

## DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FACT SHEET

The City Council has voted to shift to district-based elections for City Council elections and YOU can help!



### What election system does the City currently use?

Currently, the City Council consists of five councilmembers who are elected at-large. This means anyone who lives in the City can run for office, and everyone may vote for all five of the city councilmember seats, regardless of where you live in the City. Once elected, the five City councilmembers pick one councilmember to serve as mayor for one year, after which the City Council picks a different councilmember to serve as mayor for another one-year term. Councilmembers serve four-year terms of office.

### What do district-based elections change?

The City Council has directed that two possible scenarios be explored:

1. The City is divided into **five equal districts**, and someone running for City Council must live in a district and only voters in that district can vote for that councilmember. Voters cannot vote for candidates running in districts outside of the district where a voter lives. Councilmembers will continue to serve a four-year term, and a mayor is chosen by the same method currently employed; OR
2. The City is divided into **four equal districts**, and someone running for City Council must live in a district and only voters in that district can vote for that councilmember. Voters cannot vote for candidates running in districts outside of the district where a voter lives. Additionally, there would be a **mayor elected at large**, with everyone in the city being able to vote for the mayor, regardless of where one lives in the city. Councilmembers will continue to serve a four-year term, but the mayor is elected every two years.

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### What criteria are used to draw district map boundaries?

The City has hired a professional demographer with extensive experience assisting cities to gather public input and draw district maps. Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA), district maps must be drawn according to a one person-one vote rule, so each district must contain nearly equal populations, and race cannot be the predominant factor. The districts cannot dilute minority voting rights. Cities may consider the following factors: (1) topography, (2) geography, (3) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory; and (4) community of interests of the district's communities of interest (e.g. neighborhoods, schools, parks, commercial districts, etc.).

### How can I participate?

The City will hold five public hearings to receive public input, draw district boundaries, and adopt an ordinance to transition to district-based elections. The full timeline is provided below. No maps will be drawn until public input is received on the district boundaries at the first two public hearings. As part of the process, all residents will have the opportunity to draw district lines via an online mapping tool or via paper mapping tools. All residents will be able to submit their proposed district maps through the online mapping tool, by emailing them to [DistrictElections@ssf.net](mailto:DistrictElections@ssf.net) or providing input at the public hearings. This information will be made available on the City's website, [www.ssf.net](http://www.ssf.net), and at all public hearings.

Date	Event
11-Apr	Adopted resolution of intent to change to district elections
25-Apr	1 <sup>st</sup> hearing: gather public input on the composition of districts
9-May	2 <sup>nd</sup> hearing: gather public input on the composition of districts
No later than 16-May	<i>Draft maps released at City Hall and on City website</i>
23-May	3 <sup>rd</sup> hearing: public input on draft maps and election sequencing
20-Jun	4 <sup>th</sup> hearing: public input on draft maps and election sequencing
27-Jun	5 <sup>th</sup> hearing: hearing and introduction of ordinance
11-Jul	6 <sup>th</sup> meeting: Adopt ordinance
2020	First by-district elections in two districts
2021	Districts redrawn to reflect 2022 Census data
2022	First by-district elections in remaining three districts