



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: First Public Hearing Regarding the Composition of Council Districts Related to the City's Proposed Transition to District-Based Councilmember Elections

1. Resolution Revising the Timeline for Conducting Public Hearings, Formulating Proposed District Maps, and Presenting Proposed Ballot Language for Council Consideration for Placement of Adoption of Council Districts on the Ballot for the March 2024 General Municipal Election

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Public Hearing

Approved for June 13, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has initiated the process to transition from its at-large council election system to council districts. This matter is the first public hearing to solicit public input on the composition of council districts.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council conduct the first public hearing pertaining to the composition of council districts related to the City's proposed transition to district-based elections and adopt the proposed resolution updating the timeline of public hearings related to the proposed transition.

BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2023, the Council adopted Resolution No. 23-55 declaring its intent to initiate the process to transition from at-large to district-based council member elections pursuant to Elections Code section 10010. The Council directed staff to commence the process to transition to council districts by way of amendment to the City Charter, which is proposed to include a transition to six council districts and a directly elected mayor who would be a voting member of the Council. This hearing is the first public hearing the Council will hold regarding the composition of council districts.

ANALYSIS

Public Hearing

Pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, the Council will be required to hold two public hearings before the preparation of draft maps, and then have at least two public hearings after the publication of draft maps. The City intends to have at least five public hearings with the fifth hearing being the adoption of the final map. The principal purposes of this initial public hearing are for the City's demographer, National Demographics Corporation, to provide an overview of the criteria the City must utilize for preparation of the maps and for the public to provide input on the consideration of those criteria in developing maps and the composition of the districts.

District Criteria

In accordance with Elections Code section 21601, the Council must draw districts that satisfy the following criteria:

- Council districts shall be substantially equal in population based on the total population of residents of the city as determined by the most recent census with adjustments mandated by the State of California.
- Council district boundaries must comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the federal Voting Rights Act.
- The Council shall adopt district boundaries using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:
 - (i) To the extent practicable, council districts shall be geographically contiguous.
 - (ii) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A "community of interest" is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of

its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(iii) Council district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents. To the extent practicable, council districts shall be bounded by natural and artificial barriers, by streets, or by the boundaries of the city.

(iv) To the extent practicable, and where it does not conflict with the preceding criteria, council districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness in a manner that nearby areas of population are not bypassed in favor of more distant populations.

- The Council must not draw district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

Revised Timeline for Districting Process

In adopting Resolution No. 23-55, the Council adopted a tentative timeline for the district adoption process inclusive of preparation of resolutions to place charter amendments on the March 2024 ballot to establish council districts and a directly elected mayor position. Resolution No. 23-55 authorizes amendments to the timeline as the process progresses. As such, staff recommends that the Council adopt a resolution amending the timeline. As proposed, the following are key hearing and adoption dates:

- June 13, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- August 15, 2023
- September 19, 2023
- October 10, 2023 (final hearing, adoption of maps and adoption of proposed charter language)

Further refinements to the timeline may occur as the districting process continues. Further, in July, staff will present more information and options regarding proposed charter amendments regarding the role and duties of the proposed directly elected mayor position, amendments to the charter amendments to address a larger council, and other proposed charter amendments requested by Council for its review and direction.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

The City will conduct extensive public outreach in conjunction with the districting process. In addition to at least five public hearings before the Council, the City – with the assistance of outreach consultant Tripepi Smith - will hold 14 community workshops, numerous pop-ups at City events, and engage in additional public outreach efforts including issuance of press releases, social media outreach and mailers. Further, a website dedicated to the districting effort has been established at www.mapglendale.org and will be live prior to the first public hearing

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This activity involves organizational and administrative activities of the government related to election procedures and eligibility requirements, and such internal procedural and eligibility changes have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. As such, this action is not a “project” subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 14 Cal. Code Regs § 15378.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Council can conduct the public hearing and adopt the proposed resolution revising the districting process timeline.
2. The Council can choose not to adopt the proposed resolution.
3. The Council can select an alternative not identified by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REVISING THE TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEARINGS, FORMULATING PROPOSED DISTRICT MAPS, AND PRESENTING PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION FOR PLACEMENT ON THE BALLOT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the City Charter, the five (5) members of the Council of the City of Glendale are currently elected through at-large elections, that is, each member is elected through a city-wide vote; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature amended Elections Code Section 10010 to provide a method whereby a jurisdiction can transition to a district-based election system under circumstances specified therein; and

WHEREAS, the Council adopted Resolution No. 23-55 on May 2, 2023 initiating procedures for the transition from at-large council elections to council districts and to consider changes to the City's governance structure to include a directly elected mayor and consideration of modifying the number of Council seats from five to six; and

WHEREAS, the City has retained an experienced, qualified demographer, National Demographics Corporation, to assist the City in the development of a proposal for a district-based electoral system; and

WHEREAS, prior to the City Council's consideration of the necessary approvals to establish district boundaries for a district-based electoral system and holding a public hearing on those approvals, California Elections Code Section 10010 requires all of the following:

1. Prior to drawing a draft map or maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the City shall hold at least two (2) public hearings over a period of no more than thirty (30) days, at which the public will be invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts.

2. After all draft maps are drawn, City shall publish and make available for release at least one draft map and, if members of the City Council will be elected in their districts at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the potential sequence of the elections shall also be published.

3. The City Council shall also hold at least two (2) additional hearings over a period of no more than forty-five (45) days, at which the public shall be invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map or maps and the proposed sequence of elections, if applicable.

4. The first version of a draft map shall be published at least seven (7) days before consideration at a hearing. If a draft map is revised at or following a hearing, it shall be published and made available to the public for at least seven (7) days before being

adopted; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 23-55 approved a tentative timeline for the process for the transition to Council districts; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 23-55 authorizes revisions to the timeline as the process progresses and the Council desires to now amend the timeline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Glendale, California declares, directs and orders as follows:

1. The Council hereby approves the revised tentative timeline as set forth in Exhibit A, attached to and made a part of this resolution, for conducting public hearings to solicit and receive public input and testimony on proposed district-based electoral maps and for the City Council's evaluation, and possible refinement and ultimate adoption of a district-based election system for election of City Council members.

2. The timeline contained in Exhibit A may be adjusted by the Council in future consent calendars as the Council and City Attorney deem necessary or appropriate to enhance the process of receiving public input and Council consideration of districting options, provided that such adjustments shall not prevent the City from complying with the general time frames specified by Elections Code Section 10010 for public hearings, or such other timeframes as may be convenient and appropriate.

Adopted this 13th day of June, 2023.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss.
CITY OF GLENDALE)

I, Suzie Abajjian, Ph.D., City Clerk of the City of Glendale, California do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by a vote of the Council of the City of Glendale at its regular meeting held on the ____ day of June, 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

TENTATIVE TIMELINE: CONSIDERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF "DISTRICT- BASED" ELECTION SYSTEM

TENT. DATE	EVENT	COMMENT
May 2, 2023	Resolution of Intention	
May 2, 2023 – June 27, 2023	Public Outreach & Community Workshops	
June 13, 2023	First Public Hearing	Re: Composition of Districts No Maps Yet Drawn
July 11, 2023	Second Public Hearing	Re: Composition of Districts No Maps Yet Drawn
No later than August 8, 2023	Publish Draft Maps and Potential Sequence of Elections	At least 7 Days Before Public Hearings re Content of Maps
August 15, 2023	3 rd Public Hearing	
August 17, 2023 – September 15, 2023	Additional Community Workshops	
September 19, 2023	4 th Public Hearing	
No later than October 3, 2023	Publish Amended Draft Maps and potential sequence of Elections	7 Days Before Consideration of Adoption of Maps
October 10, 2023	Hold Public Hearing; Select Map; Adopt Resolutions Placing Charter Amendments on the Ballot Modifying Governance Structure Modifying the Number of Council Seats, Establishing By-District Elections, and Establishing a Directly Elected Mayor; Adopt Ordinance Approving Map and Election Sequence, Contingent on Adoption of Charter Amendments	

March 2024	Election on Charter Amendments and Districts	
June 2026	Elections for Directly Elected Mayor and Majority of New Council Seats	
March 2028	Elections in Remainder of New Council Districts	