

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SUE GALLAGHER, CITY ATTORNEY
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS, CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: REDISTRICTING PROCESS: DECENNIAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL
MEMBER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

AGENDA ACTION: STUDY SESSION: NO ACTION IS REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council hold a study session to review the procedural steps and timelines required for local redistricting. The Council may receive information, ask questions, discuss, and provide direction to staff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council District boundaries must be reviewed every ten years upon receipt of Federal Census data to ensure continuing compliance with the U.S. Constitution and federal and state law. The ten-year review also gives the City the opportunity to adjust the boundaries of the Council Districts for other policy reasons, if the City so desires. The City has contracted with Redistricting Partners, LLC, to provide demographer services to help facilitate the review and redistricting process.

BACKGROUND

On August 29, 2017, the Council adopted a Resolution of Intention No. RES-2017-173 to initiate proceedings to transition from at-large to district-based Council member elections pursuant to the California Voting Rights Act, Elections Code Section 10010 and Government Code Section 34886.

On April 17, 2018, after extensive public hearings and full deliberations, the Council adopted a map creating seven Council districts. Santa Rosa held its first district-based Council member election on November 6, 2018, when the newly formed Council Districts 2, 4, and 6 were on the ballot. The City completed the transition to district-based Council Member elections on November 3, 2020, when Council seats for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 were on the ballot.

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By state law, cities with district-based elections must review the boundaries of their Council districts every ten years, upon release of the decennial Federal Census, to ensure continued compliance with the U.S. Constitution and federal and state law. Since Santa Rosa has district-based elections, the City is required to review the district boundaries and to redistrict as needed, prior to the November 8, 2022 City Council election. At that time, candidates for Districts 2, 4, and 6 will be on the ballot.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On June 8, 2021, the City Council conducted a study session - Council District Redistricting Process and Timeline.

ANALYSIS

In this study session, Redistricting Partners will (a) outline the procedural steps required for the review of existing district boundaries (commonly known as “redistricting”), (b) outline the substantive standards applicable to that review, and (c) set forth the timelines for completion of that process.

The Council may receive information, ask questions, discuss, and provide direction to staff. No formal action will be taken.

FISCAL IMPACT

The study session, itself, does not create a fiscal impact for the organization.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that the implementation of this action may have significant effects on the environment, and that no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- None

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