

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 19, 2019
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Sigrid Asmundson, District Counsel



SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING #2 REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE DISTRICT'S VOTING DISTRICTS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors:

1. Reviews the staff report
2. Opens the public hearing and accepts input on the composition of voting districts
3. Closes the public hearing
4. Provides direction to staff on additional criteria for voting district maps
5. Provides direction to staff as to which voting districts or areas of the District will be up for election in 2020
6. Directs staff on dates for the next two public hearings

No formal action is required.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010(a)(1), the District is required to hold 2 public hearings within a 30 day period prior to preparing draft maps. The purpose of these public hearings is for the public to provide input regarding the composition of the voting districts. Notice of these public hearings was sent to the Galt City Clerk and Elk Grove City Clerk and published in the Elk Grove Citizen and Galt Herald. The first public hearing was held on June 5. This is the second public hearing.

At the June 5, 2019 public hearing, the Board provided the following criteria for creating voting districts:

- Follow Elk Grove voting districts as closely as possible
- Consider specific ethnicities within the Federal Census "Asian" classification
- Do not consider current Board members' addresses

Drawing Proposed District Voting Maps

Based on the criteria raised at the June 5th and June 19th public hearings, Redistricting Partners will prepare 3 sets of draft voting district maps. Maps will be provided in a format necessary to be placed on the District's website or as otherwise needed to be available to the public. State law requires these maps to be published and made available to the public and, if Board members will be elected in the voting districts at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the potential sequence of the elections.

Redistricting Partners is available to participate in redistricting trainings for the general public. Redistricting Partners can also create a website for public engagement with the redistricting maps for an additional fee.

Criteria for Creating Voting District Maps

The voting districts' map must comply with the following criteria:

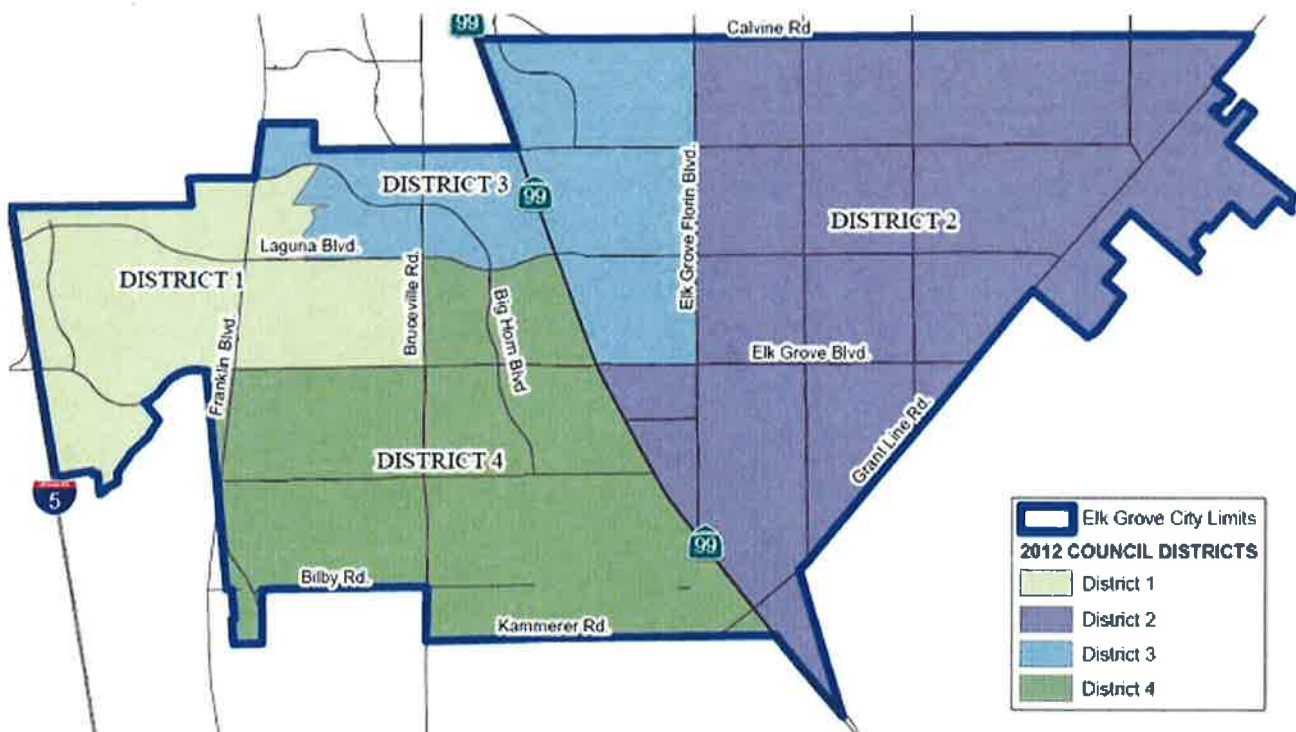
- Each voting district must have “nearly equal” populations, known as the one person, one vote rule.
- Race cannot be the “predominant” factor or criteria when drawing districts.
- The Federal Voting Rights Act prohibits district from diluting minority voting rights and encourages a majority-minority district if the minority group is sufficiently large.

The District may also consider the following factors in establishing boundaries of voting districts:

- Topography
- Geography
- Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory
- Community of interests of the divisions

Sequence of Voting Districts

Two Board seats are up for election in November, 2020. The Board must determine which voting districts will be up in 2020. In making this determination, the Board must give special consideration to the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act. It may also base its decision on several factors such as where current Board members are located, what number the voting districts are assigned (for example, 1 and 2 are up in 2020, 3, 4 and 5 are up in 2022), or other local agencies' voting districts. For example, in November, 2020, Elk Grove Districts 1 and 3 are up for election.



Next Public Hearings

To consider the maps, the Board must hold 2 additional public hearings over a period of no more than 45 days. During these public hearings, the public will be invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map(s) and the proposed sequence of elections, if applicable.

Staff proposes the following meetings for these public hearings and requests that the Board discuss and direct staff as to which 2 meetings will have all 5 Board members in attendance:

- August 7
- August 21
- September 4
- September 18

The draft maps will be published at least seven days before consideration at the first public hearing. If a draft map is revised at or following either hearing, it shall be published and made available to the public for at least seven days before being adopted.

A final public hearing will be held for the adoption of a resolution establishing district-based elections and approving the final voting districts' map. The Board is the final decision-making body on adopting the voting district boundaries. In accordance with Elections Code Section 10650, the resolution must include a declaration that the change in the method of electing the Board members is made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

There is no fiscal impact associated with this public hearing.

The fiscal impact of the districting process is estimated to be approximately \$45,000. This includes \$25,000 for Redistricting Partners to assist with drawing boundaries for the voting districts and approximately \$20,000 in staff and legal costs.

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS

There is no sustainability impact with converting from at-large to by-district elections.

Should you have any questions, please contact me prior to the Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Sigrid Asmundson
District Counsel

Staff Report recommendation authorized by:



General Manager

Approved as to Form:

General Counsel