



# CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT

## COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS FOR DISTRICT ELECTIONS

### SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

City Council Meeting  
February 13, 2017

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 (tentative)
  - ❖ April 10, 2018 (tentative)
  
- ❖ Final public hearing prior to adoption of ordinance establishing district elections.
  - ❖ April 17, 2018 (tentative)

# Goals of Second Public Hearing

- ❖ 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

# Process for Creation of Districts

- ❖ Maps to be drafted in consultation with demographer
- ❖ Public outreach and engagement
- ❖ Final district boundaries to be set by ordinance adopted pursuant to Government Code Section 34886
- ❖ District boundaries will be revisited after next census

# 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

- ❖ Draft district maps and proposed election sequence posted by March 6, 2018
- ❖ Two additional public hearings for input on draft maps and proposed election sequencing
  - March 13, 2018 (tentative)
  - April 10, 2018 (tentative)
- ❖ 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?