



## AGENDA REPORT

**DATE:** October 15, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Sean P. Quinn, Interim City Manager 

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing No. 2 Regarding the Transition from At-Large to By-District Elections

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Hold public hearing.

### **STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

On September 17, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution 2019-218 intending to transition from at-large to district-based elections. Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010, four public hearings are required to receive public comments on the transition process. Furthermore, a professional demographer will provide a background of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), introduce the mapping tools, and explain the process of transitioning the city from at-large to district-based elections.

### **DISCUSSION**

Over the last several years, cities, school districts and community college districts throughout the state of California have been transitioning from at-large to by-district elections to comply with the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) and / or to avoid litigation. On September 17, 2019, the City Council authorized the transition of the city's election system from at-large to by-district.

The transition process is set forth in the Elections Code. District boundary maps will be drawn by a professional demographer in consultation with the City Attorney and City Manager's Office based on the criteria prescribed by the law and public input. Community input is important to the districting process and all residents are encouraged to attend hearings to provide public input. The hearings are publicly noticed and information about the districting process is also provided on the City's website. Two public hearings are required prior to the maps being drawn and two public hearings are required after the maps and sequencing are published for the specified time period.

A 90-day extension was granted by Shenkman & Hughes, PC, which gives the city a total of 180 days to adopt an ordinance establishing district-based elections.

The first public hearing was held at the regular City Council meeting of October 1, 2019, where the professional demographer, National Demographics Corporation (NDC) gave an overview of the CVRA, the mapping process and the overall transition to district elections. The public also had an opportunity to provide feedback on the election sequence and how district boundaries should be drawn.

It is therefore recommended that the City Council conduct the second of four public hearings tonight to receive additional public comments regarding the transition from at-large to by-district elections for members of the City Council, and to further discuss the criteria and factors that go into the drawing of maps of single-member voting districts, the composition of the districts, and other matters related to the election of members of the City Council.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no specific fiscal impact associated with the proposed recommendation.

### **CITY COUNCIL WORKPLAN**

*Community Safety*  
*Financial and Operational Sustainability*

*Community Infrastructure*  
*Economic Development*

*Quality of Life*  
*Travis Air Force Base*

**City Council Goal this item supports:**  
Financial and Operational Sustainability

**Project:**  
Not Applicable

**PUBLIC CONTACT/ADVISORY BODY RECOMMENDATION**

A Notice of Public Hearing was published on September 24, 2019, in the Daily Republic and across all city channels. Additionally

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION**

N/A

**STAFF CONTACT**

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**COORDINATED WITH**

City Attorney's Office

**REVIEWERS:**

<b>Reviewer</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Snideman, Laura	Approved	10/9/2019 - 2:00 PM
Henry, Alicia	Approved	10/9/2019 - 3:09 PM
Henry, Alicia	Approved	10/10/2019 - 6:16 PM