

23-08-01

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF  
A SIX SINGLE DISTRICT REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR  
THE CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE, SUCH PLAN PROVIDING FOR  
A COUNCIL MEMBER TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH DISTRICT.**

WHEREAS, by ordinance adopted on August 1, 2023, the City Council of the City of Bennettsville adopted a district plan for the City of Bennettsville; and

WHEREAS, 2020 Census Bureau statistics reveal disproportionate variances among certain districts, and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States and the State of South Carolina, the City Council of the City of Bennettsville has resolved it to be in the public interest to adopt a new district plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Bennettsville, with the assistance of the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, has submitted a plan redistricting the council districts of the City of Bennettsville, and the City Council of the City finds such plan to be proper one for the City of Bennettsville and in accordance with the public interest. The criteria for developing said plans is shown on Exhibit 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE IN THE CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

Section 1: The six (6) single member districts plan for the redistricting of the City of Bennettsville, such plan being attached to this ordinance and designated as Exhibit 1, together with a copy of the map showing district lines, attached to this ordinance and designated as Exhibit 2, is hereby adopted.

Section 2: The redistricting plan should be effective for any City Council election held after the effective date hereof.

Section 3: This ordinance in no way affects the current system for the election of a mayor or the current staggered system of electing councilmembers from respective districts.

Section 4: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate distance and independent portion, and such working shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 5: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 6: This ordinance shall become effective upon ratification.

RATIFIED IN COUNCIL this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023.

Carolyn A. Prince  
Carolyn A. Prince

Wanda Weaver  
Council Member

Theresa D. Daniels  
Council Member

[Signature]  
Council Member

[Signature]  
Council Member

[Signature]  
Council Member

Allen Taylor  
Council Member

ATTEST:

Deborah S. Lucas  
Clerk

First Reading: 6-20-23

Second Reading: 8-1-23

EXHIBIT 1

- A. The City of Bennettsville is divided into six (6) districts, as set forth and described in Exhibit 2 to the ordinance.
- B. The City of Council of the City of Bennettsville shall consist of six (6) councilmembers and the mayor.
- C. Each of aforementioned districts shall be represented on the city council by one (1) councilmember, who must be a resident of such district and remain so during his or her term of office, elected by the qualified voters of the district and not at large.

EXHIBIT 2

See attached map showing district lines.

### EXHIBIT 3

#### Criteria For Developing Plans: Redistricting 2023

1. The requirement of "one Person, one vote" under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and accepted variances.
2. The Voting Rights Act, primarily Section 2, which protects the interest of the racial minority population.
3. Other applicable court decisions and federal and state law.

Further, RFA recommends the following set of traditional redistricting principles be considered:

4. Districts or wards will be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district or ward are connected to each other.
5. Districts or wards will be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts.
6. Districts or wards will be geographically compact to the extent practicable, such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for a more distant population.
7. Districts or wards will be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts.
8. Districts or wards will be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts.