted to hear from the City. The City was particularly interested in learning more about accessibility of City information and services.

In terms of where people find out information about the City, the City's newsletters (16%), the City's website (10%), and other people such as friends, neighbors, family or colleagues (10%) were the three main sources. Several people shared that they often turn to friends or family members who are more proficient in English in order to get information or learn more about City services.

A few people also mentioned that they wished there was more of a "one stop place" for all City information or services; they shared experiences of trying to navigate across different city newsletters or social media accounts to find the information they were looking for. One person shared, "Sometimes I do not remember where I found the info and had to look around on various pages. I am good at searching for them, but my mom friends often miss them and are surprised at me finding some useful info. I wish all the information is one place." Otherwise, newspaper, radio, or TV (9%) and Facebook (8%) were the next sources of information about the City.



Similarly, people also prefer to communicate with the City of Hillsboro through emails or newsletters (31%), mailings to their residences (17%), and Facebook (11%).



In terms of people’s experiences in finding information or receiving the services they were looking for when they use a language other than English, several people said that they were able to access translations or interpretation assistance. One person noted that a challenge for them is that “Some of the sub pages do not translate” on the City’s website. We also heard from Ukrainian speaking participants that while they sometimes are able to access information and services in Russian, it is particularly important to them to be able to do so in Ukrainian. Other people said that they would like to see the City have more staff or resources available in different languages, such as Vietnamese or Ukrainian.

### Excerpted Comments

I called and asked for staff who could speak Vietnamese to help me with some questions but there was no one available to help, not even the interpreter. I would like the city of Hillsboro to have some more diverse staff who could speak different language other than English and Spanish. Thank you. This message is translated by Google translate.

WeChat Chinese group really helps me to know more about Hillsboro city information.

When I learned about this project and it is conducted in Japanese, I was really surprised and glad. I really wanted to participate, and tell my story to the city.

希望政府多跟社区组织联系，以及举办更多展现多元文化的活动

(I hope the government will contact more community organizations and organize more activities to showcase multiculturalism)

As a community worker, I would advocate for more important community-related materials to be translate into the language of my community (Russian, Ukrainian)

## SECTION 4: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

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We heard from a number of people that they were interested in continuing to stay informed as the City goes through the next stages of the ward redistricting process. We also heard some anticipation from some community members that additional growth in the coming years could mean the City might need to again adjust its district boundaries. This was especially true when people were asked to think about areas where more population growth was likely to occur. The City may want to consider revisiting the ward boundaries before the next US Census is conducted in 2030.

As the City moves forward with making adjustments to its boundaries now there will likely be a desire for community members to continue to stay engaged, particularly when

the City reviews recommendations for new boundaries. We recommend that the City consider how to share what they heard from people here and to share what decisions are ultimately made at different steps. This will be another key component in letting the public know that boundaries are not redrawn to benefit incumbent city councilors or other political factors.

The Hillsboro Civic Leadership Academy will also provide opportunities for residents of Hillsboro to learn more about the ward redistricting process and about what their neighbors value and believe. We encourage the City to use this opportunity to focus recruitment efforts with communities who have been historically excluded from traditional public decision making processes. In addition, there may be opportunities for the members of the Civic Leadership Academy to hear directly from some of their neighbors over the course of the Academy. We would especially recommend the City connect to Vietnamese, Korean, and Tagalog speaking community members for recruitment for the Civic Leadership Academy and participation in any further engagement opportunities.

## **SECTION 5: CONCLUSION**

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This engagement process provides the City of Hillsboro with a sense of what people most value and prioritize. We encourage the City to return to community members to share how their input was used in making decisions related to changing the ward boundaries as well as what the City ultimately decides on. It will be important to highlight which values and priorities the City used in making those decisions so people understand how their input was used.

## Appendix A. Hillsboro City Council Ward Boundaries – Guide for Community Conversations and Interviews

### Hillsboro City Council Ward Boundaries Oregon's Kitchen Table Guide for Community Conversations and Interviews

#### WELCOME:

Ask people: Please share your name and one thing you love about living in the City of Hillsboro

#### INTRODUCTION:

Please share the following background with the group about the purpose of the meeting and background about the topic:

The City of Hillsboro is getting ready to change the boundaries of its three City Council Wards. The 2020 United States (US) Census shows that the number of people living in the wards has changed. The wards each need to have about the same number of people. So, the boundaries for the wards will need to change.

The City of Hillsboro is working with Oregon's Kitchen Table, a program at Portland State University. We want to hear what matters to you about ward boundary changes.

Six City Councilors govern the City of Hillsboro along with the Mayor. Councilors are elected. Two councilors live in each ward. All councilors represent the whole City. They make policy and set the vision of the city.

The new ward boundary lines will affect many things. They'll affect who is likely to be elected. They'll also affect how you and your community have a voice in city government.

Your input will help guide the changes to the boundaries. Your input will also help people find out about city services, programs, and decision-making. We are gathering input in different ways through June 24<sup>th</sup>. People in Hillsboro can share through community conversations like this, at community events, and through paper and online surveys.

Oregon's Kitchen Table will create a summary report from all of the input. They will share the report with the City and post it on their website.

#### **Make sure to let people know that their responses will be confidential!**

None of the responses will be tied to your name or anything else that identifies you.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE CONVERSATION

Here are some questions for the conversation. We know that a conversation will take its own course, but **Questions 4, 5, and 6 are most key** to ask people since these are questions focused on making changes to the ward boundaries.

#### Who's the Room

1. Which ward do you live in?

## Appendix A. Hillsboro City Council Ward Boundaries – Guide for Community Conversations and Interviews

### How you learn about the City of Hillsboro

2. How do you get information about the City of Hillsboro?
3. How would you like to hear from the City of Hillsboro?

### Belonging to a Community

4. What do you most identify with when you think about belonging to a community? What kinds of things do you have in common or share?

Some common examples:

- People who live in the same neighborhood as me
- People in the same school zone as me
- People with an income level like mine
- People who live in the same kind of housing as I do. Examples are a house or an apartment
- People with the same culture or language as me
- People who have jobs like me
- People who have views like mine, for instance politics

5. From the list we created, what is the most important kind of community for you when thinking about drawing city council ward boundaries?

### Standards used for drawing ward boundaries

Common standards that cities often think about when drawing ward boundaries are:

- People in a ward live as close to each other as possible.
- All parts of the ward touch each other.
- About the same number of people live in each ward.
- Use other boundaries that exist like school district, legislative district, or utility district.
- Wards keep people with shared, common interests together.
- Wards are not drawn in a way that help a political party or candidates who are in office.
- Ward boundaries do not weaken the voting strength of any language or ethnic group.
- Use transportation routes like roads or bus routes for boundaries.

6. From this list, which are the two or three that are MOST important you? Why are they important to you?

### Closing Question (if time)

7. What's one hope you have for Hillsboro over the next ten years before the next Census?

### CLOSING THE DISCUSSION

- Thank them
- Let them know that their input will be sent to Oregon's Kitchen Table to combine with other input from community gatherings, survey responses, and interviews. OKT will give a summary report of all of the input to the City of Hillsboro this summer.
- Also, let people know to invite their family, friends, neighbors to contribute their thoughts through the online survey through July 10th.

## INTRODUCTION

Hello! You are part of the City of Hillsboro and we value your input. We want to ask you some questions about what matters to you about Hillsboro City Council Wards. We also want to ask how you get information from the City of Hillsboro.

Hillsboro has three City Council Wards. The 2020 United States (US) Census shows that the number of people living in the wards has changed. The wards each need to have about the same number of people. So, the boundaries for the wards will need to change.

The City of Hillsboro is working with Oregon’s Kitchen Table, a program at Portland State University. We want to hear what matters to you about ward boundary changes.

Your input will help guide the changes to the boundaries. Your input will also help people find out about city services, programs, and decision-making.

We will also host community conversation. You can join on June 2, 2022 from 6pm-8pm (in-person at Hillsboro Senior Center) or June 8, 2022 from 6pm-8pm (by Zoom). Learn more here - <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/hillsboro-wards>.

Please fill out this survey if you live in Hillsboro. You can fill it out through July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## BACKGROUND

### **What are city council wards?**

Six City Councilors govern the City of Hillsboro along with the Mayor. Councilors are elected. Two councilors live in each ward. All councilors represent the whole City. They make policy and set the vision of the city.

The new ward boundary lines will affect many things. They’ll affect who is likely to be elected. They’ll also affect how you and your community have a voice in city government.

### **How will the City use the results of this survey?**

OKT will give the City of Hillsboro a summary report with the results of this survey. We will also include a summary report of the community conversations. The City Council will change the ward boundaries later this year. We will also post the report on our website at <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>.

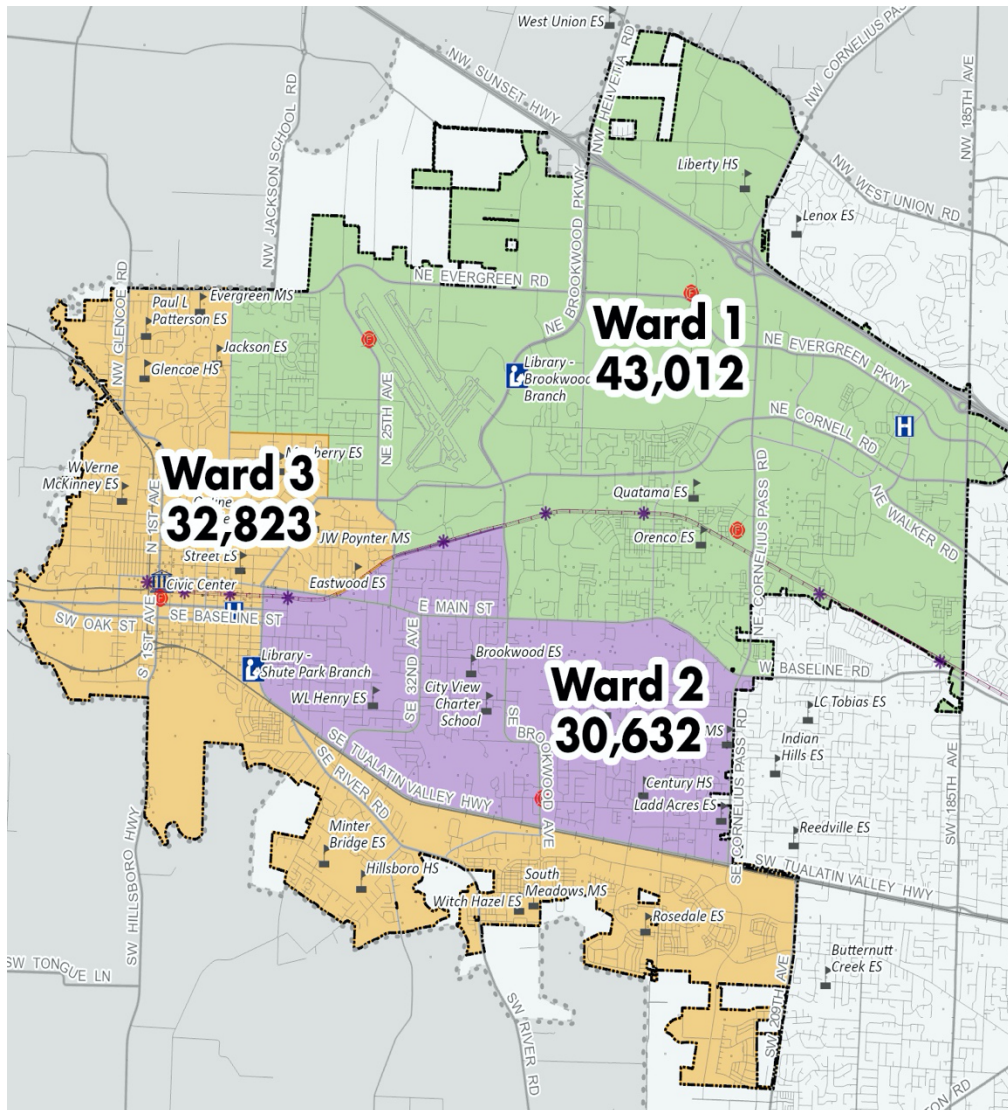
### **How can I help?**

Please share your thoughts in this survey. Ask people you know to take this survey if they live in Hillsboro. You can also attend a community conversation. You can join on June 2, 2022 from 6pm-8pm (in-person at Hillsboro Senior Center) or June 8, 2022 from 6pm-8pm (by Zoom).

### **How can I learn more?**



Learn more about the ward update project on the City of Hillsboro’s website (<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/CouncilWards>).



**How can I get more involved in Hillsboro government?**

You can apply to the Hillsboro Civic Leadership Academy (<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/academy>). Anyone who lives in Hillsboro can apply.

You can also contact the Hillsboro City Council (<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/departments/city-manager-s-office/hillsboro-101/contact-the-city-council>).

**Will my answers on this survey be private?**

Yes. All answers will be private or confidential. We will not tie your answers to your name or contact information, if you choose to share those. You can read about Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s privacy policy at <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/privacy-policy>. Please email Oregon’s Kitchen Table at [info@oregonskitchentable.org](mailto:info@oregonskitchentable.org) or call 503-725-5248 if you have questions.



## SURVEY QUESTIOS

*Note: Some total percentages may not be exactly 100% due to rounding.*

### 1. Before today, how much did you know about the City Council Wards in Hillsboro?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=590
I knew a lot	5%
I knew some	37%
I didn't know at all	52%
I'm not sure	6%

### 2. Do you know who the Hillsboro City Councilors are?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=584
I know them all	13%
I know who a couple of them are	35%
I don't know any	45%
I'm not sure	7%

### 3. Where do you get your information about the City of Hillsboro? Please select all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=2209
Newspaper, radio, or TV	9%
Facebook	8%
Instagram	3%
Twitter	2%
Next Door	4%
Schools	5%
Faith based place, such as a church, a synagogue, or a mosque	1%
From City Councilors or the Mayor	3%
From City staff	5%
From the City website	10%
Classes and activities offered at city community centers. Examples are Shute Park Aquatic Center, Hidden Creek Community Center, Walters Cultural Arts Center, and the Hillsboro Senior Center	6%
Programs and activities offered by a Hillsboro library	6%



Programs offered through a Hillsboro City Department. Examples are the Job Training Opportunity Program, the Internship Program, and the Energy Assistance Efficiency Grant Program.	2%
City newsletters, such as City Views, Happening in Hillsboro, ¡Creciendo Juntos!, Shelf Talk, Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts, The Badge and Beyond	16%
From people I know	10%
From community partners or organizations	5%
Through community meetings or events that I or people in my community already attend	3%
I don't get information about the City of Hillsboro	1%
Other (please describe)	1%

Other common responses: YouTube, Youth Advisory Council, Reddit, as a City or County employee

**4. How would you like to communicate with the City of Hillsboro? Please select all that apply:**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=1342
Email or newsletters	31%
Through community meetings or events that I or people in my community already attend	9%
Through City Council meetings	6%
Texts	7%
Mailings to my home	17%
Facebook	11%
Instagram	7%
Twitter	3%
Other social media platforms	4%
Phone calls	3%
Other (please describe)	<1%

Other common responses: Surveys / Encuestas, depends on reason for communicating, local newspapers

**5. Please share your contact information (Name and Email) to stay informed about the results of this survey and other ways to share what you think with the City of Hillsboro. Your responses to questions won't be tied to your name or your contact information. You can choose to answer this question or not.**

Responses provided to the City of Hillsboro.

**6. What language do you or any of your family members prefer to receive information from the City of Hillsboro?**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=677
Chinese	3%

English	75%
Hindi	1%
Japanese	<1%
Korean	<1%
Russian	4%
Spanish	14%
Vietnamese	<1%
Another language not listed here (please write the language):	2%

Other common responses: Ukrainian (1%)

**7. Have you been able to get the information or services you were looking for after contacting the City in a language other than English?**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=589
Yes	10%
No	9%
I don't know or I'm not sure	10%
This question doesn't apply to me	71%

**8. If you experience a hearing impairment, have you been able to get the information or services you were looking for after contacting the City?**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=586
Yes	2%
No	10%
I don't know or I'm not sure	4%
This question doesn't apply to me	83%

**9. If your answer to question 7 or 8 above is yes, please share what your experience was like.**

*Responses provided to the City of Hillsboro.*

**10. When thinking about how City Council Wards should be drawn, what is most important to you? Please select the top three things that matter. Please choose only three.**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=1465
People in a ward live as close to each other as possible.	9%
All parts of the ward touch each other.	6%

About the same number of people live in each ward.	19%
Use other boundaries that exist like school district, legislative district, or utility district.	12%
Wards keep people with shared, common interests together.	8%
Wards are not drawn in a way that help a political party or candidates who are in office.	21%
Ward boundaries do not weaken the voting strength of any language or ethnic group.	19%
Use transportation routes like roads or bus routes for boundaries.	6%

11. Below are some of the ways that some cities have defined communities of interest. Please choose the three that are most important to you when you think about belonging to a community. Please choose only three.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=1352
People who live in the same neighborhood as me	33%
People in the same school zone as me	25%
People with an income level like mine	7%
People who live in the same kind of housing as I do. Examples are a house or an apartment	11%
People with the same culture or language as me	13%
People who have jobs like me	4%
People who have views like mine, for instance politics	7%

12. What do you think about most when you think about belonging to a community?

*Responses provided to the City of Hillsboro.*

13. Do you feel like the current City Council Ward boundaries divide your community or keep it together?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=584
They divide my community	20%
They keep my community together	26%
I don't know or I'm not sure.	54%

14. Over the next few years, more people will live in some areas of Hillsboro. The areas include Reeds Crossing, South Hillsboro, and Witch Hazel Village South. How important is it to you that areas that are likely to grow are spread evenly across wards?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=587
Very important	34%
Somewhat important	39%
Somewhat not important	8%
Not important at all	9%
Don't know	10%

15. Is there anything else you want to share with City of Hillsboro leaders? You can share more about City Council Wards. You can also share more about other city projects or services.

*Responses provided to the City of Hillsboro.*

16. Which area of Hillsboro do you live in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=586
Amberglen	1%
Downtown Hillsboro/Shute Park Area	21%
Hawthorne Farm Village	1%
Jackson School	13%
North Hillsboro	6%
Orengo	16%
Reedville	7%
South Hillsboro / Reeds Crossing	6%
Tanasbourne	6%
Witch Hazel Village	2%
I'm not sure	8%
Other (please describe)	13%

*Other common responses: Airport, Brookwood, Southeast Hillsboro, Turner Creek, Jones Farm, Baseline / Cornelius Pass*

17. How old are you?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=586
under 18 years old	4%
18 to 29 years old	12%
30 to 39 years old	26%
40 to 49 years old	25%

50 to 59 years old	16%
60 to 69 years old	11%
70 years or older	5%
I prefer not to answer	2%

**18. How many years have you lived in Hillsboro?**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=585</b>
5 years or less	30%
6 to 10 years	19%
11 to 20 years	21%
21 years or more	29%
I prefer not to say	2%

**19. Which of the following describes your racial or ethnic identity? Please mark all that apply.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=722</b>
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>10%</b>
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%
American Indian	2%
Canadian (Inuit, Métis and First Nation)	<1%
Indigenous Mexican, Central American	5%
Indigenous South American	1%
<b>Asian (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>10%</b>
Asian	<1%
Asian Indian	2%
Chinese	4%
Filipino	1%
Hmong	<1%
Japanese	<1%
Korean	<1%
Laotian	<1%
Vietnamese	<1%
South Asian	<1%
Other Asian	<1%
<b>Black or African American (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>4%</b>
Black or African American	1%

African (Black)	1%
African American	2%
Caribbean (Black)	<1%
Other Black	<1%
<b>Hispanic or Latinx (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>19%</b>
Hispanic or Latinx	2%
Mexican	13%
Central American	1%
South American	2%
Other or Latinx	1%
<b>Middle Eastern or North African (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>2%</b>
Middle Eastern or North African	<1%
Middle Eastern	2%
North African	<1%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>2%</b>
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	<1%
Native Hawaiian	<1%
Guamanian or Chamorro	<1%
Samoan	<1%
Other Pacific Islander	<1%
<b>White (mark all that apply)</b>	<b>48%</b>
White	16%
Slavic	5%
Eastern European	3%
Western European	17%
Other White	7%

20. How would you describe your current housing status? Choose all that apply to you.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=615
I own my own home	60%
I rent my home or apartment	24%
I am currently unhoused	1%
I live with friends or family	12%
I live in a shared housing facility that someone else owns or manages. That might include a shelter, a hospital, detention facility, long-term care facility, or nursing home.	<1%
I choose not to answer	3%

Other (please describe)	1%
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*Other common responses: Live with my parents, rent a room from someone*