City of Santa Rosa
Election Year Sequencing

April 10, 2018

Election Year Sequencing

- When the final map is chosen, each district must be assigned an initial election year (either 2018 or 2020) at the time the map is selected

- A move to by-district elections cannot shorten the term of a current Council Member

- Districts come up for election as current terms end: three in 2018 and four in 2020

- Any other combination results in the wrong number of Council Members on the dais

Sequencing Considerations

- Elections Code Section 10010 (b):
  - "In determining the final sequence of the district elections . . . the governing body shall give special consideration to the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, and it shall take into account the preferences expressed by members of the districts."

- Enhance historically under-represented areas' ability to elect their preferred candidate(s)
  - Relatively low-turnout areas may benefit from being on Presidential election years

- Provide historically under-represented areas representation sooner rather than later
  - This goal can conflict with the previous goal when the first by-district elections fall in a gubernatorial election year

- Do not arbitrarily block voters from opportunity to re-elect a current Council Member

Re-Election Impacts

	Council Member Resides in 2018 District	**Council Member Resides in 2020 District**
Council Member Term Ends in 2018	Council Member can run for re-election in the district at end of current term	Council Member leaves the Council at end of term in 2018. Council Member can run for Council in 2020, though not as an incumbent.
Council Member Term Ends in 2020	(Option 1) Council Member leaves the Council at end of term in 2020, and could run for Council in 2022, though not as an incumbent. (Option 2) Council Member runs for by-district seat in 2018. If elected, resigns at-large seat (leaving a 2-year, at-large vacancy) and is sworn into by-district seat. If unsuccessful, remains on Council until 2020 end of current at-large term.	Council Member can run for re-election in the district at end of current term

- ☐ Four current Council Member terms run until 2020

- ☐ Those Council Members remain "at-large" Council Members until 2020, representing (and subject to recall by) the entire city.

- ☐ The residents of any district assigned to a 2020 election remain represented by these at-large Council Members until 2020.

Typical Sequencing Decision Process

1. Final decisions are not made until a single map is chosen

2. If a district has a single current Council Member, that district is assigned the election year of that Council Member

3. If multiple Council Members <u>sharing the same election year</u> are in a given district, that district is assigned the election year of those Council Members

4. For vacant districts and districts with multiple Council Members who are on different election cycles, there are options:

    1. Consideration is given to whether a district has a relatively low-turnout population that would benefit from a Presidential election cycle

    2. Consideration is given to whether an historically under-represented area would benefit from holding an election as soon as possible

    3. If an odd number of current Council Members reside in the district, it could be assigned the election year of the majority of resident Council Members

    4. All things being considered, selection may be by lot