



**DATE:** December 19, 2018  
**TO:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Claudia Quintana, City Attorney  
Dawn Abrahamson, City Clerk  
**SUBJECT: SECOND PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY ON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Open and conduct the Second Public Hearing and receive comments. No other official action is required at this time.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Following the Council's approval of a Resolution of Intention to Transition to District Elections, this second public hearing is the next step in the statutory process to accomplish such transition.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

On October 23, 2018, in response to a threat of litigation, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 18-096 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to district-based City Council member elections. The change would begin with the general election in 2020. Pursuant to California Elections Code section 10010, the City must hold at least four public hearings prior to adopting an ordinance that defines the district boundaries. This is the second of two public hearings to inform the public about the districting process, present options available to the City and receive community input on the composition of the districts and criteria for drawing the voting district boundaries, prior to the City's independent demographer drafting district map boundary alternatives. Elections Code section 10010 requires the two initial public hearings to occur over a period of no more than 30 days which will be followed by preparation of draft maps and then two additional public hearings.

At the two initial public hearings, before developing draft district boundaries, the City Council will take comments from residents and interested community groups to understand the community's view of where district boundaries should be drawn. Public testimony and Council discussion may also include such topics as who are and where are the communities of interest located, and the best way to recognize them geographically. The City Council will then define the criteria for the demographer to use to create one or more proposed district boundary maps.

In addition to the public hearings at Council meetings, the City is engaging in additional community outreach via social media, press release and flyer distribution. Staff has reached out and spoken at various community meetings including churches, the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee and the Vallejo Unified School District board meeting. Staff has also called community groups by phone, offering to speak at their events on this topic. The city has hosted one community meeting, which took place on November 8, 2018

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at Diaz & Loera Centro Latino, and another community meeting is planned for January 5, 2019 at the Norman C. King Center in south Vallejo. This latter meeting will include the opportunity to draw maps. The calendar of meetings is found at the bottom of this section.

After the second public hearing, the demographer will prepare one or more draft district boundary maps. The maps, along with legally compliant maps from the public, will be published and posted on the City's website and the City Council will conduct two more public hearings and may further revise the maps. Ultimately, the City Council will determine the district boundary map to be included in the district elections ordinance.

Voting District Criteria:

The legally required criteria that apply to the creation of the districts are:

- Each council district shall contain nearly equal population, with any deviations justified by other traditional redistricting criteria, which are described below.
- A districting plan shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the state and federal Constitutions, the Federal Voting Rights Act and state law.
- Each council district shall not be drawn with race as the predominant factor in violation of the principles established by the United States Supreme Court in *Shaw v Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993).
- Each council district shall be contiguous, meaning that there are no islands or parts of the district that are not attached to the whole.

The City Council may also consider other criteria. Additional criteria that have been used in other communities to define districts include:

- Compactness of districts, including their shape and appearance.
- Keeping communities of interest, such as neighborhoods, school attendance boundaries, etc., undivided by a district boundary, to the extent feasible.
- Respecting visible, natural and man-made geographical and topographical features when drawing district boundaries as much as possible.
- Including public facilities in each district, to the extent feasible.
- Including commercial interests in each district, to the extent feasible.

The above criteria are examples only, and may or may not be applicable or appropriate in Vallejo. The public is encouraged to provide input on some or all of these additional criteria options, and may also provide input on other criteria not mentioned above including the number of districts to be created.

The City Council will be informed by the public input. To support the public providing input, a toolkit map is attached to this report as Attachment 1.

Additionally, some basic Vallejo base maps will be presented at the public hearing. The City Council must balance criteria and may choose to consider some, all, or no additional criteria. The Council may also choose to develop additional alternative criteria that it believes are applicable to the City when selecting a districting plan for the City.

The public is encouraged to provide input via e-mail to [maps@cityofvallejo.net](mailto:maps@cityofvallejo.net) or to receive more information

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at the City’s website at [www.cityofvallejo.net/drawvallejo](http://www.cityofvallejo.net/drawvallejo) . Written input may also be dropped off or mailed to the City Clerk at City Hall, 555 Santa Clara St., Vallejo, CA, 94590.

Boundary Map Drawing and District-Based Elections Transition Timeline:

The public hearing schedule for the transition process is presented below. There will be Spanish/English interpreter services provided at the four public hearings and the remaining community event. Additional language interpretation services may be requested at [maps@cityofvallejo.net](mailto:maps@cityofvallejo.net).

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
December 19, 2018 7 p.m.	JFK Library Vallejo Room	Public Hearing #2
January 5, 2019 2 p.m.	Norman C. King Center 545 Magazine Street	Community Meeting #2
January 22, 2019 7 p.m.	Council Chambers City Hall	Public Hearing #3
February 26, 2019 7 p.m.	Council Chambers City Hall	Public Hearing #4

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with holding this Second Hearing.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1.	CVRA All Meetings Flyer rev2
2.	Toolkit map

**CONTACT**

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