

COUNCIL AGENDA

April 27, 2021

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding the Creation of a District-Based Election System

INTRODUCTION

On January 12, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-2 initiating the process to transition from an at-large election system to a district-based election system. By voluntarily proceeding to transition to district-based elections, the City retains its own ability to determine and adopt an appropriate district map instead of having the risk of a court doing so. On April 13, 2021, the City Council conducted Public Hearing #1.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The first step in the transition process is to hold two public hearings to invite public input regarding the composition of the City's voting districts before any draft maps are drawn. After these two public hearings are complete, the City Council must hold at least two additional public hearings on the map(s) of the districts themselves. The maps must be publicly available for at least seven days before the public hearing, and if a change is made to the map after the first public hearing, the revised map must be available at least seven days before the districts are adopted by ordinance.

The purpose of the first two public hearings is to inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be taken into consideration while creating district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting district maps. A *community of interest* is a neighborhood or group that would benefit from being in the same district because of shared interests, views, or characteristics. Possible community features include, but are not limited to:

- A. School attendance areas;
- B. Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
- C. Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
- D. Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
- E. Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - (1) Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - (2) Languages spoken at home; and
 - (3) Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

In creating the district boundaries, the City must ensure compliance with the following state and federally-mandated criteria:

Federal Laws:

1. Each council district shall contain a nearly equal population as required by law; and
2. Each council district shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
3. No council district shall be drawn with race as the predominate factor in violation of the principles established by the United States Supreme Court in *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993), and its progeny.

California Criteria for Cities:

1. Geographically contiguous
2. Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. Easily identifiable boundaries
4. Compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

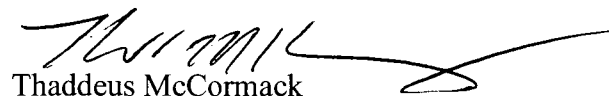
Other Traditional Districting Principles:

1. Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
2. Future population growth

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Receive a report on the districting process and permissible criteria to be considered to create district boundaries; and
- 2) Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on district boundaries.


Thaddeus McCormack
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2021-2 REGARDING THE TIMELINE FOR ACTIONS PERTAINING TO THE TRANSITION FROM AT LARGE TO BY DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Based on delays in the completion of the 2020 Census, the Tentative Timeline set forth in Resolution No. 2021-2 is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof. Such timeline may be adjusted by the City Manager if deemed necessary, provided that any such adjustments do not result in the City not being able to adopt the required Ordinance by the deadline for the City's Municipal election to be held in 2022.

SECTION 2. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this Resolution, or any part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections or portions of this Resolution. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this Resolution irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

TENTATIVE TIMELINE: CONVERSION TO ELECTIONS BY DISTRICT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
November 30, 2020	City received demand letter.
January 12, 2021	Adoption of Resolution of Intention; entry into Tolling Agreement.
February and March, 2021	Public outreach regarding process.
April 13, 2021	First Public Hearing.
April 27, 2021	Second Public Hearing.
After receipt of 2020 Census data	Preparation and posting of draft Maps and potential sequence of Council elections.
October, 2021	Third Public Hearing (regarding draft Maps).
October, 2021	Posting of amended draft Maps and sequence (if any).
November 9, 2021	Fourth Public Hearing; selection of Map; Introduction of Ordinance establishing district boundaries and election sequence.
November 30, 2021	Adoption of Ordinance.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO TOLLING AGREEMENT

This Amendment, effective as of April 27, 2021, amends that certain Tolling Agreement (the "Agreement") made and entered into with an effective date of January 12, 2021, by and between the City of Lakewood, a California general law city ("Lakewood"), and Southwest Voter Registration Education Project ("Southwest").

Based on delays in the completion of the 2020 Census, the parties hereby agree to extend Lakewood's deadline for adoption of the ordinance described in the Agreement to the deadline for the adoption of such ordinance in order to qualify City Council elections by district for Lakewood's next regular municipal election, to be held in 2022.

The signatories may execute this Agreement in counterparts, and may transmit such executed Agreements electronically.

Intending to be legally bound, the parties' authorized representatives have executed this Agreement below, as of the effective date hereof.

City of Lakewood

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

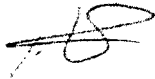
Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

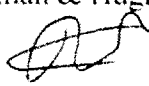
Approved as to form:

City Attorney



(By) *Kevin Shenkman, Its attorney*

Shenkman & Hughes



Kevin Shenkman