



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

**Public Hearing #4 on the District
Election transition process;
consideration of a voting District Map &
introduction of an ordinance**

November 26, 2018

Transition Schedule



Date	Event
September 17	Adopt Resolution of Intention to transition Public Hearing #1 – Gather public input on composition of voting districts
September 25	Community Meeting, City Council Chamber Additional opportunity for community input and further education
October 15	Public Hearing #2 – Gather additional public input on composition of voting districts
November 14	Public Hearing #3 – Gather public input on draft maps and election sequencing
November 26	Public Hearing #4 – Gather & consider additional public input on draft maps and election sequencing <i>Possible map selection and ordinance introduction</i>
December 10	Second reading and adoption of ordinance

Background



- ▶ **November 14, 2018** – Public Hearing #3, presentation of proposed draft voting District maps and election sequence options
 - Council provided direction to return with one four district map (#404, with amendments) and one six district map (602) for consideration on November 26

- ▶ **November 19, 2018** – Map 404b (amended) and Map 602 published online, and at City Hall & Library for public review

- ▶ **Both maps meet legal compliance requirements**

Public Hearing #3



- ▶ Summary of public testimony
 - 58 cards submitted, 26 speakers
 - Support was expressed for both 4 and 6–district scenarios
 - Support to maintain a directly–elected Mayor was expressed; comments on term length varied
 - Various preferences and points of concern were communicated by those who spoke

Public Hearing #3



- ▶ Preferences / Points of concern
 - City's population has grown, therefore should consider 6-districts for better representation
 - More Council Members = More Special Interests, therefore consider 4-districts to minimize this
 - A larger cross-section of the City's population would be represented by a 4-district scenario
 - A 6-district scenario would better represent the City's income and ethnic diversities

Public Hearing #3



▶ Preferences / Points of concern

- A larger number of districts provides a greater voice for under-represented populations
- Smaller districts (6-districts) improves the ability of Council Members to know their constituents
- Smaller districts (6-districts) reduces the cost and difficulty of running for elective office
- Smaller districts will increase the number of existing Council Members which will result in financial impacts

District Maps – Criteria Considered



- ▶ Federal requirements and Traditional Criteria were applied
- ▶ Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA):
 - Equal Population across districts
 - Race cannot be the “predominate” factor when drawing districts
 - Cannot dilute minority voting rights; encourages a majority–minority district if it can be drawn without race being the predominate factor

District Maps – Criteria Considered



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- ▶ Isn't it a contradiction?
 - How can the FVRA say race cannot be the “predominate” factor but encourage a majority–minority district if it can be drawn
- ▶ Other Traditional Criteria should also be considered when creating districts:
 - Compactness
 - Contiguous
 - Visible boundaries (natural or man–made)
 - Communities of interest
 - Respect for voters' wishes/continuity in office

Maps Submitted



- ▶ Both maps meet legal compliance requirements
- ▶ Map 404 / 404b
 - Submitted by a member of the public
 - Council directed minor modifications in proposed Districts 1 and 2 to align district boundaries with Cochran Street and the 118 Freeway
 - Respects ability to maintain continuity in office
 - “Ideal” district population is 31,059
 - Creates a district with 36% Latino population (D3)
(based on Total Population)

Maps Submitted



- ▶ Map 602
 - Submitted by a member of the public
 - Verbal and written support expressed by Public Hearing attendees
 - Council directed the map be returned for final consideration as submitted
 - Respects ability to maintain continuity in office
 - “Ideal” district population is 20,706
 - Creates a district with 40% Latino population (D4)
(based on Total Population)

Election sequence



- ▶ “Sequence” refers to which District(s) will be up for election in which year
- ▶ It is recommended that election sequence is discussed following selection of a District Map
- ▶ Staff has recommended options for 4 and 6–district scenarios



Map 404b sequence

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- ▶ Two districts require election in 2020 and two districts require election in 2022
- ▶ Staff recommendation:
 - 2020: Districts 1 and 3
 - 2022: Districts 2 and 4
- ▶ This recommendation respects both the CVRA by sequencing the District with the greatest population of Latino voters in the first election (D3) and Continuity in Office for a currently serving Council Member (D1)



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Map 602 sequence

- ▶ Four districts require election in 2020, one for a two-year term
- ▶ Staff recommendation:
 - 2020: Districts 2, 4 and 5 (four-year); District 6 (two)
 - 2022: Districts 1, 3 and 6 (four-year)
- ▶ This recommendation respects both the CVRA by sequencing the District with the greatest population of Latino voters in the first election (D4) and Continuity in Office for currently serving Council Members (D2, 2020) (D1 & D3, 2022)



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Actions Tonight

- ▶ Open public hearing to receive community input on proposed District maps
- ▶ Following public testimony, select a voting District Map and associated election sequence
- ▶ Introduce an ordinance for first reading implementing a by–district election system indicating the selected District Map, election sequence, and mayoral term



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Questions?