



CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT

COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS FOR DISTRICT ELECTIONS

THIRD PUBLIC HEARING

City Council Meeting
March 13, 2018

Sue Gallagher, City Attorney

Background

- ❖ City currently elects its City Council members through an at-large voting system.
- ❖ Last July, the City received a certified letter alleging that the at-large voting system impairs the voting strength of the City's Latino voters and thus violates the California Voting Rights Act.
- ❖ After evaluation, Council determined to initiate proceedings to transition the City to a district-based election system.

Public Hearing Process

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010:

- ❖ Two public hearings held prior to drafting of maps:
 - February 6, 2018
 - February 13, 2018

- ❖ Two public hearings to review draft maps:
 - ❖ March 13, 2018
 - ❖ April 10, 2018 (tentative)

- ❖ Final public hearing prior to adoption of ordinance establishing district elections.
 - ❖ April 17, 2018 (tentative)

Goals of Third Public Hearing

- ❖ Review draft maps
- ❖ Receive additional community input regarding the composition of new voting districts
- ❖ Receive additional community input regarding the sequence of district elections
- ❖ Keep community informed about the districting process

Requirements for District Maps

By State and Federal law:

- ❖ Each council district shall contain a nearly equal population
- ❖ District plan shall comply with the California and Federal Voting Rights Acts
- ❖ Race shall not be the predominate factor for district boundaries

Requirements for District Maps

By City Charter:

- ❖ Council shall consist of seven Council members
- ❖ Each Council member shall be elected to four year term
- ❖ Elections shall be staggered
- ❖ Mayor shall be selected by vote of Council members

Optional Additional Factors

- ❖ Communities of interest
- ❖ Respect for other jurisdictional boundaries, such as school districts
- ❖ Compact and contiguous
- ❖ Natural and man-made geographical or topographical features
- ❖ Each district to include public facilities
- ❖ Each district to include commercial interests

Additional Local Factors

- ❖ How best to incorporate recently annexed communities
- ❖ How to address downtown area

Next Steps

- ❖ Council to provide direction on draft district maps and proposed election sequence
- ❖ Public hearing on April 10, 2018 for future input on draft maps and proposed election sequencing
- ❖ Final public hearing and adoption of ordinance
 - April 17, 2018 (tentative)

Note: Final maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Recommendation

It is recommended by the City Attorney that the City Council hold a public hearing to receive input from the community regarding the composition of districts and sequence of elections to be established for district-based election of Council members beginning in November, 2018.

QUESTIONS?