

**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY
MEMORANDUM**

November 26, 2018

TO: City Council

FROM: Office of the City Clerk / Office of the City Attorney

SUBJECT: A FOURTH PUBLIC HEARING IN THE DISTRICT ELECTION TRANSITION PROCESS TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A VOTING DISTRICT MAP AND ASSOCIATED SEQUENCE OF ELECTIONS, AND INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BY-DISTRICT ELECTION SYSTEM

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the draft District maps being considered for adoption and the sequence of district elections;
2. Receive a presentation from the City's demographer on the draft District maps and associated sequencing options;
3. Select a map and determine the sequencing of the districts; and
4. Introduce for first reading an ordinance implementing a by-district election system including a District Map establishing voting district boundaries, the sequence of district elections and the term of the mayor.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager requests that City Council select the District Map from the two alternatives previously narrowed and select the sequencing, and introduce an ordinance for first reading.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The City of Simi Valley received a certified letter on August 6, 2018 from attorney Kevin I. Shenkman, on behalf of his client, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, claiming that the City was in violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and requesting that the City move to district-based elections. Since that time, the following steps have been taken to transition from an "at-large" election system to a "by-district" manner of election:

- **August 13, 2018:** City Council directed that the matter of transition to district-based elections be presented for consideration in open session; and,
- **August 27, 2018:** the City Council voted to initiate the process to voluntarily transition and approved a transition schedule; and,
- **September 17, 2018:** City Council adopted a Resolution of Intention to transition to district-based elections, and held the first of four public hearings to receive public testimony from residents regarding the composition and criteria to be considered as part of district formation; and,
- **September 25, 2018:** Community Meeting held to provide an opportunity for additional resident input and feedback; and,
- **October 15, 2018:** City Council held the second public hearing to receive further public testimony, adopted a resolution on the composition and criteria to be used, and provided direction to the City’s demographer to prepare legally compliant district maps for the Council consideration in addition to maps submitted by members of the public.

On November 14, 2018, the City Council held the third public hearing to receive a presentation from the City’s demographer, National Demographic Corporation (NDC), of the proposed district maps submitted by members of the public and those prepared by NDC, to receive public testimony regarding the proposed maps and number of districts, and to discuss the order in which districts would come up for election, referred to as “sequencing”. The City Council reviewed the 15 maps and submitter comments received from public members and NDC, and received public testimony from 26 individuals. An additional 32 members submitted speaker cards expressing support for particular maps. Following the close of the public hearing, the City Council directed NDC to revise particular portions of a publicly submitted map, Map 404, and unanimously voted to return with Revised Map 404, and Map 602 for final consideration at the fourth public hearing scheduled for November 26, 2018.

This evening, it is requested that at the close of the public hearing, the City Council adopt its preferred voting District Map and associated election sequence, and introduce for first reading an ordinance establishing a by-district election system and establishing the mayoral term. A second reading and adoption of the ordinance is scheduled for December 10, 2018, in order to remain within the “safe harbor” provided by the Elections Code. The deadline for the City Council to adopt an ordinance and comply with the safe harbor provision is December 16, 2018 (90 days following the adoption of a Resolution of Intention).

DISCUSSION AND ALTERNATIVES

Summary of Third Public Hearing

On November 14, 2018, the City Council held the third public hearing as required under Elections Code Section 10010 *et seq.* to receive a presentation on the proposed District maps submitted by members of the public and as prepared by the City’s demographer, National Demographics Corporation (NDC), and associated election sequencing; and to receive public testimony regarding the submissions.

A presentation was provided by NDC demographer Robert McEntire on the 15 draft maps submitted and the comments provided by map submitters. Following the presentation, the City Council received public testimony from 26 speakers, and an additional 32 cards were submitted by members of the public who did not wish to speak but expressed support for a particular draft map. The breakdown of support by public in attendance for a particular number of districts or draft District map is shown below:

Map / # of Districts	No. of Speakers	Cards in support	Total
4-districts	3	2	5
401	1	0	1
404	1	0	1
6-districts	2	0	2
602	18	30	48
General Comment	1	N/A	1
	26	32	58

Summary of Third Public Hearing Testimony

The third public hearing was attended by approximately 100 individuals and a number of speakers spoke regarding the maps they submitted.

Of those in attendance (speakers and non-speakers), support was expressed for 4 and 6-district scenarios. These scenarios reflect election of a mayor at-large, and a number of speakers expressed a preference to maintain a directly-elected mayor serving a two-year term; however, a handful of speakers indicated a preference for a four-year mayoral term to provide consistency in local and regional representation, and limit the need to campaign for office every two years. Concerns were expressed regarding a rotational mayor due to competition amongst members to be appointed, and that a rotational mayor (elected from a district) would not be representing the entire City.

The following represents a brief synopsis of public comments:

- The intent and spirit of the CVRA is provide a greater voice for under-represented populations
- City's population growth since incorporation warrants a greater number of districts to better represent its population
- A larger number of districts will result in six Council Members, each with their own special interests; a 4-district scenario will minimize the creation of special interests
- Larger districts (i.e., 4-district scenario) would be a more representative of a larger cross-section of the population
- 4-district scenarios following a Neighborhood Council map design have very little difference in ethnic make-up and too much income parity
- A 6-district scenario (adding two Council Members) will result in increased costs for the City
- The addition of two Council Members will result in an increase of staff time to support additional Members. Smaller districts remove the expense/increase financially feasibility and reduce difficulty of running for office, and allow candidates to more readily walk Council districts

- Smaller districts make it easier for Council Members to know and develop relationships with their constituents
- Smaller districts would provide minority populations with a better opportunity for representation and keeps communities of interest together more effectively

Following the completion of public testimony, and City Council discussion regarding the 4 and 6-district map proposals, the City Council voted unanimously to direct NDC to make minor adjustments a 4-district map proposed by a member of the public, and to return with two proposed maps, Map 404 (as modified) and Map 602 (as presented) and sequencing options for each map, for final consideration at the fourth public hearing on November 26, 2018.

Summary of Community Outreach

In an effort to engage and educate Simi Valley citizens of the transition from an at-large election system to a by-district election system, the City has undertaken a number of efforts to inform the public about the process and schedule to complete the transition. On September 17, 2018, the City launched a dedicated District Elections webpage (www.simivalley.org/districtelections) to provide a central location for citizens to obtain background on why the district transition was being undertaken, to obtain current information on the status of the transition process, to access the various mapping tools provided to enable citizens to draw and submit their own proposed map(s), and to review draft District maps submitted prior to their consideration by the City Council. All hearing notices, staff reports, and PowerPoint presentations received by the City Council were also been posted on this page. Additionally, a dedicated email address was established (districtelections@simivalley.org) to receive citizen communications.

The deadline for members of the public to submit draft district maps closed on November 6, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., in order to meet the seven-day publication timeframe required under Elections Code Section 10010(a)(2). Residents were able to submit maps in paper form, through an online tool utilizing an Excel spreadsheet, or by drawing a map online. This process was available to the public from September 17, 2018 through November 6, 2018. At the close of business on November 6, a total of 15 draft district maps and their associated demographic data were posted on the City's District Elections webpage. Hard copies of the draft maps and associated demographic data were also made available at City Hall and the Simi Valley Public Library. The maps can also be viewed using an online interactive viewer at <https://ndcresearch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=0fb71cd16cf64305ba09b0bbddc7fd53>

In addition to the four public hearings required under the Elections Code, to provide an additional opportunity for citizen education and participation, a Community Meeting was held in the City Council Chamber on September 25, 2018. The meeting was facilitated by Robert McEntire of NDC, and approximately 35 individuals attended the meeting. A summary of the comments received was provided to the City Council in the staff report presented on October 15, 2018.

As required in Government Code Section 6060 *et seq.*, public hearing notices were placed in the City's adjudicated newspaper (*Ventura County Star*), announcing each of the hearings scheduled in compliance with Elections Code Section 10010 *et seq.* In addition to noticing hearings in the regional paper, 3/8th of a page advertisements were placed in the local *Simi Valley Acorn* on November 2, and November 9, 2018, announcing the third public hearing, scheduled on a special meeting date (November 14, 2018), where proposed district maps would be considered. This advertisement was also emailed to 2,404 addresses subscribed to various City "e-notification" lists. These addresses also received notification upon the publication of the draft District maps for seven days prior to the meeting.

District Maps – Criteria Considered

National Demographics Corporation provided presentations during the first two public hearings conducted to set forth mandatory and optional criteria to be considered as part of district designs. The Supreme Court has recently confirmed that although race can be considered as part of the districting process, it cannot be the "predominate" factor in drawing voting districts. See *Cooper v. Harris*, 137 S. Ct. 1455 (2017). If race is used as the predominant factor, courts will apply "strict scrutiny" to the decision making process. *Id.* at 1464. However, as noted in Item 3 below, under the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA), a district cannot dilute minority voting rights, and encourages a majority minority district. It should be noted that the CVRA allows for the City Council to determine the number of districts, and the criteria below would apply to whichever district map is ultimately selected.

1. Population equality across districts. (Elections Code Section 21601; Government Code Section 34884 ["council districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be"])
2. Race cannot be the "predominate" factor or criteria when drawing districts. (*Shaw v. Reno* (1993) 509 U.S. 630; *Miller v. Johnson* (1995) 515 U.S. 900)
3. Compliance with the FVRA, which among other things, prohibits districts that dilute minority voting rights, and encourages a majority minority district, if the minority group is sufficiently large, and such a district can be drawn without race being the predominant factor. (*Bartlett v. Strickland* (2009) 553 U.S. 1)

Overloading a district or splitting members of a protected class could potentially result in noncompliance with the FVRA through dilution of votes of minority voters. The City Council may also take into account optional criteria to be considered in the formation of voting districts as provided by Elections Code Section 21601 and Government Code Section 34884 which include the following factors: (a) topography, (b) geography, (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (d) community of interests of the districts.

Election Sequencing

As part of the sequencing discussion, the City Council may wish to consider Elections Code Section 10010(b) which states that,

“In determining the final sequence of the district elections conducted in a political subdivision in which members of the governing body will be elected at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the governing body shall give special consideration to the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, and it shall take into account the preferences expressed by members of the districts.”

NDC indicates that this provision is interpreted to mean that if there is a district that includes a significant number of members of a “protected class” that the California Voting Rights Act was designed to protect, that district or districts should have the opportunity to have the first election in 2020 rather than waiting to 2022. Exhibit 2 provides recommendations for sequencing for Map 404 as amended, and Map 602, and may be revised so long as it maintains the necessary staggering of elections for the number of districts selected. The Mayor will continue to be elected at-large in either the 4 or 6-district scenario.

Should a 4-district option be selected, it will result in the election of two positions (districts) in 2020 to a four-year term, and the alternating positions (districts) will be elected to four-year terms in 2022. The City Council must make the district timing choices in order to introduce the ordinance.

Should a 6-district option be selected, in order to result in a six member Council, four positions (members) will be elected in 2020, one of which will serve a two-year term (three positions through 2024, one position through 2022). In 2022, the position elected to a two-year term will be elected to a four-year term, along with the two positions elected in 2018. The City Council must select the timing of the district elections to introduce the complete ordinance. The table below depicts the sequencing of positions.

Scenario	2020	2022	2024
4-district	2 positions, four year terms (those elected in 2016)	2 positions, four year terms (those elected in 2018)	2 positions, four year terms
6-district	2 positions, four year terms (those elected in 2016) 1 new position, four year term (new district) 1 new position, two year term (new district)	2 positions, four year terms (those elected in 2018) 1 position, four year term (two year term from 2020)	3 positions, four year terms

City Council needs to assign district numbers to the positions for the district scenario selected.

The following table offers a staff recommendation for proposed maps 404b and 602:

Staff Recommendation for Election Sequencing			
Scenario	2020	2022	2024
Map 404b	Districts 1 and 3	Districts 2 and 4	2 positions, four year terms
Map 602	Districts 2, 4, and 5 (four year) District 6 (two year)	Districts 1 and 3	3 positions, four year terms

The attached ordinance includes bracketed information which will be modified based on the timing choices selected by the Council.

Financial Considerations – Increasing the number of City Council Members

With the consideration of increasing the current number of City Council Members from five to seven, there are a variety of financial factors to be considered, including but not limited to budget increases for additional City Council Member salaries and allowances, conferences and travel, and building infrastructure alterations to accommodate additional Council Member offices and key staff member seating (i.e. City Manager & City Attorney) in the Council Chamber.

Council Member salaries

In July 2010, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1158 setting City Council Member salary at \$1,202.76/month (\$14,443.12/year). Subsequently in November 2011, the City Council took action to adjust benefits available to future, first-time elected City Council Members to only include salary, car allowance, and those benefits required by law. This action was taken to reduce costs and future liability payments for the City. Council Members elected on or after November 6, 2012, are ineligible for retirement benefits through the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), and ineligible for medical benefits through the City except those required by law. Based on the adopted salary and adjustments to other benefits, the average salary for a new incoming Council Member is \$1,823.84/month (\$21,886.08/year). Therefore, should the City Council select a 6-district option (increasing the number of Council Members by two) it would result in an annual budget increase of approximately \$43,772.16/year.

Seminars/Conferences and Travel

Currently the City budgets approximately \$20,000 annually for Council Member attendance at annual conferences and the travel, lodging, and meals associated with attending such events, for an average of \$4,000 per Council Member. Therefore, should the City Council select a 6-district option, it would result in an annual budget increase or reduce the ability of individual Council Members to attend certain training and conferences to stay within budget.

Building Infrastructure

Office space: City Council Members (including the Mayor) have offices within City Hall for their use in meeting with citizens and constituents. Should the City Council select a 6-district option, two additional offices would be needed, and would require design, construction, and furnishing in order to accommodate additional Council Members. Tenant improvements to accommodate additional offices, including design, construction, administration, and prevailing wage costs is estimated at \$120/sq. ft. Construction projects undertaken by the City require prevailing wage to be paid.

City Council Chamber: The City Council Chamber dais is currently configured to accommodate seating for seven individuals, which includes the five City Council Members, the City Manager and the City Attorney. The Mayor is flanked by the City Manager and City Attorney, and the Mayor Pro Tem is seated beside the City Manager. This seating arrangement permits these key personnel to assist the Mayor and/or Mayor Pro Tem during meetings with respect to meeting protocol and to impart critical information that may be required during the consideration of agenda items. In the event that the City Council selects a 6-district option, the current configuration of the Council Chamber dais and/or staff tables would need to be adjusted.

Depending on the Council's preference, either two additional seats would need to be accommodated at the dais in order to maintain City Manager and City Attorney seating with Council Members, or configuration changes to the staff tables directly in front of the dais would be required. In either event, costs would be incurred to implement these changes and depending on the extent required, could range between \$100,000 and \$300,000. This estimate is based on limited knowledge of the complexity entailed with these potential changes, and considers costs related to wiring and technological needs in addition design costs, physical construction and administration, and payment of prevailing wage.

Additionally, depending on the approach selected, City Council meetings would need to be relocated for some period during construction. The extent and complexity of the physical changes would influence the time required to complete construction, and therefore it is difficult to know how long the Council Chamber would be unavailable for use. Construction would also impact the Planning Commission and Simi Valley Unified School District, as these legislative bodies also meet in the City Council Chamber.

ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives are available to the City Council:

1. Hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the draft District maps being considered for adoption and the sequence of district elections;
2. Receive a presentation from the City's demographer on the draft District maps and associated sequencing options;

3. Select a map and determine the sequencing of the districts; and
4. Introduce for first reading an ordinance implementing a by-district election system including a District Map establishing voting district boundaries, the sequence of district elections and the term of the mayor.
5. Direct the demographer to make additional changes to a proposed draft map and/or sequencing options, and continue the public hearing to a special meeting date set to meet the minimum public review dates (seven day map publication is required).
6. Provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommends Alternative Nos. 1 through 4.

SUGGESTED CITY COUNCIL MOTION

If four districts are selected:

I move to approve Map [#] as the districting system for the City of Simi Valley, with districts [*select two: (a),(b)*] having elections in November 2020 for a four-year term, and districts [*select two: (c),(d)*] elected in November 2022 for a four-year term, and further specify that the mayor shall have a [*two or four*]-year term, and introduce an ordinance implementing this districting system.

OR

If six districts are selected:

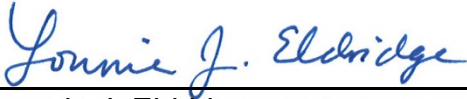
I move to approve Map [#] as the districting system for the City of Simi Valley, with districts [*select three: (a),(b) and (c)*] having elections in November 2020 for a four-year term, district [*select one: (d)*] having an election in November 2020 for a two-year term, and districts [*select three: (e), (f) and (d - the short term)*] elected in November 2022 for a four-year term, and further specify that the mayor shall have a [*two or four*]-year term, and introduce an ordinance implementing this districting system.

SUMMARY

On August 6, 2018, the City received a letter from attorney Kevin I. Shenkman, on behalf of his client, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, requesting that the City move to district-based elections. On August 27, 2018 the City Council voted to voluntarily transition from at-large to a by-district election system, and adopted a schedule for the transition in compliance with Election Code timelines. The City Council conducted public hearings on September 17 and October 15, 2018, to receive public testimony and to consider district composition and criteria to be utilized in the preparation of draft voting district maps. Also, a Community Meeting was held on September 25, 2018, in order to provide an additional opportunity for public input on the composition of districts and to learn about the mapping tools available to the public to

create district maps for consideration by the City Council. A third public hearing was conducted on November 14, 2018, for the City Council to consider the 14 legally compliant draft District maps submitted by members of the public and as prepared by the City’s demographer, National Demographics Corporation (NDC). All maps submitted were published for public review on November 6, 2018, seven days prior to the public hearing. At the hearing, the City Council received testimony from members of the public expressing their interest in particular maps and districting scenarios. Following the close of the public hearing and City Council discussion, the Council voted unanimously to direct NDC to make minor adjustments a 4-district map proposed by a member of the public, and to return with two proposed maps, Map 404 (as modified) and Map 602 (as presented) and sequencing options for each map, for final consideration at the fourth public hearing on November 26, 2018.

Staff recommends that the City Council receive a presentation from NDC on the published draft District maps and associated sequencing options for final consideration; open the public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed maps; following the close of the public hearing, select a final map and election sequencing option, including the mayoral term; and introduce an ordinance establishing district elections.



Lonnie J. Eldridge
City Attorney



Ky Spangler
City Clerk

Prepared by: Ky Spangler, City Clerk
City Attorney’s Office

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PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

HEARING DATE: November 26, 2018

1. MAYOR: This is the time and place set for a fourth public hearing in the District Election transition process to consider adoption of voting District Map and associated sequence of elections, and introduction of an ordinance establishing a by-district election system.

May we have an oral report on this matter by staff and consultant?
2. STAFF & CONSULTANT: (Report)
3. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER : (Questions of staff and staff response)
4. MAYOR: Is there anyone in the City Council Chamber wishing to be heard on this matter?
5. AUDIENCE: (Comments)
6. MAYOR: The hearing is closed. Are there any comments or questions from members of the City Council?
7. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER : (Comments)
8. MAYOR: The Chair will now entertain a motion.
9. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER : City Council Actions (by motion of any Council Member):
 - 1) I move to approve Map [#] as the districting system for the City of Simi Valley, with districts [*select two: (a),(b)*] having elections in November 2020 for a four-year term, and districts [*select two: (c),(d)*] elected in November 2022 for a four-year term, and further specify that the mayor shall have a [*two or four*]-year term, and introduce Ordinance No. 1292 implementing this districting system.

OR

2) I move to approve Map [#] as the districting system for the City of Simi Valley, with districts [*select three: (a),(b) and (c)*] having elections in November 2020 for a four-year term, district [*select one: (d)*] having an election in November 2020 for a two-year term, and districts [*select three: (e), (f) and (d - the short term)*] elected in November 2022 for a four-year term, and further specify that the mayor shall have a [*two or four*]-year term, and introduce Ordinance No. 1292 implementing this districting system.

* Any action to refer the matter back to staff or to continue the matter requires a second and a vote.

- 10. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER : Second
- 11. MAYOR: (Call for vote)
- 12. MAYOR: Proceed to the next item.

ORDINANCE NO. 1292

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIMI VALLEY, AMENDING TITLE 2 OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE SIMI VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE, CHANGING THE CITY'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM FROM AN AT-LARGE TO A BY-DISTRICT SYSTEM AND ADOPTING A MAP DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES, IDENTIFYING THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR EACH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, AND ESTABLISHING SEQUENCING OF ELECTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the City of Simi Valley ("City") currently elects the members of the City Council using an at-large system of elections; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code section 34886, the City Council has the authority to adopt an ordinance changing the system of elections in the City from an at-large elections system to a by-district elections system, and desires to amend its current elections ordinance in the Simi Valley Municipal Code to a by-district election system; and

WHEREAS, the change in method of electing members of the City Council is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Elections Code Section 14025, *et seq.*) and pursuant to Government Code Section 34886, and this purpose is so declared by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Elections Code Section 10010, the City Council on September 17, 2018, adopted a Resolution of Intention to transition to district-based elections and held the first of a series of four public hearings; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2018, the City held a Community Meeting to offer an additional opportunity for residents to become informed about the process and for the public to provide feedback on potential district composition and criteria; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Elections Code Section 10010, on October 15, 2018 the City Council held a second public hearing in order to receive testimony regarding the potential composition of City Council districts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Elections Code Section 10010, the City Council held a third public hearing during a special City Council meeting on November 14, 2018 and a fourth public hearing during a regular City Council meeting on November 26, 2018, regarding proposed draft maps and to receive proposed draft maps from members of the public; and

WHEREAS, on November 26, 2018 the City Council selected one of the proposed district maps to establish the City Council electoral districts in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to adopt this Ordinance to establish by-district elections in the City, and to adopt the map describing the boundaries and identifying numbers of each City Council district in the City as well as establishing the sequencing of elections within the districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIMI VALLEY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. Sections 2-4.03 is hereby amended, and Sections 2-4.04 through 2-4.06 are added to Title 2 of Chapter 4 of the City of Simi Valley Municipal Code as shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, adjudicated to a final determination, the City Council finds that said voided part is severable, that the City Council would have adopted the remainder of this Ordinance without the severed and voided part, and that the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance or a summary hereof to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, published in the County of Ventura and circulated in the City, and if applicable, to be posted, in accordance with Section 36933 of the California Government Code; shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause a certified copy of this Ordinance, together with proof of publication, to be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this City.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ___ day of December 2018.

Attest:

Ky Spangler, City Clerk

_____, Mayor of the City of
Simi Valley, California

Approved as to Form:

Approved as to Content:

Lonnie J. Eldridge, City Attorney

Eric J. Levitt, City Manager

[Option 1: 4 Districts]**2-4.03 - Certain prior Terms of office.**

As a result of the change in election days as set forth in this chapter, the terms of all elected City officers, which terms would have expired in April 1984, shall be extended until no later than the fourth Tuesday after the day of the general municipal election.

2-4.04 – District-based electoral system.

A. Pursuant to the authority provided by Government Code Section 34886, members of the City Council shall be elected by-district in four (4) single-member districts. Members of the City Council shall be elected by-district as the term is defined in Government Code Section 34871, meaning one member of the City Council shall be elected from each district by the voters of that district alone. Each member of the City Council shall serve a four-year term until a successor is qualified or the member's seat becomes vacant. The Mayor shall continue to be separately elected on an at-large basis to a two-year term.

B. Pursuant to Government Code Section 34882, the City Council Member elected to represent a district must reside in that district and be a registered voter in that district, and any candidate for City Council must reside in, and be a registered voter in, the district in which he or she seeks election at the time nomination papers are issued, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10227.

2-4.05 - City Council districts established.

A. The boundaries and identifying number of each of the four (4) City Council districts shall be as described on the City Council District Map attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein by this reference.

B. The City Council districts herein established shall continue in effect until they are amended or repealed in accordance with law. The boundaries of City Council districts shall be reapportioned from time to time as required by the Elections Code, or any other applicable law.

2-4.06 - Implementation of by-district elections.

A. The by-district system of elections shall be implemented, beginning at the general municipal election held in November 2020, as follows:

1. Members of the City Council shall be elected in districts **[select: e.g., (1) and (3)]** beginning at the general municipal election November 2020 to a four-year term, and every four years thereafter; and
 2. Members of the City Council shall be elected in districts **[select: e.g., (2) and (4)]** beginning at the general municipal election November 2022 to a four-year term, and every four years thereafter.
- B. No term of any member of the City Council commencing on or before December 2018 shall be affected by the adoption of this Ordinance.

[Option 2: 6 Districts]**2-4.03 - Certain prior Terms of office.**

As a result of the change in election days as set forth in this chapter, the terms of all elected City officers, which terms would have expired in April 1984, shall be extended until no later than the fourth Tuesday after the day of the general municipal election.

2-4.04 – District-based electoral system.

A. Pursuant to the authority provided by Government Code Section 34886, members of the City Council shall be elected by-district in six (6) single-member districts. Members of the City Council shall be elected by-district as the term is defined in Government Code Section 34871, meaning one member of the City Council shall be elected from each district by the voters of that district alone. Each member of the City Council shall serve a four-year term until a successor is qualified or the member's seat becomes vacant. The Mayor shall continue to be separately elected on an at-large basis to a two-year term.

B. Pursuant to Government Code Section 34882, the City Council Member elected to represent a district must reside in that district and be a registered voter in that district, and any candidate for City Council must reside in, and be a registered voter in, the district in which he or she seeks election at the time nomination papers are issued, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10227.

2-4.05 - City Council districts established.

A. The boundaries and identifying number of each of the six (6) City Council districts shall be as described on the City Council District Map attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein by this reference.

B. The City Council districts herein established shall continue in effect until they are amended or repealed in accordance with law. The boundaries of City Council districts shall be reapportioned from time to time as required by the Elections Code, or any other applicable law.

2-4.06 - Implementation of by-district elections.

A. The by-district system of elections shall be implemented, beginning at the general municipal election held in November 2020, as follows:

1. Beginning at the general municipal election November 2020, districts **[select three: e.g., (2), (5) and (6)]** shall be elected to a four-year term and elected every four years thereafter.
 2. Beginning at the general municipal election November 2020, one district **[select one: a district not selected above: e.g., (1)]** shall be elected to a two-year term and elected every four years thereafter.
 3. Beginning at the general municipal election November 2022, districts **[select three: two districts not selected above, and the district selected for a short term in 2020: e.g., (3), (4) and (1—the short district)]** shall be elected to a four-year term and elected every four years thereafter.
- B. No term of any member of the City Council commencing on or before December 2018 shall be affected by the adoption of this Ordinance.

EXHIBIT 1

PROPOSED DISTRICT MAPS

404b

602

POSTED SEPARATELY DUE TO FILE SIZE

Key considerations:

No Councilmember’s current term (starting after the 2016 or 2018 elections) can be cut short.

The Council must immediately get to the desired size, then start alternating elections in 2022 by using two-year terms for some 2020 election seats.

The first consideration is leaving decisions in the hands of the voters by assigning solo-Councilmember-districts to that Councilmember’s election year. Then priority can be given to putting low-turnout districts in Presidential election years; ensuring different regions each have an election in a given year; or other local factors.

Map	2020 Elections	2022 Elections	2024 Elections
404b	Mayor 1 and 4	Mayor 2 and 3	Same as 2020
602	Mayor 2 and 6 for four-year terms. One of 1, 4 or 5 for a four-year term. One of 1, 4 or 5 for a two-year term.	Mayor D3 for a four-year term. The short term from 2020 One other district	Mayor 2, 6 and the other 4-year seat from 2020